

# True Blue

The Adams County Democrat  
May 2012

### Amendment XV

*“The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude”.*

### Democratic Primary Results

Barack Obama, President of the United States  
& Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States  
Sherrod Brown, United States Senator  
John Hass, State Representative  
William Smith, U.S. House of Representatives  
Paul Worley, County Commissioner  
Keith Swearingen, County Engineer  
Mark Tolle, County Recorder  
Yvette McGee Brown, Justice Ohio Supreme Court  
William O’Neill, Justice Ohio Supreme Court  
Marie M Hoover, 4<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals

### Amendment XIX

*“The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”.*

### Voting Rights

In the long course of Western history, the progressive ideal has been to empower more and more people to participate in democracy, particularly through voting. As notable U.S. examples, one needs only to point to Progressive opposition to poll taxes and support of women’s suffrage and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Kasich administration, bound by its conservative world view and its Tea Party supporters, has taken a sharp detour to the right. The passage of House Bill 194 renders it *more* difficult for many people to vote. If they pass a Voter ID bill, House Bill 159 - a bill for which they lust so hungrily - then voting rights of many more Ohioans will be put in jeopardy. Of those who have lost voting rights and are in jeopardy of losing rights under HB 159, three groups spring easily to mind.

It can be deceptively difficult for senior citizens to vote. If voter ID was enacted many seniors would not be able to vote because they do not possess a picture ID. For example, my 89 year old mother would not have been able to vote because she no longer had a valid picture ID. My mother consistently voted in all elections but she might not be able to vote today if we have Voter ID.

It can be deceptively difficult for college students to vote. There are several steps in voting absentee and each one requires some time. My son studies at The Ohio State University. As it is for most college students, managing time is a challenge. Due to the distance from home to campus, early voting is a very difficult alternative. To continue to vote here in Adams County, he has to fill out an application for absentee ballot, wait to receive the ballot in the mail, and then return the completed ballot back to the local Board of Election. This all requires a certain amount of time.

It can be deceptively difficult for some working people to vote. Some live away from home near to their job sites. Therefore, they would find it difficult to vote at their voting precinct on Election Day and avoid the jeopardy of losing their jobs. The possibility of voting early eased this predicament a bit, but the length of the early voting period is, naturally, one of the areas that the Ohio General Assembly and the Kasich administration successfully attacked with HB 194.

The Kasich administration, true to its conservative ideology, has made it more difficult for all electors to vote, especially senior citizens, college students, and working people. Their main instrument for this is HB 194: that is a fact. But we are not exactly helpless. There remains *something* we can do to rectify the situation to promote democracy. We can undo HB 194. We have a responsibility to ourselves, our children and our democracy. So, let’s stand up for the notion that our Democracy thrives when *everyone* can fully participate in it. Let’s do our part to support progressive ideals and put history on the right course again. Let’s repeal HB 194 on November 6th.

## WHO GETS THE VOTE?

The United States Constitution, signed in 1787, does not define the requirements for the right to vote. It was globally assumed, at that time, only white, male property owners - the 1% of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century population - could vote. Since that time, Americans have repeatedly and successfully challenged the exclusive privileges of the "Landed Gentry".

In 1870, eighty-three years after the Constitution was signed, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution gave minorities the right to vote. One hundred and thirty-three years later, in 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave women the right to vote. One hundred and thirty-seven years later, in 1924, Native Americans were given the right to vote.

Today, in 2012, there is a movement to roll back the expansion of voting rights and restore the privilege to the few. Residency requirements are becoming more stringent, picture voter IDs are being required and access to the polls is being restricted. Housing is unstable so it is more difficult to meet residency requirements. Restricting the hours polls are open creates a problem for people juggling several jobs while raising families. The elderly, the large-city dweller and many students do not have a driver's licenses so they need to obtain an official picture ID. Buying proof of identity and taking time off work to vote is a serious financial hardship for the working poor.

Minorities, women, the elderly and the working poor are being targeted for oppression on many fronts: inadequate health care, denial of equal pay for equal work, and lack of affordable housing and educational opportunities are only a few examples. It is no coincidence that these same groups of Americans will find it most difficult to comply with new voter ID laws.

## WHO WAS IT?

(Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, Franklin, Adams, Washington)

- 1) First president to grow tomatoes in North America?
- 2) Only Founding Father never to attend college?
- 3) Signed the "Alien and Sedition Acts", which made it a crime to criticize the government, punishable by imprisonment?
- 4) Responsible for creating the cabinet positions within the executive branch?
- 5) Believed that the intellectual aristocracy should rule the nation?
- 6) Was the oldest to sign the constitution?

