

True Blue

The Adams County Democrat

October 2011

A Dangerous World

“Children, gather in. I have something to tell you”, said the mother cat to her kittens. “The world is a dangerous place, and one of the most dangerous things in it is right here in this house. This monster doesn’t come around very often, but when it does, you must run away as fast as you can and hide under something.

“This beast is usually locked away in the back room; but sometimes, it gets out. You can’t miss it. It has the loudest, deepest growl I have ever heard, and when it runs, it shakes the whole floor. The monster is much, much bigger than I am, and must be very strong, because when it gets out, the lady of the house, and even sometimes, the man, has to battle and fight it all over the place, up and down, back and forth.....to control it. The look on the lady’s face tells you what a desperate fight it is”.

“When they finally wear it down, it gets quiet, and they tie up the beast with a cord, around and around. Then they push it in the little room and close the door. But it’s not long before it gets out again and they have to try once more to defeat it.”

“But mommy, what’s the name of this monster?” asked Tony, one of the little kittens. His eyes were wide and his tail all bushy. “The only thing I’ve ever heard it called,” the mother cat replied fearfully, almost reverently, “is...get the vacuum”.

Many times, we fear things. Not because of what they are, but because we don’t understand them. Take Politics. We tend to think of government as way off somewhere, controlled by people much smarter and more “important” than you or I. But government is YOU. It’s the everyday John or Mary that brings government to life every day: every time we decide something, when we help, when we get involved. Politics is just the process of helping us choose those who represent us.

So, if like those kittens, you fear something, take time to understand it better. I think you’ll see much of your fear just melt away.

II Timothy chapter 1 verse 7 says, “For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound mind.

Election Day – November 8, 2011

Polls Open 6:30 am – 7:30 pm

Early voting starts on Tuesday 10/4/2011 and ends on 11/7/2011. The Board of Elections will be open for early voting Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm, and on Saturday 11/5/2011 from 8:00am – noon. You may walk in to vote, or request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received in the mail by Saturday 11/5/2011 or can be delivered to the Board of Elections no later than Monday 11/7/2011.

You may request an absentee ballot in person at the Board of Elections, or call 937- 544-2633.

Adams County Board of Elections
215 North Cross St
West Union, Ohio 45693

EXTRA! EXTRA!...

As we go to press, in cities across the world, tens of thousands of people from all walks of life are waking up and walking out to challenge corporate tyranny.

In New York City, on Wall Street, nearly 1,000 citizens have been pepper-sprayed, beaten and arrested for peaceful protest. It appears the very attempt to suppress this movement has served to amplify it and make it the beginning of a global phenomenon.

STAY TUNED!

“The problem of power is how to achieve its responsible use rather than its irresponsible and indulgent use – of how to get men of power to live for the public rather than off the public.”

Robert F. Kennedy

ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE ONE

Under Article 4 Section 6 of Ohio’s Constitution, a person age 70 or older is not eligible for election to a judicial office.

The age limit embodied in our state’s constitution prevents our bench from being held for decades by an entrenched judiciary. Our judges face election every 6 years. Periodic elections, coupled with a reasonable age limit, assures that our judiciary remains efficient and productive. Our current system has served Ohio well and the quality of our judiciary has never been better

When a judge reaches 70, they complete their full term in office. A person elected at age 69 can serve until age 75. A retired judge can remain on the bench by assignment. The Supreme Court of Ohio has adopted a policy that allows retired judges to serve until age 80.

Issue One proposes to extend the judicial age limit to 75 years. The additional five years will burden our courts with some judges whose best years are behind them. It will also make our pool of retired judges to sit by assignment much older. This will have a negative impact on the quality and performance of Ohio’s judiciary.

