



Letter from the Chairman

You will notice that this edition of the newsletter is primarily devoted to the various ballot issues. This is in part due to the importance of the issues you will be voting on this November. In particular we must spread the word about the dangerous nature of State Issues 2,3,4 and 5 – The RPCC urges you to Vote NO on 2, 3, 4 and 5. Read more about these issues inside and find out why they threaten our ability to hold our elected officials – and our elections officials – accountable and have confidence in our electoral process. In addition, it is important that we communicate far and wide the ballot issues we are supporting this year, State Issue 1 and County Issues 6 and 7, and the reasons why we have as a County Party endorsed the passage of all three of these ballot measures. Primary for our region is the Jobs for Ohio package put forth in State Issue 1, as the economic impact of this single issue can benefit Greater Cleveland for years to come.

However, even without there being any County-wide offices up for election in 2005, it is our candidates running for office upon whom I would like to focus this Message. I would first like to publicly thank each and every one of them for running in their local or municipal election this year! It is the wealth of candidates like these, and of their elected counterparts who are not up this year, that keeps the Republican Party vibrant in this County. You may be aware that less than 1% of individuals ever run for political office - they have my gratitude for being part of this elite group.

Moreover, I would like to let all of you know what we are doing as an organization for our more than 150 endorsed Republican candidates in Cuyahoga County running in 2005, as each has available to their campaign the resources of the Republican Party of Cuyahoga County. This means not only the advice and logistical support of the RPCC staff in handling questions on tactics and strategy, requests for information or logistical help. But it also allows these candidates to utilize our downtown Headquarters

facility to coordinate a phone bank, make copies (they supply the paper), meet with volunteers, etc.

In addition, we aim to assist around the County in a number of ways. One of those ways is to help each campaign's absentee program run more smoothly. We do this by easing the process of mailing campaign literature to absentee voters through providing regular electronic updates to the campaigns of absentee ballot requests. Another way we assist is by mailing out slate cards to registered Republican voters in many areas. We will mail nearly



30,000 slate cards in communities throughout the County, including all cities within Berea, Cleveland and Garfield Heights Municipal Court Districts, Parma School District, along with Bay Village, Broadview Heights, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Chagrin Falls, East Cleveland, Euclid, Fairview Park, Highland Heights, Lakewood, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, North Olmsted, North Royalton, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, Solon, South Euclid and Westlake. And those campaigns in areas not yet targeted have been invited to work with us at headquarters to ensure the proper message is delivered to Republican voters in their City,

Village, Township or District.

The most effective way the County Party can help during election season is with well-targeted spending and the direct contribution of dollars. We have already done some of both during the primary season, with good results. Our Local Candidate Fund Drive is in full swing; however, we need to do more for these fine candidates. You should have received a letter in the mail recently from our LCF Co-chairs, Virgil Brown, Sr. and Grace Drake, seeking contributions to this effort. I want you to know how the LCF and the County Party help enable our candidates to be ready to win, so please give generously to this effort.

Best wishes to all this campaign season,

Thank you,

Inside This Issue:

- Breaking Down the Issue 1 Dollars**
- ED's Report - Reform Ohio Now a Bad Idea**
- Tri-C Issue 6 FACTS**
- MR/DD Services - Cuyahoga County Issue 7**
- Around the County - Lakewood Voter Outreach**

Visit the RPCC Website!
www.cuyahogacountygop.com

Executive Director's Report

VOTE NO! on Issues 2, 3, 4 & 5

Reform Ohio Now takes Away Your Voice in State Wide Government

Much has been said and written about Issues 2-5, the four proposed constitutional amendments that will change the face of Ohio Government if passed on November 8th. These liberal leftist amendments seek to alter political reality to favor the Democratic Party and cripple Republicans for years to come. So what really do these issues and their authors hope to accomplish? A review of these issues as they are written would suggest they seek to not only lean partisan politics towards the left, but completely tip the scales in their favor and bring about a total change to the political landscape we now know. Basically if passed, we will have the other party trying to seize what they have not been able to win with their candidates at the ballot box. By voters being fooled into not rejecting these dangerous amendments, government will once again grow and the tax and spend bureaucrats will once again be pleased. So by now you may be asking yourself is it really that important to get out and vote? Or are these issues really not that important? I'll let you decide for yourself.