(Answers on page 6)

## LET'S PLAY CHESS

Conformity is something we all struggle with. It is natural for each of us to judge the world from our own point of view. We are most comfortable when others will "do it our way", or when we are around people mostly "like us".

Chess, a very popular game that mimics battle strategies, is a prime example of the strength of differences, or diversity. All the game pieces have different moves they are allowed to make. This makes for strength in the army of game pieces, for if they all had the same moves, they wouldn't be nearly as effective. If a certain move needs to be done, the master chess player deploys his pieces accordingly.

In the kingdom of God, diversity is not only common, but essential. True strength comes from the diversity of motives and actions. In nature, the mix of genes and skills helps the species as a whole.

Perhaps your candidate, representative or elected official is a bit "different" from you...or even from what you'd like in that position. Those differences may be what it takes to make our county, state and country stronger. Take a blend of skills, ideas and priorities from different walks of life, and you'll get a more effective result.

Get in a local group of people, and you'll find a lot of diversity; farmers to bank executives: smart, employed, retired, young and old. You'll see that for the most part they respect each other and are on "equal" footing with each other. They realize their very differences are a virtue.

The wise elected official will value this diversity, and so will the voter. We should remember this. So, too in God's work: we take our differences of habit, worship, skills and goals, and blend them together to make the strongest, most effective force.

Whether in our churches, or in our government, diversity does not make us weaker. It makes us stronger.

Let our object be our country, our whole country and nothing but our country.

Daniel Webster

Whenever government adopts a moral tone - as opposed to an ethical one - you know something is wrong.

John Ralston Saul

### WHAT IS A SUPER PAC?

Super PACS (Political Action Committees) are made up of self-interested wealthy individuals, corporations and unions. Their main purpose is to influence federal elections and they are allowed to use unlimited sums of money to this purpose. Their only restriction is against coordinating any of their strategies with the candidate's campaigns or the political parties involved. Although the donors to these PACS must be disclosed, most PACS are able to postpone this disclosure until after an election.

### LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

Super PACs have caused those candidates without wealthy corporate supporters and those Americans without big money to become progressively powerless. As the gulf between those who can afford to wage a big money campaign and those who can't widens, the vast majority of people in this country are in danger of becoming increasingly without representation. The needs and wants of middle class Americans are ignored while the 1% are rewarded for their financial support.

Max Frankel, in an article from the Feb.9, 2012 issue of *The New York Review of Books*, proposes a solution to this disparity in campaign spending. Since the majority of PAC and Super PAC monies are spent on television ads he suggests that the price of a TV ad be doubled so that each ad run by a candidate would automatically pay for an opponent's ad that would follow. Under this proposal he felt candidates and or PACs would likely voluntarily limit their TV spending knowing that the more money they spent, the more a rival candidate would benefit as well. As he said, "it sounds like a no brainer". He went on to say that at the very least it would give a candidate, who might not be as well-funded, an equal opportunity in the TV ad market.

Of course there is the question of feasibility – it would really be up to the Federal Communications Commission to impose this change and Congress could strike it down.

There are some details that would need to be worked out (such as how to deal with multiple candidates in a given election) but overall Mr. Frankel considers the proposal "sensible, workable, and self-enforcing."

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

### THE 1% AND SUPER PACs

The 1% are wealthy individuals and corporations who contribute into the millions of dollars to influence their favorite candidate's campaigns. These are the very same 1% who claim they can't afford to pay higher taxes.

### FOLLOW THE MONEY

**Money** is the thread that links the inequalities that are becoming more and more obvious in our lives. When we are confused, unsure, conflicted about the truth of what is happening – **follow the money**. When we ask ourselves how did it come to this? – **follow the money**. When we are ready to find out how we are being scammed - **follow the money**. \$\$\$\$

The campaign contribution list is a compilation of raw data that says; 'These are the people that support me, and you can expect me to be listening to them carefully'. That's a very important piece of information for voters to have.

Edwin Bender

Politics has got so expensive that it takes lots of money to even get beat with.

Will Rodgers

### IS IT MORAL?

Is the single-minded quest for profit moral? Or does it violate the spirit of the U.S. Constitution? Historically, the most precious expectations of the American people have been of fairness, equality, personal freedom and dignity, and a commitment to the common welfare and future generations. Today, we are engaged in a war over American hopes and ideals. We are agonizing over what constitutes "moral behavior". Here are a few of the questions we are asking.

