

# Ohio State Racing Commission



**Chairman Robert K. Schmitz** was appointed by Gov. John Kasich in 2015 to a second four-year term ending on March 31, 2019. The Bexley native has extensive knowledge of Ohio racing. Schmitz has owned and bred harness horses for many years. 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 in 2011. His knowledge and experience as a government affairs specialist is just as extensive. He operates Robert K Schmitz Associates located on Town St. in downtown Columbus.

**Commissioner Todd Book** was appointed by Gov. John Kasich in 2015 to a second four-year term ending on March 31, 2019. Notably, the resident of McDermott represented the 89<sup>th</sup> House District (Adams and Lawrence Counties) between 2002 and 2010. The graduate of Western Michigan University and the College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law currently practices in central Ohio after starting out 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 Gary G. Koch** was appointed in June of 2014 to fill the unexpired term of B.J. Roach. The following year Mr. Koch was appointed to a full term beginning April 1. His term will end in 2019. Mr. Koch joined the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants as a lobbyist in 1977 and continued to work in government affairs and consulting at trade associations, corporations and law firms for many years. He had extensive lobbying experience in Washington D.C. as well as a number of state legislatures in addition to Ohio. He operated his own lobbying firm for almost six years before retiring at the end of 2014.

**Gregory H. Simpson** was appointed by Gov. Kasich in April of 2017 to a four-year term ending on March 31, 2021. The Milford, Ohio resident owns and operates Key Transportation Services, a business he began in Clermont County more than four decades ago. He is no stranger to the horse racing community, growing up on a farm in the Cincinnati area. His father once raced harness horses. Simpson served in the Army in Vietnam from 1969-70 before graduating from Wilmington College in 1974 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He has served as a member of the Ohio Expositions Commission since 2013. Simpson represents the dairy farmers on that board.



**Commissioner Thomas R. Winters** of Columbus was appointed by Gov. Kasich in 2013 to a four-year term ending in 2017. He was reappointed in 2017 and will serve through March 31, 2021. The former First Assistant Ohio Attorney General currently teaches Business Law, Public Administration and Public Policy in the Graduate Studies School at Ohio Dominican University. In private practice Winters became a partner of Vorys, Slater, Seymour and Pease. He graduated from Capital University Law School in 1984. Winters served terms as Clerk of the House and Executive Assistant to the Speaker of the House.