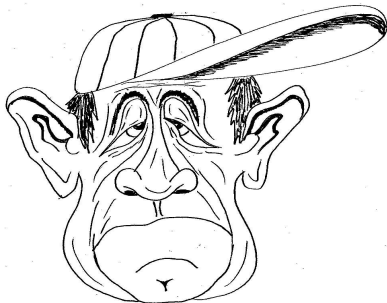
Issue One places two other court related proposals before voters for consideration. It removes antiquated constitutional provisions regarding the Legislature and the Governor’s authority over rarely used Courts of Conciliation and Supreme Court Commissions. These provisions should be addressed separately and not combined with the unnecessary proposition extending age limits for elected judges.

Our current system works. Issue One attempts to fix something that is not broken and should be rejected by Ohio’s voters.

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1

Prepared by Representatives Tracy Heard and Mark Okey

NOTHING
TO
SMILE
ABOUT
IF
ISSUE
2
PASSES!



Politix Jester

ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE TWO

Vote **NO** on Issue 2, Repeal SB 5
Unsafe, Unfair and Hurts Ohio’s Middle Class Families

Unsafe

□ Issue 2 puts all our families’ safety at risk—making it harder for emergency responders, police and firefighters to negotiate for critical safety equipment and training that protects us all.

□ Issue 2 will make our nursing shortage worse. It makes it illegal for nurses, hospital and clinic workers to demand reasonable safe staffing levels—so nurses will juggle more patients while their salaries and benefits are cut.

**Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund,
Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio,
Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters
say NO on Issue 2**

Unfair

□ The same Columbus politicians who call for “shared sacrifice” exploited a loophole, giving a special exception to politicians and upper management.

□ Ohio’s public employees have already sacrificed—saving Ohio taxpayers over \$350 million through concessions, including pay freezes and unpaid furlough days.

□ It is not Ohio values to let firefighters, police and teachers lose their rights and see wages and benefits gutted, while insiders, politicians and people at the top sacrifice nothing.

Hurts Us All

□ Instead of creating jobs to fix our economy, politicians like Governor Kasich gave away hundreds of millions in corporate tax breaks—draining our state budget while Ohio continues to lose jobs—and passed flawed laws like SB 5 to pay back their campaign donors.

□ Teachers, nurses, firefighters are not the reason Ohio’s budget is in trouble. Big corporations, their high-paid lobbyists and the politicians they fund are blaming middle class Ohioans for a problem they caused.

**Issue 2: Another example of the politicians
turning their backs on Ohio’s middle class.**

**Send Them a Message—
Stop Working for the Special Interests,
Start Working for We the People.**

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 2

*Prepared by Michael S. Weinman, Deirdre Ann DeLong,
Michael Harrison, and Natalie Y. Wester*

Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor – those who would cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized – do a disservice to the cause of Democracy.

John F. Kennedy

“It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.”

ARGUMENT AGAINST ISSUE 3

Vote No on Issue 3

Voting “NO” means that health care will be more secure because **working families** won’t be denied coverage due to a **pre-existing condition**. **Voting “NO”** also helps protect Ohioans from the risk of losing their coverage or being forced into bankruptcy when someone gets sick.

State Issue 3 is an attempt by some to take away the ability of Ohio to implement health care reforms. Opposing this measure will continue to allow Ohioans to have greater access to health care, maintain certain preventive care options like cancer screenings and it will preserve Ohioans’ freedom to choose their doctors.

Voting “NO” will continue to make health care more affordable and it will ensure opportunities for the 1.4 million Ohioans who have been shut out of the insurance market because of pre-existing conditions and high insurance costs.

Voting “NO” will:

- Stop insurance companies from excluding people, including children, with pre-existing medical conditions from getting health insurance.
- Allow working parents to include their children under their employer's health care plan until age 26.
- Preserve prescription drug coverage and preventive care benefits for seniors, children and parents.
- Stop insurance companies from imposing annual and lifetime caps on health care coverage.
- Protect Ohioans from catastrophic health care expenses that result in bankruptcy.
- Help small businesses provide health insurance for their employees.
- Make sure everyone takes responsibility to pay their fair share into the health care system for care they use when sick or injured, instead of shifting costs onto people who pay for insurance.
- Allow Ohioans freedom to choose their doctors.