Is it moral to make teachers the villains in the educational "crisis?" Is it moral to regard the poor and minorities with contempt and suggest their children should work as janitors in their schools so they will learn "a work ethic? Is it moral to deny workers collective bargaining rights? Is it moral to support a healthcare system that leaves millions of people without access to treatment? Is it moral to applaud the execution rate in Texas? Is it moral to kill thousands of Americans (and tens of thousands of others) in a war based on false pretexts and the quest for profit? Is it moral to support torture?

Continued on page 4

### IS IT MORAL? (continued)

Is it moral to gut safety regulations and inspections – causing the illness and deaths of thousands of American workers? Is it moral to reduce the number of food inspectors to one-tenth what it was in the 1970's allowing children to eat chicken bought in supermarkets - 83% of which is estimated (by Consumer Reports) to be contaminated? Is it moral to call for deregulation of heavy metals and poisons in the atmosphere and substances in foods linked to epidemics of asthma, juvenile diabetes, cancer, autism and other disorders?

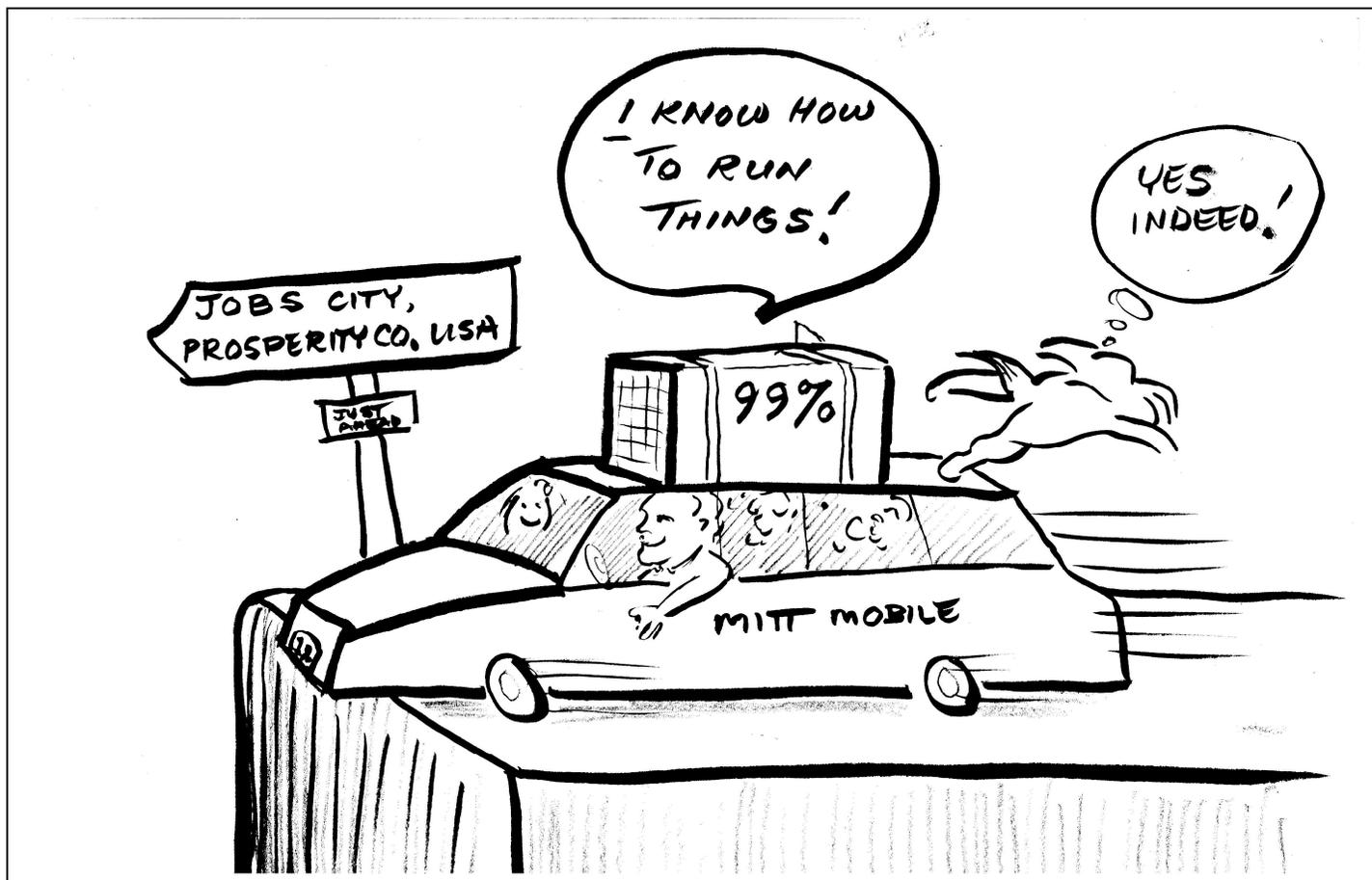
Is it moral to have an exalted 1% of the population who steadily become richer while the jobs, wages and opportunities of the 99% continue to decline? Is it moral for an economy to be based on subsidies and tax breaks for the rich while depending on the sore backs of the “working poor”? How can this quest for profit produce moral behavior? How can we reclaim the American ideals expressed in our Constitution?