Issue 2- No Fault Absentee Voting- Allows ANY voter to request an absentee ballot thirty five days prior to and up to ten days after an election. No longer will this service be provided to just help the elderly, disabled, college students or those that serve in the military, now anyone who requests a ballot will be afforded this luxury. Several states have had similar systems and each state has had massive voter fraud cases come before their courts. People voted in not only numerous counties but also several different states. This amendment would also place an extreme amount of pressure on the local Board of Elections to try and sift through mountains of paper ballots to apprehend those who attempt to commit voter fraud. Voting should take effort and it should take time and reflection. Sometimes the easy way isn't actually the best way.

Issue 3- Campaign Finance Limitations- Sounds rational to some on the surface but as its written would overhaul how much Republican donors could give and free up labor and union organizations to give indiscriminately. This issue promotes the need to reduce personal contributions from \$10,000.00 to \$2,000.00 for statewide elections and to \$1,000.00 locally while allowing unions to divert membership dues without filing accountability to whatever candidate they support. Basically it cripples the personal free speech of citizens who choose to support a candidate and rewards labor organizations and unaccountable special interest groups who will have the ability to bankroll their candidates without saying where the money came from. You need only be a political novice to understand how harmful this would be for Republicans and how the Democrats would flourish under this plan.

Issue 4- Redistricting- Currently our elected officials draw the legislative district lines but under this plan; science, mathematics and the electoral process would take a back seat to a five member bureaucratic board who are appointed, not elected to their positions. This panel would never answer to the voters of Ohio and would be financed out of taxpayer's pockets. Additionally, these

five bureaucrats would be appointed by partisan judges, who could literally appoint anyone they chose regardless of experience or qualifications. This proposed amendment has been called the most anti-democratic proposal on the ballot for a reason.

Issue 5- Elections Oversight- Would eliminate the elected Secretary of State and his/her office from running Ohio's elections. This proposed amendment would-like Issue 4- remove accountability to the voters of Ohio by appointing another bureaucratic board, this one a nine member panel who would never answer directly to you or me as voters. Generations of Ohio election law, judicial precedent, and official election-related directives would be thrown out, creating legal chaos that would likely result in challengers to every election.

What all of these proposed amendments boil down to is: Democrats lost the election so now they are desperately trying to change all the rules! A quick review of the RON website shows who supports these issues and includes the union and labor organizations, AFL-CIO, Planned Parenthood, Stonewall Democrats and a host of out-of-state billionaire financiers including the likes of George Soros and the now infamous 527 MoveOn.org.

Republicans; and all those who care about the integrity of the voting process, need to vote a resounding NO on Issues 2-5.

Steven M. Backiel
Executive Director
Republican Party of Cuyahoga County



Cuyahoga Community College will have a 1.2 mil 9-year replacement levy on the November 8, 2005 ballot.

FACT Tri-C is Ohio's first and largest community college and serves over 55,000 credit and non-credit students annually.

FACT The College maintains strong fiscal responsibility. At \$76.70 per credit hour, Tri-C tuition is the lowest in Northeast Ohio.

FACT The typical Tri-C student is 30 years old with three out of five being women.

FACT About 54% of the students are in career training programs and 46% are in liberal arts.

FACT More than 700,000 Cuyahoga County residents have come through Tri-C's doors to improve their lives.

FACT Eighty-five percent (85%) of Tri-C graduates remain in Northeast Ohio and work productively as contributors to the economic growth of the area.

FACT Tri-C is committed to ensuring that a trained workforce is available to businesses in Northeast Ohio.

FACT This 1.2 mil replacement levy is 18% of the College's operating budget.

