

True Blue

The Adams County Democrat
April 2014

YELLOW DOG DEMOCRATS

Are you one? What is a “Yellow Dog Democrat”? The term dates back to the late 19th century when it was used to describe Southern Democrats. It became popular during the 1928 Presidential campaign. It applies to voters in the Southern United States who voted solely for Democratic candidates. A Yellow Dog Democrat would be a Democrat who would rather vote for some old yellow dog than for a Republican.

More recently, some Democrats have embraced the term “Yellow Dog Democrat” as affectionate slang and a term of endearment. We Yellow Dogs are considered to be “liberals”. That means we care for our fellow citizens: do they have adequate food, clothing, shelter, and are they being treated fairly?

Interestingly, among the most loyal Democrats in the party nowadays are minorities and women. The reason for their loyalty is that we, Democrats, are the party that has done the most for them in recent history. Democrats feel an obligation to defend the disenfranchised against the powerful. We care about a living and just wage, clean air and water, genuine opportunities to work and participate in the democratic process. We respect the individual. We are eager and hopeful.

I asked some “good Dems” if they ever voted for anyone other than a Democrat. The answer was “I always vote for the best person for the job and it always seems to be a Democrat.” Don’t you think that’s a great response from a Yellow Dog Democrat?

A MISSION STATEMENT FOR DEMOCRATS

“Government can and should insist on minimum standards of decency in the mode and conditions of life for its people. Within the limits of the nation’s resources, it can and should insist on a minimum income for its families; a minimum age for schooling and employment; a maximum age for retirement; decent and safe conditions of work; increasing benefits for labor as productivity increases; adequate protection and security for the aged and unemployed; and adequate educational, health and recreational facilities. These standards of honesty and decency can and should be set by the government”.

M.S. Eccles

M.S. Eccles was financial advisor to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and was the first president of the Federal Reserve.

(Marriner Stoddard Eccles, Beckoning Frontiers: Public and Personal Recollections. Alfred A Knopf, Inc. 1951. P. 8)

Petition for Ohio Voters Bill of Rights

In addition to describing identification standards, absentee ballot procedures and online voter registration, the "Ohio Voters Bill of Rights" amendment proposes to add a minimum number of early, in-person voting hours to the Ohio Constitution: 12 hours during the weekend before Election Day and 10 hours each day during the preceding week.

The amendment protects these voting provisions from changes by lawmakers and ends the use of voters' rights as a "political football".

A coalition of black clergy, civil rights advocates, and some Democratic lawmakers, including State Senator Nina Turner, is backing the amendment. The group will need to collect 385,247 valid signatures from Ohio voters, a portion coming from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties, by July 2nd to qualify for the ballot.

Vicki Brady, Jack & Ina Hendrix, Sue Naylor, Linda & Steve Stepp, Dennis Grooms, Virginia Grooms and other local Democrats have petitions and are collecting signatures to help Adams County do our part to enshrine Voters Rights in Ohio's Constitution! Vicki Brady is serving as our county's Petition Coordinator and can be reached at (937) 587-2955. Contact any of the above individuals to sign.

Adams County Precinct Consolidation

Several voter precincts in Adams County have been combined and are in effect for the May 6, 2014 Primary Election. If you need confirmation of your local polling address, please consult the Adams County Board of Elections at (937) 544-2633.

Primary Candidates

State Office Candidates – endorsed by the Ohio Democratic Party

Governor & Lieutenant Governor: Ed Fitzgerald & Sharon Neuhardt

Secretary of State: Nina Turner

Auditor of State: John Patrick Carney

Treasurer of State: Connie Pillich

Attorney General: David Pepper

Justice Ohio Supreme Court: John P. O'Donnell

Justice Ohio Supreme Court: Thomas Letson

Other Democratic Candidates on May Primary Ballot

Ohio House of Representatives 90th District: Thomas Jefferson Davis

State Central Committee Member (man): Russ Arey

State Central Committee Member (woman): Melanie Ogg

Representative to Congress 2nd District: Ronny Richards, John Sheil, William Smith, Marek Tyszkiewicz

Candidate Positions

True Blue submitted three broad questions to the candidates for the 2nd District U.S. Congressional Seat:

- 1) What makes you qualified to serve in congress?
- 2) What are your major goals or core values?
- 3) What makes you the stronger candidate for the general election in November?

Their responses are on the following page.

Primary Election Day 2014

The Ohio Secretary of State, Jon Husted, has set uniform days and hours for the May 6, 2014 Primary Election. Both hours and days have been restricted in an effort to curtail Ohioans participation in the election process, a pattern repeated across America in states powered by the Republican machine.

