



## Ohio ACEP Board of Directors & Councillor Candidates

### Board Elections

Board members will be elected by ballot by majority vote of the Chapter membership at the Chapter's [Annual Meeting](#) on **June 4, 2025**.

- **Four (4) Board Members will be elected by the membership to serve a three-year term.**
  - Their terms of office will begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.
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### Councillor Elections

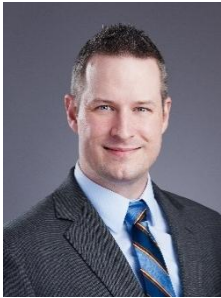
Councillors will be elected by ballot by majority vote of the Chapter membership at the Chapter's [Annual Meeting](#) on **June 4, 2025**

Councillors represent the Ohio Chapter on ACEP Council. [ACEP Council](#) is the deliberative and representative body that meets once a year for two days prior to the College's annual Scientific Assembly. The Council votes on resolutions, elects members to the National ACEP Board of Directors, and ensures grassroots involvement in the democratic decision-making process.

- **Seven (7) Councillors will be elected by the membership to serve a 2-year term.**
- Current Councillors with expiring terms are eligible for re-nomination and re-election.

## Board Candidates

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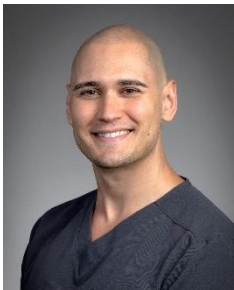


### **Christopher Burnside, DO; Board Candidate** *(Columbus, Ohio)*

We live in interesting times. It is important for emergency medicine to continue to have a voice during these times. Ohio ACEP continues to serve as that voice, and I have found myself at the point in my career where I feel that I can contribute.

Through my experience with the Ohio ACEP Leadership Development Academy, I have developed further appreciation for the value ACEP provides. Not only to its members, but to the specialty as a whole. Over the past few years, I have encountered many of the frustrations and obstacles that currently affect our profession. And doubtless, there will be new challenges to face in the years to come. Ohio ACEP provides a vehicle to address these challenges and provides a forum where EPs can come together to collectively advocate for the profession. Those who have gone before me have done their part and I now feel compelled to do mine. As such, I humbly submit my application for the Ohio ACEP board.

I feel that one of my strengths as a leader is the ability to appreciate different perspectives and find common ground. I am prone to taking a more active role in guiding and spearheading certain initiatives where I have a strong knowledge base. I am also equally happy to listen, to critique, or to simply serve as a sounding board for my colleagues when delving into subject matters with which I am less familiar. I am excited to continue to learn and I am confident that I can be of value to Ohio ACEP. Thank you for your consideration.



### **Joshua da Silva, DO, FACEP; Board Candidate** *(Columbus, Ohio)*

Hello, I'm Josh. I graduated from the Wright-State EM residency in 2020, left the Air Force last year and am currently working for ESI Inc in the Mount Carmel health system. I live in Columbus and am partnered to the best man you'll ever meet and in whom I am continuously in awe.

I'm honored to be a candidate for the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors. My journey with ACEP began through the Government Services Chapter, where I served on their board as a councillor and chair of membership. Currently, I represent Ohio ACEP as a councillor and serve on the national ACEP bylaws and council steering committees. Additionally, I have received an award for my leadership as medical director and am nearing completion of the Physician Leadership Academy.

But experience just means I've seen behind the curtain and haven't run away when I saw the wizard was just a man. I will be an effective chapter leader because I am committed to self-awareness - bringing commitment, capacity to learn, integrity and skilled communication. Similarly, I have seen opportunities for growth relating to my confidence with advocacy and public speaking and have been moving towards detaching my self-worth from my work and surroundings, finding balance through journaling, meditation and continual learning.

Being in leadership roles like the board allows me to be a part of making our practice and our patients' lives better - it gives my career its spark.

I appreciate your support and look forward to serving as your newest Ohio ACEP board member!