FACT The revenue from the replacement levy will be used for the College to keep educational programs and equipment up-to-date and support the rising costs of delivering instruction.

Lakewood Voter Outreach

The Lakewood Republican Organization is sponsoring a voter outreach and education effort in the city of Lakewood. The Voter Education Forum Series is targeted at prospective voters in the May 2006 Republican primary. These types of community forums are beneficial to the voters, candidates, and the local organization. The forum provides the citizens of Lakewood and the surrounding areas the opportunity to hear the platforms of the various statewide candidates and have questions answered directly by the candidate. They allow an opportunity for the candidate to meet face to face with the grassroots supporters. The forums provide a venue to promote the sponsoring organization within the community to increase involvement and recruit new volunteers.

In Lakewood we chose to have the events at Lakewood City Hall, the atmosphere is cohesive with political discussion and is accessible to all citizens. We promoted the event in many ways via email, our website and community sites, newsletter mailing, and press releases to the area newspapers and weblogs. The first set of the series pertained to the Governor's Race. The Organization created an incentive offer to the various campaigns; whomever agreed to be the speaker at the LRO summer picnic would receive priority date preference on our first forum.

The first forum in the sponsored series featured Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell. Councilman Ryan Patrick Demro moderated the forum. The program began with comments for Secretary Blackwell which were followed by a town hall style question and answer session. There were 100 people in attendance from throughout the area and the event was posted in the Lakewood Sun Post and Lakewood Observer newspapers. Both the LRO and the Blackwell for Governor campaign recruited volunteers, it was considered a success by all involved.

The latest speaker in the series was Attorney General Jim Petro, who appeared on Monday, October 24. Moderator David R. Harbarger, former Mayor of Lakewood, engaged the audience and Petro in a lively discussion on lowering taxes, improving education and the dangers of passage of Issues 2, 3, 4 and 5. Petro, a candidate for Governor in 2006, and his primary opponents all oppose the four Reform Ohio Now amendments.

We have found this series to be a great opportunity to further the Republican cause in Lakewood and increase our involvement in the community. Educated and involved grassroots support benefits both the candidates and the voters. If anyone has questions about this series or would like to be contacted about future events please contact Colleen Wing at cwing@lakewoodrepublicans.org, www.lakewoodrepublicans.org, or 216.227.8581.

Cuyahoga Voters Will Determine the Future of Service for People with MR/DD this Fall...**VOTE YES! on Issue 7**

In November of 2000, the voters of Cuyahoga County overwhelmingly approved a five-year 3.9-mill levy for services and supports for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. That levy provides nearly 60 percent of the funding for the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, which annually serves more than 9,000 individuals at five early childhood centers, three specialized schools, eight adult activities centers, a network of residential facilities and a variety of community locations throughout the county. For 38 years the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities has served this population in Cuyahoga County with distinction, helping them to achieve a better place in life.

That levy expired at the end of 2004. On November 8, 2005, voters in Cuyahoga County will be asked to approve a 3.9-mill continuing replacement levy for the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities—Issue 7. It is the only local tax support for these vulnerable citizens. Without the passage of the replacement issue, the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities will lose all of its local funding and the federal and state funding generated when services are provided.

A loss on Issue 7 would be catastrophic for the boys and girls and men and women served by the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities today and the hundreds of people with disabilities who will come to the it each year in the future. At risk are specialized intervention services for 2,500 infants, toddlers, and multi-handicapped school children; employment and day activities programs for 5,000 adults; and specialized medical/therapy programs and residential services for 2,300 people. A levy loss would also seriously affect some 50 partner agencies such as the Achievement Centers for Children, the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Cleveland, Vocational Guidance Services, the Positive Education Program, the HELP Foundation, Our Lady of the Wayside, Koinonia Homes, Our Lady of the Wayside, the Jewish Family Service Association and Help Me Grow. These agencies provide services to people with disabilities and receive part of their funding from the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

For more information, go to the Issue 7 campaign web site at www.friendsofmr.org or call 216.357.3215.

