



Volume 4, Issue 2

Spring '08



## JUDICIAL SALUTE Issue

### Letter From the Chairman

Dear fellow Cuyahoga Republican,

With this being our *Judicial Salute Issue*, I would like to take a few moments to focus on the challenges facing our judiciary. Given that some of our greatest successes in rebuilding our Party these past few years have been victories in local and county judicial races, this focus is appropriate.

Without Kathleen Sutula, Joan Synenberg, Dick Ambrose, Marilyn Cassidy, Ken Spanagel, Deborah LeBarron and Brian Hagan showing us the way to victory in recent years, let alone our very own Justice Terry O'Donnell together with Justice Bob Cupp making it a "perfect 7" on the Ohio Supreme Court, we would have much less to be thankful for as Cuyahoga Republicans today. With two fabulous Justices, Maureen O'Connor and Evelyn Stratton, working hard for re-election this year, we are also fortunate to have the opportunity to re-elect Judge Dick McMonagle to the Common Pleas bench, and to promote Judge Kathleen Sutula to the Probate bench.

In addition, we have eminently capable and well-regarded attorneys challenging in judicial races this year, with Brian Moriarity running strong again for the Appellate Court, and Rob McClelland and Sam Zingale going for Common Pleas. All told we have some very promising opportunities to further improve our local and state judiciary by supporting these candidates and helping ensure their victory in November.

When we consider the judiciary, however, we must not underestimate the importance of this year's race for the Presidency and the impact John McCain will be able to have as President on the future of our US Supreme Court.

We have already seen the impact of the Bush appointees, Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito, and what these appointments mean for the judicial philosophy of the highest court in the land. The further possibilities for change and the representation of our core values could be expanded with the next appointee to come. That historic appointment could certainly be made within the next four years.

We have never been closer to reversing past errant decisions on several key issues, most notably *Roe v. Wade* and the rights of the unborn. Another with perhaps less notoriety but certainly extremely controversial and offensive to personal rights and liberties is the *Kelo* decision with its specter of unjustified takings of property by an activist government. Further we see the Court now for the first time in our history truly addressing the individual nature of our Second Amendment rights. In order for us to capitalize on these opportunities, we must keep the White House and work effectively to regain our majority in the US Senate.

As we salute our Judiciary this Spring, we must work together to keep them strong. Join me and the Republican Party of Cuyahoga County in this effort at all levels of what we do in 2008, from McCain for President to the races for Ohio Supreme Court and County judgeships. Together, our grass roots team can convey the message to our friends and neighbors of the importance of victory in November!

To contribute or learn more about the RPPC please visit us online [www.cuyahogacountygop.com](http://www.cuyahogacountygop.com)

## Judicial Spotlight



**Ohio Supreme Court Justice  
Evelyn Lundberg Stratton**

Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton was appointed to her first term in the Ohio Supreme Court in 1996, subsequently winning election in 2002 with over 55% of the popular vote. Justice Stratton took a unique path to the Supreme Court seat, and one that truly proves that with hard work and perseverance; anyone can achieve their highest goals.

Justice Stratton was born to missionary parents in Bangkok, Thailand. She spent her childhood in Southeast Asia while attending boarding school in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. She returned to America alone to attend college and with only a few hundred dollars in her pocket, she was accepted into the University of Akron. Working her way through school she received a Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law. In 1989, she became the first woman judge to be elected to the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. She quickly developed a reputation of judicial integrity, fairness and diligence, which later earned her the nickname "The Velvet Hammer." Her experience and strong record on the Common Pleas Court earned her an appointment to the Ohio Supreme Court in 1996.

Besides her accomplishment on the bench, Justice Stratton is committed to improving her community. While deciding on some of the most important legal cases that face the State of Ohio, Justice Stratton has been proactive in helping many individuals. She formed the

Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness, a task force that includes mental health, legal and criminal justice professionals from around the state. The committee focuses on mental health initiatives in the court system and how to effectively implement such programs. In addition, she co-chairs the Judges' Leadership Initiative, which helps support mental health efforts and the Returning Home Advisory Commission, which assists in reducing recidivism.

Justice Stratton will be up for re-election again this fall. If you would like more information on Justice Stratton or her many accomplishments please visit her website at <http://strattonforsupremecourt.com>.