The Board of Elections will be open for early voting:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, from April 1st through April 4th

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday April 7th

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, from April 8th through April 11th

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, from April 14th through May 2nd

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Saturday May 3rd

As noted above, there are very limited evening and Saturday hours available for in-person early voting and no voting on the Monday before the Primary.

You may walk in to vote, or request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Board of Elections no later than Monday 5/5/2014.

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

Ronnie Richards <http://ronnyrichardsforcongress.com>

Response 1. I have a curious mind and read American History, daily newspapers and periodicals on current events. I have a broad understanding of what works as regards foreign, domestic, and economic policy. We need representatives in government who can build consensus by seeing both sides of an argument, and work with others within their core principles. As regards my core values, I believe in human rights.

Response 2. Our goals if elected: Stop corporations and those at the highest income levels from hiding money offshore. Stop the corporate giveaway to the oil and gas industry. Raise the minimum wage. Work on a farm bill which benefits real farmers. Use the power of our military only when absolutely necessary. Beef up the regulatory process of the banking industry. Create jobs by moving rapidly to a renewable and greener energy future.

Response 3. I am the strongest candidate to defeat Representative Wenstrup because I am the candidate who has a labor background with 24 years membership in AFSCME/OCSEA, serving 7 years as Portsmouth Local 7310 secretary. I am a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a Medical Corpsman with the 4th Infantry Division in Viet-Nam. I am a member of the American Legion, Ohio Farm Bureau, and the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce. I am a member of Friendship United Methodist Church, serving as lay-leader and trustee. I believe these past experiences will stand well with the voters of OH 2 and will position me uniquely among the candidates to defeat Representative Wenstrup.

John Sheil <http://sheilforcongress.com/>

Response 1. Hello I'm John Sheil, a father of three and an attorney from Anderson Township. I graduated from Miami University and Chase College of Law at NKU. I am a small business owner, who has worked in businesses of all sizes both locally and internationally. With my experience as a father, business leader, and attorney I am uniquely qualified to bring economic recovery here to Ohio and bring your voice to Washington.

Response 2. I am focused on what good governance can do for the people of Ohio's 2nd district. Our major goals focus on empowerment, opportunity, and innovation. We will empower our district with improved education and job training. We will provide job opportunities by working with employers, and building strategic partnerships between the public and private sector. We will encourage innovation by renewing federal funding for the sciences, as well as a by rebuilding and renovating our aging infrastructure for the 21st century.

Response 3. My legal background, business experience, and education position me as the best-suited candidate to draft and propose legislation that will move this district forward. I have seen firsthand in courtrooms and in our community the harm caused by poorly written laws. I know how to bring solutions to Washington. I have seen the benefits of combining law and economics for better public policy, which helps all Americans.

My concern is for the challenges we face. With your help, I will be the legislator to bring a better future for everyone in our district and the nation.

Marek Tyszkiewicz <http://www.electintegrity.com>

Response 1. After beginning my career as a high school math and physics teacher, I've spent the last 24 years as a pension actuary. I work with governmental entities across the country, helping determine the cost of programs they provide and how to fund them. In Washington, I'll use this experience to protect Social Security and other benefits for seniors. During my career, I also developed broad business skills, serving on the board of a medium sized company and as the national practice leader for a global corporation. My wife and I also own a small business in Cincinnati. My hands-on business experience and financial expertise are skills desperately needed in DC.

Response 2. Born in the mid-west, I was raised in a two-bedroom farmhouse by Polish parents who believed in family, integrity, and hard work. I want to bring those values to Congress. I will bring integrity to how we fund and administer our governmental programs. I believe in small government when it comes to personal lives and privacy. When unemployment is high like now, I believe the government can create jobs by investing in our nation's infrastructure. Examples include repairing our crumbling roads and bridges or expanding broadband Internet access in rural areas.

Response 3. I am a proven leader, educator, actuary, and business owner, with support from both Democrats and Independents. I have the resources, integrity, and credibility we need to debate and defeat our well-funded Tea Party opponent this November. Please visit ElectIntegrity.com and help me bring integrity to Washington.

ADAMS COUNTY VIEWPOINT

From the White House to the Vatican, we have been hearing a lot about income inequality lately. There is definitely a gap between the rich and the poor and it appears to be widening. Here is one of many examples illustrating the huge gap between executive and worker pay. In 2012, as CEO of Walmart, Michael Duke got \$20.7 million dollar paycheck. His salary is 779 times the \$8.86 average Walmart wage. And Walmart is known nationally for encouraging its workers to sign up for food stamps since many of their employees don't earn a living wage.

The Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives have voted to slash food stamps even though many of the beneficiaries of this program are children, veterans and the elderly poor. House Democrats did not endorse this vote because we view monies spent on those in need very differently. First, there is human compassion. To help those in need is simply the right thing to do. But the "right" thing also has an economic aspect. In an article entitled Feeding the Economy, Jill Richardson states that for every five dollars spent in food stamps, about nine dollars are generated in economic activity. Food stamp money doesn't just feed the hungry; it helps the stores where groceries are purchased, the food manufacturers, truckers, warehouses and farmers, too. She says the economists call this the "multiplier effect". Increasing the gap between the lowest wage earners and the rich undermines a healthy economy and is, inherently, undemocratic.

All this talk about income inequality reminds me of a story shared with me while shopping in one of Adams County's locally owned businesses. I was browsing in the shoe section when an acquaintance approached me and told me about a theft at his grandfather's. He said his grandfather had butchered a hog in the fall and had hung it in the smokehouse to cure. Grandpa went out one morning and found that half the meat had been stolen. When he told his family, Grandpa said he was absolutely sure he knew who had stolen the meat. He said it for sure was stolen by Democrats! One of the grandchildren asked him, "Just how do you know it was Democrats?" Grandpa answered without hesitation, "I know it was Democrats because if it had been Republicans, they would have taken it all!"

Republicans drove the economy into a ditch but I guess we have amnesia from the crash.

LAST CHANCE TO ACT

In July 2007 the Homestead Exemption was signed into law by Governor Ted Strickland. The tax exemption was made available to ALL Ohio homeowners, regardless of income, who were age 65 or older, or who were totally disabled. Now, the Republicans in control in Columbus have made the Homestead Exemption subject to means testing. This will limit eligibility for homeowners aged 65 or older with incomes over \$30,000 per year. Currently eligible participants will not be impacted.

Special attention should be taken by those who turned 65 before January 1, 2014 and have not yet filed for the first time. You have a one-time opportunity to apply for the Homestead Exemption and be approved without income qualification as long as you own and live in the same home that you did on January 1, 2013. Such "late application" must be received at the Auditor's Office on or before June 2, 2014. New applicants becoming eligible by age or disability after January 1, 2014 will now need to meet an income test to be approved for the Exemption.

Obviously, elections matter when it comes to your tax bill!

APPALACHIAN LAMENT

Legendary folk singer and political activist, Pete Seeger, has died. Among the many achievements of his long life he is known and loved as the man who single-handedly cleaned up the Hudson River in New York State. During the 1970's Seeger sailed his boat, the Clearwater, up and down the river between New York City and Albany, holding concerts in dozens of ports to raise consciousness about hazardous wastes. His efforts worked – for New York. But what happened to those toxic wastes?

The whole of Appalachia has been exposed to toxic materials since coal was first mined from its hills, but to add to its burden, over the last decades, the area has received hundreds of thousands of tons of toxic waste from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Ohio currently competes with Kentucky for who can accept these wastes more cheaply. What allows the states to freely compete for storage of these wastes has to do with the wastes' "label". In three phone interviews in late 2013, employees from the Ohio EPA explained how their hands are tied in protecting both the environment and the people of Ohio. One EPA representative explained that, though science has demonstrated differently, coal ash is not currently treated as dangerously toxic, and the Ohio legislature is on the brink of declaring coal ash, coal slurry and other byproducts of mining and burning coal to be "municipal" wastes, rather than "hazardous". How is it possible to get away with this? As one engineer said, "the situation is not scientific, it's not logical... it's political".

BOOK REVIEW

Bulls Bears and the Ballot Box by Deitrick and Goldfarb (Advantage Press 2012) is an eye-opening examination of the effects of Democratic vs Republican ideals on the US economy. The authors identify two general failures in economic policy that lead to economic trouble: 1) failing to advance the interests of the common good and 2) failing to recognize the importance of the middle class in a sound economy. A basic rule of thumb in sound economic policy is to understand the importance of the role of the federal government in a healthy economy: it engages in deficit spending during recessionary times and balances the budget during times of prosperity, it avoids excessive inflation, it enforces reasonable regulations and it provides the basics for its least fortunate citizens.

The authors write that the greatest dangers to a healthy economy are wide income disparity, broad financial market speculation/manipulation and leveraging tactics, and poor regulation on Wall Street. These factors run rampant under Republicans. As income disparity grows and more wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few, the middle class shrinks and the buying power of the 99% falters. Credit, along with high interest rates, is offered as the solution to keep the economy working, but inevitably there comes a collapse, such as the Great Depression in the 20's and the Great Recession in 2008. Marriner Eccles, economic advisor to FDR, explained the problem in this way: "...as in a poker game where the chips are concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, the other fellows could only stay in the game by borrowing. When their credit ran out, the game stopped."