**Hannah Hughes, MD, MBA, FACEP; Board Candidate** *(Cincinnati, Ohio)*  
*Incumbent*

I am seeking a second term on the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors to continue advocating for emergency physicians and strengthening our profession during a time of significant change. Over the past three years, I have brought a unique perspective to the Board, representing academic emergency medicine, federal employment, and as a recent graduate of a four-year residency program. This diverse experience has allowed me to be a strong voice for our membership, advocating for policy changes that benefit both practicing physicians and residents.

As we navigate a changing political climate, I remain committed to fighting for the interests of Ohio's emergency physicians. We are facing critical issues, including impending ACGME program requirements that will shape the future of emergency medicine education. I believe that we must prepare for these changes by ensuring that our residency programs and workforce are equipped to meet the evolving demands of patient care.

I am dedicated to continuing my service on the Ohio ACEP Board to ensure that our profession remains resilient and responsive to both the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow. Together, we can advocate for the advancement of emergency medicine in Ohio. I humbly ask for your vote for a second term.



**Andrew Yocum, MD, FACEP; Board Candidate** *(Cleveland, Ohio)*

I am excited to apply for a position on the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors to advocate for our specialty, support our physicians, and advance emergency medicine in Ohio.

Since completing my residency at The Ohio State University, I have dedicated my career to clinical excellence, education, critical care transport, and prehospital medicine. As an attending physician at Cleveland Clinic Akron General, I served for six years as Associate Program Director for our emergency medicine residency. Since January, I have served as Associate Medical Director for Cleveland Clinic Critical Care Transport. I am also actively engaged in prehospital medicine as the medical director for Copley Fire Department and SWAT physician for Akron Police Department.

My leadership experience extends to hospital administration, EMS operations, and organized medicine. I have been involved in Ohio ACEP's Leadership Development Academy and served on numerous state and national committees in various EM organizations. These roles have reinforced my commitment to advocacy, resident and medical student engagement, and protecting our specialty from workforce and legislative challenges.

As a board member, I will work to strengthen Ohio ACEP's impact, ensuring that emergency physicians across the state have the support, resources, and representation they need. I am passionate about physician well-being, medical education, critical care transport, and advancing prehospital care, and I am eager to contribute my experience and energy to this role.

I would be honored to serve and appreciate your support. Thank you for your consideration.

## Council Candidates

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### **Andrew Aten, MD, FACEP; Council Candidate** *(Hilliard, Ohio)*

Dr. Andrew Aten is enthused to submit his application to serve as a Councillor for Ohio ACEP for the 2025-2026 term.

Dr. Aten was born and raised in Ohio and is always looking for ways to give back to this great state. He completed his education at The Ohio State University and his residency training at Cleveland Metro/CCF. Dr. Aten has been practicing in the community for the past nine years serving in a variety of locations. His primary site is a high acuity regional hospital with limited resources in Springfield, OH, a critical access hospital in Urbana, OH and a free-standing ED in Enon, OH.

Having been actively involved with Ohio ACEP, Dr. Aten is eager to continue his service and engagement with the organization. He is a graduate of the LDA program and has served as an Alternate Councillor for three years.

He has found his involvement in council meetings reinvigorating as he continues to advance to mid-career. He brings the background of practice in a variety of settings and has a passion to bring the challenges that he is troubleshooting firsthand as a front-line EM physician to discussion. He has a focus on safety and delivering quality medicine to patients. Specifically, he is interested in the utilization, continued training and supervision of APCs in EM. He has been serving on his hospital's Credentials Committee and APC supervisory subcommittee with a focus on this matter. Additionally, his work as the site's Quality Director has provided him with further insight and motivation on the topic.

Dr. Aten would be honored to serve as a Councillor for the next two years.

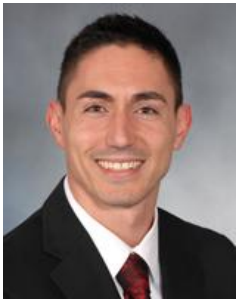


### **Thomas Lukens, MD, PhD, FACEP; Council Candidate** *(Cleveland, Ohio)*

Dr. Thomas Lukens has been a member of Ohio ACEP for over 30 years and believes his career in emergency medicine has greatly benefited from his involvement in the Chapter. He has had the privilege of being a councillor representing Ohio ACEP for more than 20 years and enjoys attending and participating in these annual meetings.