**Ohio Supreme Court Justice  
Maureen O'Connor**

A greater Cleveland native, Justice Maureen O'Connor was elected to her first term as an Ohio Supreme Court Justice in 2002 and she is currently looking at another successful campaign in 2008. Justice O'Connor won in 2002 with an impressive 57.3% of the popular vote in her first statewide judicial campaign. Joseph Russo (D), who lives only a half a mile away from Justice O'Connor, has decided to take on the daunting task of campaigning against the current Supreme Court Justice. Scrambling, State and County Democratic operatives finally found a candidate to run against Justice O'Connor and Justice Stratton, just days before the filing deadline of Jan. 4th. Justice O'Connor remarked in a *Plain Dealer* article late last year stating, "It suggests to me that the Democrats had some difficulty in finding someone to run... But that's fine. I didn't expect not to have an opponent."

She grew up in the cities of Strongsville and Parma before attending Seton Hall University. After graduating from college, Justice O'Connor decided to continue her education and received a Juris Doctor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She began her legal career in private practice, started a family and bought a home in Cuyahoga County. In 1985, she was appointed as a magistrate in Summit County and served until 1993 when she became a common pleas court judge. Feeling compelled to return to the frontlines of protecting the public, she became the Summit County prosecutor in 1995. She quickly embraced this new role by persistently prosecuting repeat offenders and was adamant about prosecuting public

officials who had committed ethical violations. In addition, Justice O'Connor successfully lobbied the Ohio General Assembly for stronger laws and sentences for gang-related and rape related offences. In 1998, she ran for the first time statewide and won Lt. Governor of the State of Ohio before being elected Justice in 2002.

If you would like more information on Justice O'Connor, her many achievements, or to help on her campaign please visit [www.OConnorForJustice.com](http://www.OConnorForJustice.com).



Republican Party of Cuyahoga County Presents:  
**2008 Judicial Salute**

Sammy's Metropolitan  
 925 Euclid Avenue  
 Huntington Bank Building  
 Cleveland, OH 44115  
 May 15th, 2008  
 5:30 PM VIP Reception  
 6:30 PM General Reception

Featured Guests:

**Justice Maureen O'Connor**  
**Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton**  
**Judge Anthony O. Calabrese Jr.**

The Annual Judicial Salute honors current and past judges from Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio. Do not miss out on this grand evening with the RPCC and some of the best and notable judges in our area and state.

For more details visit [cuyahogacountygop.com](http://cuyahogacountygop.com) or call 216-621-5415

## On the Campaign Trail: Featuring Jim Trakas



**Jim Trakas**

Thanks to you and the Republican voters of the 10th District, we have achieved the first step towards victory in November! On March 4th I was honored to receive 80% of the vote to secure the Republican nomination for US Congress. This no doubt was aided by the work of our volunteer **Victory Team** making over 20,000 phone calls to 10th District Republicans, sending out over 45,000 pieces of mail, and spreading the word to their neighbors.

The Democratic Primary also had good news. It is clear Congressman Kucinich is wounded. He faces a district where even Democrats do not want to see him re-elected. Indeed the 12-year incumbent, who has been running for office for 41 years, barely won a majority of the vote of his own party! A poll commissioned by the campaign shows that I have an excellent chance to win this November, if we successfully get our message out. 51% of the people said they want someone else to represent them. What a great opportunity!

To win this race we will need the help of all who care about this community, from all ends of town and all over the state. We will be knocking on doors and making phone calls to voters who are fed up with the mess in Washington. Once voters realize there is a viable alternative to the mediocrity we have accepted for twelve years, victory is within our grasp.

I am asking for your support to ensure victory in November. We cannot win this race and make history without your help throughout the campaign year. Please join our team and help us achieve victory.

Feel free to call my campaign anytime at 216-621-5418 or visit [www.jimtrakas.org](http://www.jimtrakas.org). Here you can learn more about me and where I stand on the issues. You can also sign up to volunteer and to receive my campaign e-newsletter.

I look forward to working with you to bring back effective, proven leadership to the Greater Cleveland area. Our party can use a high profile victory for all the right reasons. Let us all join in this effort and be able to talk about it for the next fifty years, about how the mighty Cuyahoga County GOP slew the dragon of liberalism in 2008.



**The Republican Party of Cuyahoga County**  
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Newsletter :: Volume 4, Issue 2

## In This Issue: On The Campaign Trail: Featuring Jim Trakas

## Judicial Spotlight Upcoming Events - April & May

### April & May Special Events

#### Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Euclid Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Euclid Public Library, 631 E. 222nd St.  
**Contact: Mike Akos: 216-289-6453**

#### Wednesday, April 9th, 2008

Seven Hills Republican Club Meeting 7:30 PM  
Seven Hills City Hall, 7325 Summitview Dr.  
**Contact: Pete Draganic: 216-328-1351**

#### Thursday, April 10, 2008

Parma Republican Club Meeting 7:30pm  
Parma Memorial Hall, 6617 Ridge Rd.  
**Contact: Pat Wright: 440-842-6121**