Jobs for Ohio - VOTE YES! on Issue 1

On November 8th, Ohio voters will be asked to vote on Issue 1 - the Jobs for Ohio ballot issue. Below are key points to understand about this \$2 billion program, which will improve Ohio's ability to create and compete for jobs now and in the future:

Issue 1 renews Ohio's critical local government road and bridge building program.

- Two-thirds (\$1.35 billion) of the funds from Issue 1 will be used by local governments for projects that preserve essential infrastructure, ensure public health and safety, create jobs and improve the economic welfare and quality of life of all Ohioans.
- Projects that will be funded through this program include local road, bridge, water supply and storm and sanitary sewer improvements.
- This program was first approved by Ohio voters nearly 20 years ago, and again ten years ago.
- To date, this program has:
 - Funded more than 10,200 projects in all 88 Ohio counties.
 - Created tens of thousands of jobs statewide.
 - Reduced the need for local tax dollars to support projects of this type.

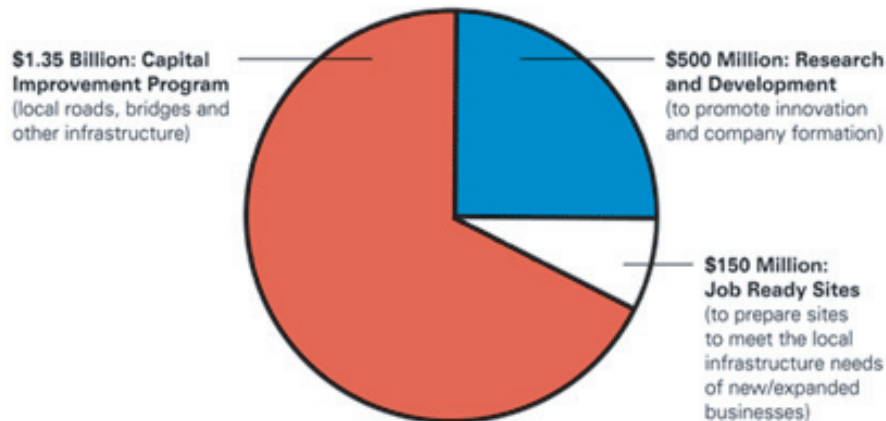
Issue 1 will provide jobs in local communities.

- Issue 1 provides \$150 million in grants to local governments to prepare "job ready sites," enabling local communities to compete for new businesses and industries and create jobs through the development of sites equipped with all utilities, from water and sewer lines to power and telecommunications.
- Issue 1 will create new jobs for Ohio's future by making \$500 million in grants for technology research and development and for helping to commercialize new products and bring them to market. Research and development grants will be made in such areas as alternative fuel development and the search for improved treatments and cures for cancer and other diseases.

Issue 1 does NOT increase taxes.

- Funds for repayment of Issue 1 bonds are already built into Ohio's future budgets so Issue 1 will not increase taxes.
 - In the future, programs made possible by Issue 1 will generate new revenues for state and local governments by helping expand our job base statewide.
- Issue 1 has wide support from Cleveland area business leaders, public officials and organizations.
- The \$2 billion ballot initiative has the support of Cleveland's business community and political leaders because passage will

How The Money From Issue 1 Will Be Spent



help improve Ohio's ability to create and compete for jobs. The Jobs for Ohio initiative includes what was previously known as the Third Frontier Project. Northeast Ohio companies and institutions have received almost \$140 million of the \$325 million awarded statewide since the Third Frontier Project was launched in 2002. The grants support research and product development, public

works projects and would prepare industrial sites for redevelopment, with the goal of investing in improvements that will increase Ohio's ability to create and compete for jobs. JumpStart, Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Clinic. - Source COSE

Visit the RPCC Website!
www.cuyahogacountygop.com

Visit the website for complete lists of candidates and issues relating to you and your community...it's all only a few clicks away!

**GET OUT & VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 8TH!**