He has served on the Chapter's Board of Directors for over two decades, serving as the 2011-2012 Chapter President. He has served as a Councillor for the past 20 years and is well acquainted with the processes and procedures used at the Council meeting. He previously served on the Council Steering Committee and continues to take part in several ACEP sections.

Having this experience and insight, Dr. Lukens believes he can benefit the Chapter by serving as a Councillor and a mentor for the newer Councillors. He would like to continue to contribute to our Council on behalf of Ohio ACEP for the next two years.



**Anthony Martella, MD; Council Candidate** *(Cleveland, Ohio)*

Dr. Anthony Martella, MD graduated from the University of Cincinnati Emergency Medicine Residency Program and is currently in the first year of a two-year Operations/Administration Fellowship at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center – a level 1 trauma center, STEMI and comprehensive stroke center. As part of this Fellowship, he is currently enrolled in the MBA program at Cleveland State University.

Dr. Martella is involved in multiple committees on the departmental and health system level as part of his Fellowship, gaining insight into operational challenges both within the department and system as a whole. Most recently, Dr. Martella has been instrumental in helping design and implement a new Provider in Triage process within the ED. Additionally, Dr. Martella has been involved in residency recruitment for the UH Cleveland EM Residency, developing relationships with the Educational Division and learning about new challenges with potential ACGME changes to EM residency programs.

Dr. Martella is an active member of Ohio ACEP, serving as an Alternate Councillor for the ACEP Council in Las Vegas in 2024. This experience underscored the influence of active participation in ACEP, inspiring commitment to advocating for Emergency Physicians and the Ohio ACEP chapter. Dr. Martella is driven by a passion to improve access to timely and affordable care, bring attention to the unique challenges faced by new EM Attendings, and improve the wellbeing of physicians in Emergency Medicine. He is honored to be part of this incredible community and would be grateful for the opportunity to serve as a Councillor.



**Daniel Martin, MD, MBA, FACEP; Council Candidate** *(Columbus, Ohio)*  
*Incumbent*

Thank you for your consideration to represent Ohio Emergency Medicine physicians as an Ohio ACEP Councillor. As an ACEP Councillor for over 30 years, I have been highly engaged and consider this role one of my greatest passions and of vital importance to the future of EM. As a full professor and residency director for more than three decades, I can represent community physicians, academic physicians and residents and fellows in training.

I believe my experience as a councillor has been invaluable when it comes to developing, supporting and commenting on resolutions at Council. Whether discussing resolutions with our Ohio Councillors or giving testimony at reference committees or in front of the entire council, trust that I take the role of representing Ohio ACEP members as one of the most important in my professional life. Every resolution is of great importance and must be studied, dissected and discussed. Few resolutions are perfect, and many need critical editing and input. My experience as an Ohio ACEP Board member and Chair of our Education Committee and involvement in many of our committees has helped me to appreciate the vital role of Ohio ACEP.

Since Ohio ACEP represents one of the most powerful groups in the Council, our support for resolutions and leadership positions is often sought by other states and ACEP leaders. Our success is not just due to great leadership in our chapter, but more importantly to our performance as a great team that supports each other and our members. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve and represent Ohio ACEP and I ask for your continued support as Ohio ACEP Councillor.



**John Queen, MD, FACEP; Council Candidate** (*Cleveland, Ohio*)

*Incumbent*

Before residency, I graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine. While in Medical school, I proposed to my wife, Kelly two weeks after match day. We got married in June of my first year of residency and our daughter Jessica was born in October of 1998, just nine months before taking my first job.

After graduation, I accepted a position as an attending physician in the ED at Cleveland Clinic, where we share a residency program with MetroHealth. In 2007, I became more involved with Ohio ACEP, becoming the Course Director for the Oral Board Review Course and eventually a member of the Board of Directors in 2012. I am a current member of the Board of Directors, a Past President for the Ohio Chapter of ACEP as well as an ACEP Councillor.

I have been fortunate to be an associate residency program director as I enjoy working with our residents, teaching at the bedside, lecturing and mentoring as much today as I did eighteen years ago. My greatest honor was being named teacher of the year in 2006 for Emergency Medicine at Cleveland Clinic.

