

Ohio State Racing Commission



Chairman Robert K. Schmitz was appointed by Gov. John Kasich on April 1, 2011 to a four-year term. The Bexley native has extensive knowledge of Ohio racing. Schmitz has owned and bred harness horses. He has lobbied for the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and served as a committee member of the Ohio Standardbred Development Fund from 2001 until his appointment to the commission. His knowledge and experience as a government affairs specialist is just as extensive.

Commissioner Todd Book was appointed in April of 2011 to a four-year term by Gov. John Kasich. Notably, the resident of McDermott represented the 89th House District between 2002 and 2010. The graduate of Western Michigan University and the College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law currently practices in Portsmouth. He also shares ownership in an interesting business that offers golf outings. Participants dress appropriately and use clubs with wooden shafts and old style golf balls.



Commissioner William Koester was appointed in May 2008 to fill an unexpired term, was reappointed in 2009, and served as chairman from 2008 to 2011 (April 1). He is also president of the Association of Racing Commissioners International. Mr. Koester is currently employed as political consultant for the Ohio State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters. A member of the Thoroughbred Club of America, he currently resides on the west side of Cincinnati, where he was born and raised.

Commissioner Mark Munroe was appointed to a term that ends on March 31, 2013 by Gov. John Kasich on Dec. 5, 2011. Munroe holds three degrees from Youngstown State University including a Masters of Business Administration. He served in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army Reserve. The executive vice president of 1080 Media, a firm involved in marketing and video production, Munroe resides in Boardman and is active in politics, serving as the chairman of the Mahoning County Republican Party.



Commissioner B.J. Roach was appointed in April of 2011 to a four-year term by Gov. John Kasich. The former owner of thoroughbred racehorses is a Grove City native. Following his graduation from The Ohio State University, he taught agriculture for three years. He became a realtor in 1963. Now retired, Roach also owned and operated several businesses, including Family Traditions Cards and Gifts in Grove City. He has also farmed land he owns in the area.