

# True Blue

The Adams County Democrat  
September 2014

Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, reports that 25% of voters casting ballots for elected officials do not vote for judges. Why is this? And what are the consequences? Because persons running for judge are not listed according to party affiliation, it may result in the role of the judiciary being minimized in the voter's mind. This is a false assumption we must guard against.

Our democratic system of government is based on a three-part model of checks and balances. Where are the people to turn when the Executive branch is hamstrung, and the Legislative branch refuses to operate cooperatively? It is the Judiciary that mediates. Its job is to compare laws passed by congress (both Federal and State), and executive- actions produced by a given administration, with the Constitution and with established practice. It determines whether corporations and agencies are acting according to acceptable standards and protecting the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness guaranteed the citizens of the nation.

The State Supreme Court is our state's court of last resort. It consists of a panel of elected judges and is completely distinct from the United States federal courts - whose judges we, the people, are not able to choose. In this time of political extremism, when so many of our legislators are unwilling, or unable, to work for the people, multiple issues affecting us are finding their way into the courts. These issues are far-reaching and impact many facets of our lives. They include voting requirements, polling locations and hours of operation, civil rights, protection from environmental hazards, workplace safety – and so much more.

The role of the Judiciary cannot be minimized: VOTE!

### Tom Letson, Justice of the Supreme Court

State Representative Tom Letson (D – Warren) of the 64<sup>th</sup> District is a fourth term lawmaker who is proud to serve his neighbors in parts of Trumbull County.

Rep. Letson has practiced law for 20 years, currently working at Letson and Swader Co., LPA. He is a past President of the Trumbull County Bar Association, and he has worked as an acting judge in Warren and an assistant city prosecutor in Newton Falls.

His Service to the community has extended beyond the courtroom. He has served on the Warren City Board of Health, and he is a former workers' compensation representative for the United Steelworkers.

### John P O'Donnell, Justice of the Supreme Court

Judge John P O'Donnell was first elected to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in 2002, and then again in 2006 and 2012. The Cuyahoga court is one of Ohio's busiest, and during that time Judge O'Donnell has presided over scores of jury trials in felony criminal cases and civil lawsuits.

Judge O'Donnell is the author of over one hundred judicial opinions, a rarity for a trial court judge, and has been a frequent presenter at continuing legal education programs. He has consistently been rated "Excellent" in rankings decided by local bar associations whose members are the people most familiar with his work, and those whose clients are affected by his decisions.

**Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.** Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their backs on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.**

Abraham Lincoln

### **CORPORATE PERSONHOOD OR CORPORATE GOD?**

Multiple medical studies - many conducted in Cincinnati – have examined the effects of toxic materials found in coal ash and the chemicals used to produce energy from coal. They find these effects to be associated with many medical and societal problems, including cancer and other auto-immune diseases, lung diseases and neurological disorders. The effects of lead on the developing brain are associated with impaired cognitive function, impaired impulse control and many common problems related to lack of impulse-control, including drug abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, homicide and other violent crime. ALL of these problems are correlated with the use of coal for energy.

But developing clean, renewable energies is seen as a threat to corporate profits. Consumers are told that impossible costs will be passed on to them. By stressing how dependent people are on light and heat, and by using the political system to minimize the dangers of mining and burning coal, people are distracted from connecting the dots. We are scammed into denying the dangerous effects of pollution on ourselves and our loved ones.

There is virtually no price to be paid for genocide-by-toxic-waste. Corporations have all the rights and privileges of citizens, but none of the accountability. All a corporation in serious trouble has to do is “die” (go bankrupt) and reemerge as a new being. As Robert Kennedy Jr., president of Waterkeeper Alliance explains: the poisoning of the American people reveals “a critical systemic political problem”: industries are so powerful they subvert the democratic process. Corporations have become gods.

(For more information go to [AppalachianVoices.org](http://AppalachianVoices.org))

### **THE PRICE OF DENIAL**

What will it take to inspire us to read “the signs of the times?” Coal-burning power plants provide us with heat, cooling, light and JOBS. But what will make us open our eyes to the hidden costs we pay for our imagined safety and comfort? Why do we dismiss and ridicule the alternatives? There is so much to be gained by supporting clean, renewable energies.

Let's consider some facts. Mother Jones magazine, (Sept.-Oct. 2014), reports on the following information provided by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Every 104 minutes enough sunlight shines on the earth to provide the whole world with power for a year. The U.S. has the means, the space and the sunlight to produce 100 times its need for usable, clean energy. Worldwide, power generated by solar installations has grown, on average, 66% a year since the mid 2000's. Solar industry jobs have increased 50% since 2010. Solar workers OUTNUMBER coal miners nearly 2 to 1. Jobs in clean, renewable energy industries are outgrowing other job opportunities! Europe knows this. China knows this. The average cost of solar panels in 1972 was \$75. (DOLLARS) per watt. Because of their foresight and commitment, the expected cost of Chinese panels in 2015 is \$0.42 (CENTS) per watt!