### NEW WISDOM ON WEALTH

In the April 10, 2012 edition of Scientific American, there was an interesting article reporting on several research studies assessing how empathy is related to wealth. Daisy Grewal authored the article, entitled “How Wealth Reduces Compassion”.

The major finding reported was that empathy for others declines as riches grow. She indicated that money shifts the emotions and studies have found wealthier people were more likely to agree with statements that greed is justified. Basically, the wealthy believe “greed is good”. She wondered if one of the reasons for this belief is: the wealthier one is, the less one has to rely on others, therefore, the less one cares about the feelings of others.

A Washington Post-ABC poll concluded Americans do care. Asked to pick the bigger worry, “unfairness in the economic system that favors the wealthy” or “over regulation of the free market that interferes with growth and prosperity”, they chose the “unfairness” worry by a 52-37 percent margin.



### A BIG LIE

**The Lie:** Mitt Romney is a “job creator”.

**The Truth:** During his term as Governor, Massachusetts ranked 47<sup>th</sup> out of our 50 states in jobs creation.

**TRUE or FALSE**  
**(Harper's Index, The Nation, The Monitor)**

- 1) Most of political ad spending during the 2010 elections would have been prohibited before the Citizens United Decision. T F
- 2) 4 of 7 employed Americans work in the service industry. T F
- 3) Ohio's Lake Erie Correctional Institution is the first U.S. state prison sold to a private company. T F
- 4) Most Americans aged 17 to 24 are not eligible to join the military. T F
- 5) 50% of the Veterans Health Administration's budget is devoted to veterans with mental health or addiction problems. T F
- 6) The chance that a U.S. worker is of normal weight and without a chronic health problem is only 3 in 7. T F
- 7) Medicare's administrative costs are far below the average costs of private insurers. T F
- 8) Several states have tried to prohibit discrimination against people with pre-existing medical conditions, but reforms have failed everywhere they have been enacted without an individual mandate. T F
- 9) An argument can be made that the women's vote is more critical in United States' elections than the men's vote. T F

(answers on page 6)

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

Franklin D Roosevelt

**ONE PROGRESSIVE'S WISH LIST**  
**(Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor)**

...that the marginal income tax on the top 1 percent return to what it was before 1981 – at least 70 percent; that a transactions tax be imposed on all Wall Street deals; that distressed homeowners be allowed to reorganize their mortgages under bankruptcy; that Medicare be available to all; that the basic military budget be cut by at least 25 percent over the next decade; that the Glass-Steagall Act be resurrected and Wall Street's biggest banks be broken up; and that all political contributions be disclosed, public financing be made available to candidates in general elections and a constitutional amendment be enacted to reverse Citizens United. (The Nation 4.9.12)

**AFFORDABLE CARE AND THE SUPREME COURT**

President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law on March 23, 2010. For the first time in the history of U.S. healthcare, Americans have been guaranteed strong consumer rights and protections. Key elements include the end of preexisting conditions discrimination, lower costs through new tax credits and affordable insurance exchanges, increased insurance company accountability for spending premium dollars and raising rates, better access to care and prevention benefits. Central to the Affordable Care Act is the "individual mandate", requiring all citizens to have insurance coverage.

In June the Supreme Court will render a decision on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. The issue has been framed by Republicans as one of fundamental liberty: our "freedom" not to be compelled to purchase things we don't want (from insurance to broccoli). Democrats regard this concern with "freedom" as an attempt to protect the "liberty" of insurance companies, not that of American citizens. Without regulation, the health insurance industry can continue to discriminate against the sick while making huge profits. It can bypass any responsibility for commerce as well as the influence of healthcare-related commerce on the Gross National Product.