Kelly asked me earlier why I decided to run for ACEP Council again. I thought about it and realized that it is not especially fun, but there is a great sense of service and accomplishment each year. Additionally, I believe that I see the world of EM through older eyes and with a young heart and will bring a fair and thoughtful voice to the council. I am asking to be elected as an Ohio ACEP Chapter Councillor for another two-year term so that I may continue to energetically serve the chapter and advocate for our patients and our specialty.



**Matthew Sanders, DO, FACEP; Council Candidate** (*Springboro, Ohio*)

*Incumbent*

Dr. Matthew Sanders is employed by Community Health Partners, working primarily at Wilson Health but also at Highland District Hospital. Dr. Sanders has practiced community emergency medicine since completing his residency at The Ohio State University Medical Center. He has been involved in the teaching of emergency medicine to OSU medical students rotating through Memorial Hospital as well as supervising Family Practice residents at Highland District Hospital.

Dr. Sanders served as a member of the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors from 2012-2024 and is former Chair of the Ohio ACEP Government Affairs Committee. He has been an ACEP member since 2001 and became an ACEP Fellow in 2011. He is also a graduate of Ohio ACEP's Leadership Development Academy.

Dr. Sanders has participated in local and state advocacy in the fight against prescription drug abuse by representing his former group at the Central Ohio Emergency Department Workgroup and representing Ohio ACEP at the Governor's Cabinet Opiate ActionTeam - Emergency Department Guidelines Committee.

Dr. Sanders has served as an ACEP Councillor or Alternate since 2011 and has represented Ohio ACEP on several committees, including the Council Reference Committee in 2019, the Council Steering Committee in 2023 and 2024, and the Tellers, Credentials, and Elections Committee from 2015 to 2019. He has also served on the Council Awards Committee and the State Legislative and Regulatory Committee.

Dr. Sanders asks for your vote for re-election so he can continue to represent Ohio's patients and emergency physicians. He will remain active on council committees and hopes to support our chapter's best interests, candidates, and resolutions at Council.



**Brian Scharfenberg, DO, FACEP; Council Candidate** (*Marietta, Ohio*)

*Incumbent*

Dr. Brian Scharfenberg currently serves as the Interim Medical Director of Emergency Services for Memorial Health System, based in Marietta, Ohio. The system operates six emergency departments with the recent opening of a pediatric emergency department and an additional free-standing ED in Athens, Ohio. Dr. Scharfenberg is also a member of the clinical faculty for the emergency medicine residency program at Memorial where he was the chief resident during his training. He lives in Athens, Ohio, with his wife and two children.

Dr. Scharfenberg was a member of the Ohio ACEP Leadership Development Academy class of 2023 and was elected as a Councillor for our chapter that same year. Dr. Scharfenberg was elected to the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors in 2024. He is proud to be a part of this chapter and will be a considerate and persuasive representative of Ohio's emergency medicine physicians and the patients they serve. He is hopeful that you'll support his goal of continuing to serve our chapter as a Councillor.



**RJ Sontag, MD, FACEP; Council Candidate** (*Columbus, Ohio*)

*Incumbent*

The first time I spoke at ACEP Council, I was so nervous that the notes I held in my hand were shaking. I was prepared to deliver my message, but I was humbled by the level of expertise in front of me. Despite my nerves, I delivered my message. I was speaking as the President-Elect of EMRA, and I wanted to make sure that I was a worthy voice for the thousands of residents and students I represented. The success I experienced gave me the courage to grow my voice on that stage. With each subsequent year at ACEP Council, my ability to communicate my message and form coalitions with other Councillors strengthened.

I believe in ACEP, and I believe in the power of ACEP Council. As your Chair of Government Affairs and Board Secretary for Ohio ACEP, I will continue to keep my finger on the pulse of the issues that matter to you. Whether sharing Ohio's success at stopping independent practice or working to end workplace violence, I will work to represent Ohio's voice on the national stage.

When I step to the microphone in Salt Lake City, I will have the expertise to represent your voice, and you will have an ACEP Councillor with the experience to make a difference.