Support the choice of Ohioans – including those with pre-existing conditions – to have access to affordable insurance coverage, lower health care costs and protect seniors’ access to prescription drugs and preventive care.

Vote “NO” on Issue 3

Prepared by Representatives Armond Budish and Mike Foley and Senator Capri Cafaro.

DOES YOUR VOTE MATTER? ADAMS COUNTY REGISTERED VOTERS AND THE NOV. 2010 ELECTION

# of registered voters	-	18,004	-	# who voted	8,578 or 47%
# of registered Republicans	-	5,165	-	# who voted	4,142 or 80%
# of registered Democrats	-	4,001	-	# who voted	2,665 or 67%
# of registered Nonpartisan	-	8,754	-	# who voted	1,592 or 18%
# of registered ‘Other’	-	441	-	# who voted	179 or 41%

We must always remember that our vote (or our failure to vote), had consequences. If a few more Democrats had made it to the polls in November 2010, or a few more ‘Nonpartisan’ or ‘Other’ voters had turned out for democratic candidates, Ted Strickland could still be in the governor’s office and Issues 1, 2, and 3 would not be on the ballot.

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR DEMOCRACY - VOTE

Voter-Suppression Stopped (For Now)

Thanks to thousands of Ohioans across the state, over 318,460 signatures were turned in to the Ohio Secretary of State’s office in time to prevent new unfair voting rules from going into effect for the November 2012 election. The voter suppression bill, HB 194, will be on the 2012 ballot to give voters the chance to repeal it before it begins to do damage.

At this printing, Adams County has produced over 1,171 signatures, well over the 226 required to meet our county’s quota.

Book Review
The Political Brain

The Political Brain by Drew Westen has been recommended by Bill Clinton and Howard Dean, among other prominent Democrats, as a “must read” book. Why is it, Westen asks, when Democrats generally outnumber Republicans and democratic principles are more popular than those of Republicans’, only one democratic president since Roosevelt has won a second term in office while only one republican president has failed to win a second term? The reason, he suggests, lies in the fact that Democrats do not understand the mind and behavior of the typical voter. Democrats tend to focus on facts and figures and descriptions of specific policies while undervaluing the emotional characteristics of decision-making. The paradox is, writes the author, “the party that views itself as the one with the heart appeals exclusively to the mind.” (p.44) Republican think tank magicians do not make this mistake

Why do people vote against their own best interests? The answer is: because we vote more with our feelings than with reason. Feelings have guided human behavior much longer than reason. We feel faster than we think. We are especially vulnerable to the manipulation of emotions we are not clearly conscious of having. We respond emotionally before we are fully aware of what is going on around us. And our emotions can be manipulated to bypass logic. Why did coal miners in West Virginia vote for George Bush who was wholly deaf and dumb to the dangers those miners faced every day and who had no record of supporting safe and humane working conditions? The miner voted against his own interests because he was manipulated into fearing that terrorists might be roaming the hills of West Virginia with dirty bombs.

Why do people fail to find confidence in so many democratic leaders? Because feelings of confidence are just that: feelings. We do not trust others so much because they think like us but because they influence us to feel safe, or strong, or justified or liberated. The author suggests that Democrats do not inspire confidence because they steer away from emotions and have repeatedly failed to stand up and fight when falsely accused or when they observe their opponents’ duplicitous behaviors. For instance, why didn’t Jimmy Carter call Reagan on his racist tactics in appealing to the South? Why didn’t John Kerry turn the tables on the swift boat attackers? When Democrats stay above the emotional fray we look weak and guilty: we “feel wrong” to others. And we invite our opponents to bully us.