In 2014 there have been three major toxic spill events east of the Mississippi. Chemicals used in processing coal have leaked into the Elk River in West Virginia and 100,000 gallons of coal slurry leaked into Fields Creek in McDowell County, WV, making its way into the Kanawha River and polluting the Kanawha watershed. Also, an 80,000 ton pile of coal ash has collapsed into the Dan River in North Carolina.

Contradictory and ineffectual messages about water safety, given to the people by their leaders and

environmental officials, are being broadcast. People are afraid to drink, bathe in or breathe vapor from their tap water. The Federal government has issued over 20 subpoenas in NC, alone, to investigate how the state and its governor, a retired executive of Duke Energy, have interfered in North Carolina's environmental protection responsibilities.

What will it take to break through the denial system of the average American trying to live a reasonable and ethical life in a world so endangered? We are as addicted to our denial as the addict is to heroin. What will it take to empower us to abstain? Hitting bottom? We have nature's remedy for challenging denial unfolding before us: cumulative toxic spills and accidents that can serve to awaken us to the fact we are being poisoned. Will we learn? What have the byproducts of burning coal been doing to us – to our families? And as we watch what is unfolding in our neighboring states, do we ask ourselves what will we do when it happens here? What is our contingency plan when the tons of coal ash on our southern border collapse into the Ohio River? - When the toxic materials stockpiled in the county reach the watershed? But there is more to be lost than our health - our bodies. Denial weakens our ability to think critically – to “connect the dots”. Denial poisons the soul.

How is it that so many Americans cannot read the signs of the times? How can it be that China - a country that ignores human rights and restricts internet access for its people – is helping to reduce the scourges of cancer, neurological damage, asthma and so much more? Are the Chinese simply driven by profit motive and see the future more clearly? Do they care more for their people? Do they have more insight than Americans? More initiative? Are we so badly addicted to the “comforts” of denial that we will be left dying – clueless - in the dust? What are we waiting for?

**The average man votes below himself; he votes with half a mind or a hundredth of one. A man ought to vote with the whole of himself, as he worships or gets married. A man ought to vote with his head and his heart, his soul and stomach, his eye for faces and his ear for music; also (when sufficiently provoked) with his hands and feet. If he has ever seen a fine sunset, the crimson color of it should creep into his vote. The question is not so much whether only a minority of the electorate votes. The point is that only a minority of the voter votes.**  
 Gilbert K. Chesterton

**Election Day 2014**

On Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Supreme Court ruled to override a lower court's decision to stay the Ohio Republican Party's effort to limit voter's participation. This ruling will stay in effect while the high court decides if it will hear the legal challenge. As such, early voting starts a week later than in previous elections, evening voting hours have been cut and one less Sunday is available to Ohio voters. This is all to benefit Republicans in the November 4<sup>th</sup> General Election.

**This is why we need Nina Turner for Secretary of State!**

Elections will be open for early in-person voting:

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct 7 through Friday, Oct 10
- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct 14 through Friday, Oct 17
- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, Oct 20 through Friday, Oct 24
- 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25
- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, Oct 27 through Friday, Oct 31
- 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2
- 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3

**Adams County Precinct Consolidation**

Several voter precincts in Adams County have been combined and are in effect for the November 4, 2014 General Election. If you need confirmation of your local polling address, please consult the Adams County Board of Elections at (937) 544-2633.

**Voter Registration**

Registration forms must be delivered to the Board of Elections by the end of the business day on October 6, 2014. If mailed, it must be postmarked no later than October 6, 2014.

**Absentee Voting**

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

Absentee ballots must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Board of Elections no later than Monday, Nov. 3, 2014.

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

**Make a Difference Day**

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Food Giveaway**

On Saturday October 27, Adams County Democratic Club and Executive Committee members will gather at four locations throughout the county to distribute potatoes and vegetables. At 11am we will meet in Peebles, Seaman, West Union and Manchester. Since 2009 we have served hundreds of families.

**Join Us!**

**Grand Opening – Democratic Party Headquarters**  
 Sunday, October 5, from 2 – 4 pm  
 115 W. Main Street, West Union



*Seven year itch I've heard of but not a three on a half year Kas-a-itch?*

*Everybody's talkin' bout job losses, education cuts, local funding cuts, right to work, attacks on collective bargaining etc. If I can just get rid of this three on a half year Kas-a-itch I've had in the next few months I'm bettin' the rest of this can get worked out!*





**DAVID PEPPER for STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Adding Pepper to the Ohio Stew**

To many people the contest for attorney general of the state of Ohio might seem to hold little interest when compared to the election of a governor or local commissioners whom people feel can directly affect their lives. How many people can name the present attorney general and further comment on his accomplishments or lack thereof? What we need to realize is that issues concerning voter rights, violence against women, education, increasing heroin addiction, and corruption in government are directly related to the attorney general’s office and his role is critical to the solution of these problems.

