

OSMA Council:

With the best interest of our organization in mind, I have chosen to suspend my campaign for President-elect of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA).

For the first time since 1945, our OSMA has been forced to cancel our Annual Meeting due to unforeseen developments. Our eleventh-hour postponement came amid the declaration of the coronavirus pandemic and a direct order from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine barring meetings of our size to gather.

Despite a virus outbreak and mandate from our state's highest leader, important work at the OSMA must not come to a halt. To the contrary, our organization needs to have gatherings of our leadership to make the important decisions to carry the OSMA forward on behalf of us – Ohio's physicians.

Through our sheer determination we will get that work done, albeit with alternate procedures and protocols that may feel uneasy or uncomfortable for some of us. All of us, as valued OSMA members, should look internally at what we can do to help ease the stress of this unprecedented period for our organization.

That is the root of my decision to suspend my campaign. Relieving our membership of a contested election for President-elect will be one step towards assuring the OSMA is able to move forward with a sense of normalcy and efficiency that will keep our state medical association one of the strongest in our country.

With that, I proudly endorse the lone candidate for President-elect, Dr. Lisa Egbert. With my loyalty to our association intact, I have every intention of again becoming a candidate for President-elect in 2021 and would greatly appreciate your support at that time.

Sincerely,

Brian Santin