Democrats have focused on policies, facts and figures, and have largely failed to present a coherent, emotionally cohesive narrative, or story, about ourselves. Dry facts and figures do not help people “picture” anything, and what they have no images for, they seldom consciously feel and will not support. Our narratives should use metaphors and images to convey our guiding principles and values, and we should stand assertively and openly by those principles. When we fail to do this, the author suggests, we do a poor job of distinguishing ourselves from our opponents and run from the very language that points to our principles; we allow our own words to be used to slander and intimidate us and we do not fight back. Do not Democrats tend to shrink away from the words “liberal” and “progressive”? In some places we even are afraid to call ourselves Democrats!

Using images suggested by this issue’s lead article, “A Dangerous World”, the author might suggest we stop acting like “scaredy cats”, stand up like warriors and shout: “Hey, you big, dumb bully: come on out of that closet!”

The Results Are In
(from PlanetSave Website)

President Obama is being accused of practicing “class warfare” because he proposes to raise taxes on the rich and to close corporate tax loopholes. Republicans claim this will cause economic havoc because the country’s wealth is largely composed of multiple small businesses that will suffer because of these proposals. Is the President really waging war on small “mom and pop” businesses? Who are these classes engaged in warfare? And who is winning?

The results of a global network analysis performed by Swiss economic researchers have recently been released. The study examined the world’s most rich and powerful transnational corporations and reports on the true state of the control of wealth in today’s global economy: all the world’s wealth flows to and is controlled by a small, tightly knit core of institutions. 787 firms control 80% of the entire world economy. 147 of these corporations, alone, control 40% of the global economy.

The results are in: “mom and pop” have already lost the war!

Third Annual Potato Give-Away

On October 29, 2011, from 11 a.m. until noon, Democrats will be distributing free bags of potatoes in Manchester, West Union, Seaman and Peebles. This will be our ninth food give-away as part of our continuing outreach project. Since 2009 we have distributed cornbread, beans, bread and potatoes to needy families in Adams County.

MATCH UP Column I with Column II

I (What we have)	II (Where it started)
1) Minimum Wage	a) U.S. Senate
2) Child Labor Laws	b) Equal Rights Amendment
3) Equal Pay for Women	c) ACLU
4) Unemployment Insurance	d) Unions
5) Workplace Safety Standards	e) American Medical Association
6) 40-Hour Workweek	f) U.S. House of Representatives
7) Group Health Insurance	g) U.S. Supreme Court
8) Workman’s Compensation	h) Better Business Bureau

(Answers on next page)

TURNING THE TABLES (Part I)

After reading The Political Brain, it is clear that Democrats need more practice in standing up and “reframing” ourselves and our opponents. Over the years political parties have varied, both in name and in principles. Today we are seeing a definitive change in the Republican Party: it is “making a hard right”. How do the “Left” and “Right” differ? In today’s world what is a “Liberal”? What is a “Conservative”? How do we distinguish Democrats from Republicans?

Democrats tend to be liberal: flexible, open-minded and generous. They value compassion and respect for others. Republicans tend to be conservative: rigid, narrow and stingy. They reject those not like themselves and show contempt for differences.

Democrats tend to be progressive: they believe in expanding freedoms and opportunities; they support education, technology and science. Republicans tend to be regressive: they evade the new and unknown; they are suspicious of facts; they fear ideas that might challenge the world they believe in.

Democrats choose heroes like Martin Luther King, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Mother Theresa: people who embody their highest ideals and who inspire them. Republicans choose heroes like Ayn Rand, Ronald Reagan and Rush Limbaugh: people who embody their highest ideals and stoke their emotions.

Democrats believe in growing up and going forward. They know that governing is complex. They think decision-making is similar to taking a multiple-choice exam where answers can be “both A and B” or “none of the above”. Republicans believe in staying children and try to keep their thinking simple. They see the act of governing as concrete and one-dimensional. They want decisions to be like taking a “true-or-false” exam: where they are “right” and everyone else is “wrong”.

Democrats accept strangers and immigrants, and welcome new ideas, knowing our country was made great by the combination of many different peoples, talents and dreams. Republicans only feel comfortable with their “own”: familiar, long-established people with familiar, long-established facts and ideologies.