In deciding how to vote, consider the present record of the presiding attorney general in relation to the issues facing Ohio society. Let us consider briefly one of them. Number one is corruption in the state government, and as an example let us consider how the present system of obtaining state contracts works. If you are a friend of the present attorney general, you form a new company (CELCO Ltd.) two days before the announcement of a public bid to engage in collections work. When the results of the state’s scoring process was released, CELCO had a score of 95 and beat out firms that had years of experience as compared to the neophyte company that had no accounts and no experience in the field. Being a friend and a major donor of the attorney general can work wonders. David Pepper on his website explores this issue in greater detail and how he would restructure the process to add transparency.

All the issues relating to the present campaign for Attorney General and the solutions advocated by David Pepper can be found on the website (davidpepper.com). Mr. Pepper is a dynamic individual who is determined to clean up the attorney general’s office. His active involvement in city government (Cincinnati City Council and Chairman of the Law and Public Safety Committee) and county government (Hamilton County Commissioner) have involved him in the problems facing Ohio citizens and given him the insight to craft solutions that will benefit all Ohioans.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON DAVIS for STATE REPRESENTATIVE 90<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT**

Thomas Jefferson Davis has challenged an incumbent to represent the 90<sup>th</sup> District, which includes all of Adams and Scioto Counties and part of Lawrence County in the Ohio House. A locomotive engineer who is married with two daughters, Thom serves as a volunteer firefighter, a board member for Green Local Schools, and a 4-H volunteer.

In stark contrast to his opponent, who has authored and voted for numerous bills which strip basic rights from working people and deplete basic services in local communities, Thom worked to defeat Senate Bill 5. He quietly pitches in to help neighbors, family, and/or friends in need. When elected, Thomas Jefferson Davis will strive for true job creation; for quality services for early childhood programs, youth and senior citizens; and for meaningful support for public schools, libraries, law enforcement, and comprehensive drug treatment.

Let’s elect Thomas Jefferson Davis. He will listen to us and will work tirelessly to improve our communities and our state.

**MAREK TYSZKIEWICZ for CONGRESS 2<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT**

Marek Tyszkiewicz has challenged an incumbent to serve Ohio’s 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Married with two sons, Marek is a pension actuary who has helped local and state governments fund their promises to employees for more than twenty years. He previously had been a high school mathematics teacher and currently owns a small business.

A first generation American, Marek’s parents immigrated here from Poland after World War 2. His background has helped him forge a unique ability to analyze and address the issues faced by governments, businesses, and families. Unlike his opponent, Marek Tyszkiewicz has a common sense approach to governing. He will reach across the aisle to get our federal government back on track and working for the common good. Additionally, Marek has committed himself to work to protect all of our citizens’ basic human rights.

We need and deserve Marek Tyszkiewicz, a person of true integrity, to represent us in Congress.

**When you skip voting it’s not rebellion, its surrender.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Patrons

Anonymous  
Yvonne Bailey  
Wendell & Doris Barnes  
John V. & Joyce Caraway  
Ethel Chambers  
John T. & Elaine Lafferty  
Debora & Arbra Plymail  
Melanie Ogg, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Democratic State Central Committeewoman  
Sheila Roush  
Patty Shoemaker  
Carolyn & James Work

Century Donors

Anonymous  
Martha Bennett  
Tom & Barb Conroy  
Barb Durst  
Barbara Finnegan  
Betty Gabbert  
Gay Ann Gabbert  
Roy E. Gabbert, Jr.  
Dennis J. Grooms  
Charles & Kim Newman  
Kerry & Pat Smith  
Linda Stepp  
Steve Stepp  
Marek Tyszkiewicz, Candidate for Congress  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Our Candidates

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  
Ohio House of Representatives 90<sup>th</sup> District: Thomas Jefferson Davis  
Representative to Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Marek Tyszkiewicz  
State Board of Education: Michael Kinnamon

(Clip and Carry)

ADAMS COUNTY IS YOUR LAND  
(To be sung to the tune This Land is Your Land by Woody Guthrie)

Chorus:

Adams County is your land; Adams County is my land,  
From the mighty Ohio, to the border of Highland  
From the Edge of Appalachia, to the winding  
Brush Creek waters  
This land was made for you and me.

Verse 1:

Serpent Mound is lit at Solstice, an awesome sight to behold,  
Brush Creek races in the summer, Old Timer's Days is every fall,  
Amish buggies travel Wheat Ridge; Miller's fried pies can't be beat,  
Adams County's full of wonders, it's the only place for me.  
Repeat chorus

Verse 2:

As I drive the Appo highway, passing rows and rows of corn,  
Soybean fields go on forever, tobacco too is quite the norm,  
Sheep and cattle dot the hillsides, horses graze in many fields,  
Adams County is a beauty, it's the only place for me.  
Repeat chorus

Verse 3:

The Liberty Band plays at the fairground, tootles wafting through the air,  
Draft Horse Days show gentle giants, artisans show at the fairs,  
Buzzards Roost Rock calls to hikers, 5 cent Cokes at Blake's do too,  
Adams County I'm so happy, 'cause it belongs to me and you.  
Repeat Chorus

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