

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ATTORNEY AND COMMUNITY LEADER GERALD L. STEBELTON ANNOUNCES
CANDIDACY FOR OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

LANCASTER, OHIO -- Gerald L. Stebelton, a Lancaster native, community leader and local attorney with more than 30 years of legal and political experience, today announced his candidacy for the Fifth District seat in the Ohio House of Representatives. As a result of his candidacy, Stebelton's name is expected to appear on the ballot in the Republican primary election scheduled for May 2, 2006.

Stebelton's announcement followed current State Representative Tim Schaffer's decision to seek the Ohio Senate 31st District seat.

"Having been actively involved in the Fairfield County Republican Party for three decades, I am keenly aware that this district needs strong, sound and ethical representation in the Ohio House," Stebelton said. "Now more than ever, the issues facing our state and county are critical and complex. We must elect a state representative who is not afraid to ask difficult questions; one who will boldly represent his constituents in addressing with candor, courage and creativity essential issues such as school funding, economic development, Medicaid spending and ethical conduct in the election process.

"I am proud that my family traces its roots in Fairfield County to 1799," Stebelton said. "I firmly believe that I know the residents of this county -- their dreams, their challenges and their expectations -- as well as anyone else. My goal in representing the people of the 5th District will be to continue to listen to their needs and ensure that those needs are not only communicated and addressed, but also effectively met, in our state capital."

Stebelton expects that his broad-based experience in the political, business and community arenas will serve him well as a state representative.

Politically, he has been elected to two terms on both the Lancaster City Council and the Lancaster City School Board, having served for three years as school board president. Stebelton has also served on the Fairfield County Republican Executive Committee for most of his political tenure, including several terms as vice chairman. Together with Tim Schaffer and a coalition of other Republican leaders, he has been outspoken in insisting that local government officials be held to the highest ethical standards. Stebelton has been involved in executive and grassroots efforts to ensure that quality candidates are elected to office at the federal, state and local government levels. He has successfully chaired county-wide campaigns for candidates ranging from U.S. President Gerald Ford to State Senator Nancy Chiles Dix, and has also assisted in coordinating successful campaigns for a number of other city and county officials. Additionally, he is an active member of the Republican Club of Northwest Fairfield County and the Lincoln Republican Club.

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Stebelton Ohio House

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Professionally, Stebelton has amassed a wealth of experience as a small business owner. A graduate of Lancaster High School, The Ohio State University College of Engineering and Capital University Law School, he has practiced law in Ohio since 1970, when he launched his career as an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Felony Trial Division. In 1978, he established his own Lancaster-based law firm with one other partner. Under his leadership as managing partner, the firm, now known as Stebelton, Aranda, and Snider, LPA, currently has nine attorneys and more than 20 additional employees. He has dedicated his practice to assisting individuals and small businesses in navigating a number of life's most difficult and stressful challenges, including divorce, personal injury and other civil litigation matters. He is a past president of the Fairfield County Bar Association and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Furthermore, he served as vice president and director of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms, an organization whose members are committed to providing the highest-quality legal representation, while demonstrating a commitment to professional ethics and civility. For three consecutive years he has been named as one of Ohio's "Super Lawyers" by Cincinnati Magazine.

Stebelton's community activities have also uniquely positioned him for success in the Ohio House of Representatives. He has served in leadership roles in numerous organizations including the United Way, Lancaster-Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, Lancaster Downtown Revitalization Committee, Lancaster Downtown Special Improvement District and Lancaster- Sherman Rotary club. He has participated in a number of ad hoc committees involving Fairfield Medical Center. He has faithfully served in a variety of leadership roles throughout his 33-year membership in First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster. And, he has wholeheartedly committed himself to the welfare of area children through his involvement in levy campaigns for the Lancaster City Schools.

As a working citizen-legislator who will continue to practice law, Stebelton intends to address all legislation with three critical threshold questions: first, is the legislation constitutional; second, is the legislation truly necessary and beneficial to all Ohioans; and third, how will the State and local governments impacted by the legislation pay for it.

Stebelton resides in Lancaster with his wife, Rebecca, who retired from her career as a special education teacher in the Lancaster City Schools in 2002. His daughter and son-in-law, Jeff and Laura Mason, reside in Pickerington with their daughter, Caroline. His son, David, also resides in Lancaster.