Democrats tend to be friends and helpers. They think people should be free to develop their own moral conscience and accept responsibility for the effects of their choices on others. Republicans tend to be opportunists and bullies. They neither respect nor tolerate differences among people and, unconcerned with consequences, they make every effort to legislate their morality – for everyone.

Democrats know corporations have no conscience and should not be granted the full rights and freedoms of the individual. Republicans know that having no conscience maximizes profits so they want corporations to have First Amendment rights.

Democrats support regulations designed to protect the earth and its life forms. Republicans try to remove regulations on corporate power wherever they find them: they block the laws and agencies that try to protect air, water, food, medicine, working conditions, forests and national parks, wildlife and endangered species – including human beings.

Democrats work for the welfare of all classes of people – including working people, children, immigrants, elderly, handicapped, disenfranchised – even Republican people. Republicans work for the powerful and privileged.

Democrats are Democrats: they stand for government of, for and by the people. Republicans are Plutocrats: they stand for government of, for and by the rich.

The differences between Democrats and Republicans seem both inexhaustible and irreconcilable. Thinking about them feels frustrating and demoralizing. But if we do not think about them, if we deny or minimize what is unfolding in front of us, the sanest and kindest among us – from both sides of the aisle – will never find the courage and initiative to plot a better course – for ALL of us.

LIBERAL

(Webster’s Dictionary)

Orig., suitable for a freeman

Favoring political reforms tending toward personal freedom for the individual and Democracy

Tolerance of others’ views

Giving freely; generous

Progressive

L *liberalis*: free

IE base *leudhero*: belonging to the people

“It is when power is wedded to chronic fear that it becomes formidable.”

Eric Hoffer

Join Us! Adams County Democrat Club Schedule 2011/2012

Nov 5, 2011 – 7:00 PM Venture Productions
West Union

Dec 3, 2011 – 7:00 PM Venture Productions
West Union

Jan 7, 2012 – 7:00 PM Venture Productions
West Union

Feb 4, 2012 – 7:00 PM Venture Productions
West Union

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Match Up Answers

1)d, 2)d, 3)d, 4)d, 5)d, 6)d, 7)d, 8)d

All laws and practices in column I are accepted practice in the United States because of the efforts of unions and the use of collective bargaining.

**THE REAL SCOOP ON SENATE BILL # 5
(From a Democrat in a Neighboring County)**

Ohio Senate Bill #5 has generated heated discussion around the state and has even attracted national attention. I spent nearly two decades as a labor negotiator with the Fraternal Order of Police and I have participated in the negotiation of dozens of labor contracts for public sector employees. The information that I will provide you comes largely from my experiences as well as my training.

Collective bargaining for public employees came to Ohio under the administration of Governor Richard Celeste, a Democrat. The collective bargaining law came about as a means to correct problems in the public sector employee arena. Prior to the collective bargaining law public sector jobs in Ohio were largely political patronage jobs. I can remember my father telling me some 40 years ago that if you wanted a job working for the county you had to be a registered Democrat in Brown County and a registered Republican in Clermont County. It was common knowledge that elected office holders would check at the board of elections to make sure that new hires were registered with the correct political party. Whenever one political party took an office away from the other party wholesale changes of staff were common. The collective bargaining bill came about in large part to put an end to these types of abuses.

SB #5 has passed backed up by false and erroneous claims made by a number of Republicans. For example, Republicans say that SB 5 is needed to provide elected leaders with “tools to manage their budget”. This claim is bogus. The fact is Ohio law forbids public sector unions from having any part in managing a public employer’s budget. I can tell you without exception EVERY collective bargaining agreement that I have seen contains a chapter enumerating management rights. I can also tell you without exception that EVERY collective bargaining agreement lists as a management right the right to control and manage the budget. The simple truth is that public leaders already have, as a matter of law, all of the tools that they need to “manage their budget”. The claim they do not is a deliberate attempt to misdirect the voter.