The authors examine the real economic effects of political policies from 1929 to 2009 and reveal that Democratic administrations have produced the healthiest economies in US History, though, ironically, Republicans are generally believed to know better what is "good for business." The authors explain how Republican social and financial policies have produced the worst financial conditions in the country for the last 80 years: the Hoover, Nixon/Ford and GW Bush administrations are rated as the worst. In contrast, FD Roosevelt, JFK/LBJ and Clinton – all Democrats – are considered the best stewards of the economy in US history. In its analysis of American financial history, Bulls, Bears and the Ballot Box reveals the reasoning behind what Democrats instinctively know: Democratic ideals underlie sound economic policy.

The strength of our nation must continue to be used in the interest of all our people other than the privileged few. It must continue to be used unselfishly in the struggle for world peace and the betterment of mankind.

Harry S. Truman

'SEEING RED' ON EQUAL PAY DAY

Each year the National Committee on Pay Equity observes Equal Pay Day in April, designated as April 8th in 2014. This date symbolizes how far into 2013 a woman needs to work to earn the same amount of money that a man earned in 2012. This event has been observed since 1996 to illustrate the disparity between men's and women's wages.

Tremendous strides have been made in the last few decades in making available to women jobs and occupations previously held almost exclusively by men. Since 2001 however there has been minimal progress in gender integration in the work place. This continuing occupational segregation contributes significantly to the lack of adequate progress in closing the wage gap.

We urge you all to wear red on April 8th to symbolize your solidarity with the plight of women and minorities who are "in the red" with their pay.

DID YOU KNOW?

Women are almost half of the work force and they are the equal, if not main, breadwinner in 4 out of 10 families. Women receive more college and graduate degrees than men yet earn considerably less than men. 71% of all mothers in the U.S. work for pay. Two-thirds of working women are married and contribute money that is crucial to family support. One third of working women are single mothers who are often the sole support of their families.

"Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power...meanwhile the excluded are still waiting. Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequities."

Pope Francis

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Charles & Kim Newman
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Linda Stepp
Steve Stepp
Marek Tyszkiewicz, Candidate for Congress
2nd District

Thank You

Thank you to all Adams County Dems, who have supported and worked on True Blue since its inception in 2011 – The Adams County Executive Committee, the Adams County Democrat Club and its members - and special thanks to Ina Hendrix for those True Blue cakes and Sue Naylor and family for folding and stuffing envelopes.

Adams County Democratic Club Annual Dinner – May 16, 2014

The Adams County Democratic Club Annual Dinner is on Friday evening, May 16th at the West Union High School. Following dinner there will be an auction to raise funds for our 2014 elections. We will also have door prizes.

Mark your calendars for Friday May 16, 2014!

Please see any Central Committee or Club member for tickets. For more information visit our website at www.adamscountydems.com.

This fundraiser is key to our success in 2014 so come out and do your part to help elect Democrats!!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Adams County Humane Society on its first fundraiser. The fundraiser was a success, raising over \$11,000 for our furry friends in need. We thank the Adams County Humane Society and many volunteers for their hard work and commitment to a very real need in our county. We encourage all to help the ACHS in any way they can.

Humane Society of Adams County, Inc.
P.O Box 245
West Union, OH 45693
937-587-2727
www.adamscountyanimals.org

If you have any men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.

St. Francis of Assisi

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY – APRIL 22ND

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. It arose from an interest in getting national support for environmental issues. It was conceived as a day to promote clean air and water, healthy soil and the beauty of nature and any activities that would improve and foster these ideals. The first Earth Day was observed by about 20 million people in the United States. It is expected that in 2014 a billion people from 190 countries will take part in Earth Day observances. On April 22nd celebrate Earth Day – go outside – no matter what the weather!

Things to do on Earth Day: Plant a tree, or wildflowers or a veggie garden. Recycle something, anything and everything. Pick up trash on your street, or better yet pick up trash on the neglected vacant lot no one else claims. Contact your senators and representatives and tell them you support investments in sustainable technology. Remind them to be mindful of public policy that will have an environmental impact and the challenges we all face regarding climate change.

Let us be the protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and the environment.

Pope Francis

Contact us at:

True Blue
C/o Adams County Democrat Executive Committee
PO Box 143
Seaman, OH 45679 – 0143
adamscountytrueblue@gmail.com

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