What have healthcare costs and insurance companies to do with the GDP and interstate commerce? Virtually all people, at sometime in their lives, need healthcare. Most of them, without insurance, cannot afford to pay for the care they receive. As a result, healthcare costs are shifted to others. It is estimated that the uninsured shift about \$43 billion in costs to others EVERY YEAR. These costs take the form of increased prices of health-related services and increased insurance premiums.

Ironically, there is no dispute that states have the authority, constitutionally guaranteed, to impose an individual mandate and require all citizens to purchase healthcare insurance. Massachusetts has such a law. This law is based on the assumption that the State has the right to regulate commerce for the benefit of its citizens. Since requiring an individual mandate, the citizens of Massachusetts are universally covered and costs have not increased. What is in question before the Supreme Court is whether the Federal government has the same right to protect, not just the citizens of one state, but of the entire country.

Congress and the Obama Administration have passed the Affordable Care Act on the assumption the Federal government has both the right and the responsibility to regulate interstate commerce for the benefit of all Americans. In June we will learn if the Supreme Court agrees.

**TRUE or FALSE ANSWERS**

- 1) True: 72% of 2010 political spending would have been prohibited.
- 2) False: 6 in 7 employed Americans work in service industries.
- 3) True: John Kasich sold LEIC on 8.31.11
- 4) True: 75% of Americans aged 17 to 24 are ineligible for military service due to obesity, drug and alcohol problems and “low aptitude” – in that order.
- 5) False: 33% is devoted to treatment of mental health and addiction problems.
- 6) False: only 1 in 7 American workers are of normal weight and free of chronic health problems.
- 7) True: Medicare’s administrative costs are only 3%; private insurers’ costs average 10%. (Nation 4.9.12)
- 8) True: Only in Massachusetts, where the protection is coupled with a mandate, has the reform worked. (Nation 3.26.12)
- 9) True: (a) there are more women than men in the U.S.; (b) more women than men are registered to vote; (c) more women than men turn out to vote. (Christian Science Monitor April 9, 2012)

**Who Was It? Answers**

- 1: Jefferson; 2: Washington; 3: J. Adams; 4: Madison; 5: Hamilton; 6: Franklin

**ADVOCACY CORNER:  
SAVE THE BEES**

*(This column is devoted to the special concerns of readers who want to encourage others to advocate for the causes important to them. Please send articles/requests to address below.)*

When a major independent research company reported finding proof that pesticides, and in particular the nicotine-based types, are a leading contributor to declining bee populations, Monsanto, a major producer of designer seeds and genetically modified foods, BOUGHT the research company! Now, Monsanto’s research results may be used by the United States Department of Agriculture to shape policies related to the acceptability of those pesticides.

Please contact the USDA and tell them not to use manipulated research results. ([www.USDA.gov](http://www.USDA.gov))

**PLEASE SUPPORT TRUE BLUE**

Donations of money or Forever Stamps would be greatly appreciated. This will allow us to continue producing our Democratic Newsletter as well as increase its circulation.

(Please send donations to the True Blue address below.  
Please make checks payable to Adams County Democratic Party)

Contact us at:

True Blue  
c/o Adams County Democrat Executive Committee  
PO Box 143  
Seaman, OH 45679 – 0143  
[adamscountytrueblue@gmail.com](mailto:adamscountytrueblue@gmail.com)

Paid for by the Adams County Democrat Executive Committee  
Dennis J Grooms – Treasurer  
2525 Wintersteen Road Blue Creek, Ohio 45616

**Join Us!**

**Adams County Democrat Club Schedule 2012**

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>HOSTS</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
May 4, 2012	**Club Fundraiser**	Career and Technical Ctr
June 2, 2012	West Union	Venture Productions-WU
July 16-21, 2012	Fair booth	County Fairgrounds
July 28, 2012	**Picnic**	Glen-Dale Park
August	No meeting	
September 1, 2012	Seaman/Winchester	Venture Productions-WU
October 2012	Party Fundraiser	To be announced
November 3, 2012	Green	Venture Productions-WU
December 1, 2012	Everyone	Venture Productions-WU

**For Your Consideration - A Few Web Sites**

- [www.standupforohio.org](http://www.standupforohio.org)
- [www.weareohio.com](http://www.weareohio.com)
- [www.innovationohio.org](http://www.innovationohio.org)
- [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)
- [www.progressiveohio.org](http://www.progressiveohio.org)
- [www.jimhightower.com](http://www.jimhightower.com)
- [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)