In the race for state representative this year, there is a stark contrast between the two candidates: Rick Perales and Kim McCarthy. While it is common to have major differences between two candidates from opposing political parties, this race highlights differences even beyond that.

Rick Perales, our current state representative for the 73rd district is being challenged by Kim McCarthy. In my opinion, at the heart of this race are good old-fashioned American values and principles. And the two candidates differ greatly in that regard.

Ms. McCarthy and I have crossed paths on several occasions, most frequently at Greene County Commissioners meetings. From the very first of those meetings together, I found it peculiar and downright disrespectful that Ms. McCarthy refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to open up the meetings. She would always protest the pledge telling me that we did not "have liberty and justice for all" here in America. After talking with her a little more, I came to realize she wanted America and our small towns here in Greene County to look, act, and be dependent on its government just like her native country of Australia.

Contrast her with Representative Rick Perales. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has served our communities in various capacities. He's the biggest champion for Wright Patterson Air Force Base that I've seen and the families that live on and around the base. He's truly passionate about serving to lift people up and help create an environment where they can be in control of their own destiny. He's accessible, he listens, and most importantly he keeps his promises.

This November, I'll be casting my vote enthusiastically for Rick Perales. If you care about this country, our state and our lovely communities, I would urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Marlene Johnson

Yellow Springs, OH 45387