Secondly, I have heard a number of Republicans complaining that “outsiders” are brought in for binding arbitration that can force a community to raise taxes or borrow money to pay outrageous wages and benefits to the union. Statements such as these are absolutely false. When public sector unions sit down with management there is currently a well defined process that must be followed. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached a mediator will be appointed to meet with both sides in an attempt to get both sides to reach an agreement. In the event that mediation fails a fact finder is brought in. The fact finder looks at both sides last best offer and also looks at other considerations. One important consideration that the fact finder considers is the employer’s ability to pay. The fact finder then issues a report to both sides. This report contains the fact finder’s recommendations as well as conclusions on wages and benefits that take into consideration the ability by the employer to pay those wages and benefits. In the event any party in the negotiations refuses to accept the fact finder’s report the matter is submitted to binding arbitration. An arbiter is chosen by a process followed by both parties. A list of 15 names of qualified arbiters is provided and each side alternately strikes a name from the list until only one name is left and that person becomes the arbiter. Neither side can control who the other side strikes from the list so neither side has an advantage over deciding who the arbiter is. The arbiter’s ruling is final and the ruling must be based upon facts contained in the fact finder’s report, including the employer’s ability to pay. The arbiter comes from outside the area to minimize the chance of local influences. SB #5 would replace the neutral outside arbiter with the local governing body. In other words if labor and management cannot reach an agreement management, alone, gets to decide which offer to take, its own or the union’s.

Finally, SB #5 replaces step pay increases with “merit” raises. While this sounds good how exactly does it work? How does one decide which teacher, firefighter, police officer etc. is more “meritorious” than another. Prior to collective bargaining I worked under a merit raise system and even though I regularly received nice pay raises I could see that this was a system where cronyism and favoritism could become a problem. SB #5 contains very little direction regarding how to manage this merit raise system fairly.

I hope that this article will help you to understand a bit more about some of the serious flaws in SB #5.

Merit Pay for Governor Kasich?

(from innovationohio.org)
Submitted by Frances Strickland

Included in SB5 – the new state law that would dramatically roll back protections for Ohio’s public employees – state workers are now to be subject to “merit pay”, in which their salary level and pay increases will be set based on performance evaluations. Similarly, the budget bill, signed by the governor, further imposes merit pay on teachers.

We assume that an oversight must have occurred, as the Governor appears to have exempted himself from the new law. Instead of being paid on merit, Ohio law continues to grant the Governor automatic 3% pay increases each year, regardless of his performance. We know this couldn’t have been his intention, as he’s made his vehement opposition to step increases for teachers and public workers quite clear.

Accordingly, we have developed an evaluation tool that allows us both to measure Mr. Kasich’s gubernatorial performance to date, as well as to determine what his salary should be based on that performance, in keeping with the merit pay system he’s been insisting upon.

First we looked at what the Governor’s salary should be. Nationwide, Governor’s earn 251% of a state’s average household income. Because we want Ohio to be competitive, we must reset the Governor’s base pay from the current \$140,000 to \$120,500.

Our evaluation then assigns a total of 100 points – 50 for job creation and 25 each for public approval and leadership. The Governor gets 5 points for jobs, one point for each 1/10th of one percent decrease in the unemployment rate. Based on his 35% approval rating, he gets 8.75 points out of 25 in that category. And finally, since leadership is about working well with others and setting an example, we are only able to give the Governor 2 points, but hope it will motivate him to seek improvement in the future.

The Governor’s 15.75 points nets an “F” on our grading scale – resulting in a proposed pay cut of 33%. Under our merit pay proposal, based on job performance, we suggest that the Governor’s salary should be reduced from \$140,000 to \$80,500. After all, if merit pay is appropriate for public workers, it should be good enough for the Governor.

“Next to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained.”

James A Garfield

“It is not wealth that one asks for, but just enough to preserve one’s dignity, to work unhampered, to be generous, frank and independent.”

W. Somerset Maugham