#### Sunday, April 13, 2008

David Morris for Ohio House of Representatives (D-14)  
Campaign Kick-Off Event: Join candidate for Ohio House  
David Morris (D-14) to kick-off his campaign. All are  
welcomed to this exciting and free event.  
12:30 PM -3:00 PM  
Brook Park Recreation Center 17400 Holland Rd  
**Contact: www.vote4davemorris.com**

#### Monday, April 14, 2008

Strongsville Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Strongsville Public Library, 18700 Westwood Dr.  
**Contact: Dave Gusman: 440-846-0413**

#### Tuesday, April 15, 2008

West Park Republican Club Meeting 7:00 PM  
St. Mel's Catholic Church Rectory 14436 Triskett Rd  
**Contact: Richard May at 216-252-7202**

#### Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Lyndhurst Republican Club Meeting 7:30pm  
Lyndhurst Community Center, 5301 Mayfield Rd.  
**Contact: Lillian Turjanica: 440-442-1371**

#### Thursday, April 17, 2008

Berea Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Berea Public Library, 7 Berea Commons  
**Contact: Phil Henry: 440-234-4832**

#### Monday, April 21, 2008

Brooklyn Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Brooklyn Senior Center, 7727 Memphis Ave.  
**Contact: George Johnston: 216-749-7764**

#### Monday, April 21, 2008

Mayfield Heights Republican Club Meeting 7:30 PM  
Ross C. DeJohn Community Center 6306 Marsol Road  
**Contact: Don Manno, 440-442-4151 or Mitch Helms,  
440-449-8332 or mayfieldgop@aol.com**

#### Monday, April 28, 2008

City Club Republican Discussion Group: Join fellow  
Republicans and guest speaker Westlake Councilwoman  
Nan Baker for the City Club's Republican Discussion  
group. Councilwoman Baker is the Republican candidate  
for State Representative (D-16) for the west shore  
communities (Westlake, Bay Village, Rocky River, North  
Olmsted and Fairview Park) and has already started to run  
a vigorous and well-organized campaign. Noon  
City Club 850 Euclid Ave., in downtown Cleveland  
**Contact: Reservations call 216-621-0082 or  
Dave Bailey at 216-496-2946**

#### May

#### Thursday May 1st, 2008

North Royalton Republican Club Meeting 7:30 PM  
North Royalton Public Library, 14600 State Rd.  
**Contact: Ken Wolnik 440-237-3055**

#### Saturday May 3, 2008

David Morris Fundraiser: David Morris for House (D-14)  
EXTREME BOWLING PARTY at Brookgate Lanes on Snow  
Road. \$25 per person (includes 2 games, shoe rental, hot  
dog, pop, fries) Order ticket online at  
[www.vote4davemorris.com](http://www.vote4davemorris.com) (see EVENTS) 11:30 PM  
Brookgate Lanes located at 14950 Snow Road  
**Contact: www.vote4davemorris.com**

#### Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Cleveland Ward 20 Republican Club Meeting 7:00 PM  
West Park Slovenian Home at 4583 W. 130th Street  
**Contact: Richard May at 216-252-7202**

#### Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Bay Village Republican Club Meeting 7:00 PM  
Bay Village Public Library 502 Cahoon Road  
**Contact: Skip Engel at 440-871-0485**

#### Thursday, May 8, 2008

Parma Republican Club Meeting 7:30pm  
Parma Memorial Hall, 6617 Ridge Rd.  
**Contact: Pat Wright: 440-842-6121**

#### Monday, May 12, 2008

Strongsville Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Strongsville Public Library, 18700 Westwood Dr.  
**Contact: Dave Gusman: 440-846-0413**

#### Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Euclid Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Euclid Public Library, 631 E. 222nd St.  
**Contact: Mike Akos: 216-289-6453**

#### Wednesday, May 14th, 2008

Seven Hills Republican Club Meeting 7:30 PM  
Seven Hills City Hall, 7325 Summitview Dr.  
**Contact: Pete Draganic: 216-328-1351**

#### Thursday, May 15, 2008

RPCC Judicial Salute Dinner: Please join us and special  
guests Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justice Evelyn  
Stratton for a evening to honor our current judges.  
5:30PM VIP Reception- 6:30PM General Reception  
Sammy's Metropolitan (E. 9th and Euclid in the  
Huntington Bank Building)  
**Contact: Steven Backiel 216-621-5417**

#### Thursday, May 15, 2008

Berea Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Berea Public Library, 7 Berea Commons  
**Contact: Phil Henry: 440-234-4832**

#### Monday, May 19, 2008

Mayfield Heights Republican Club Meeting: Invited  
Speaker for the meeting is Connie Luhta, Concord Twp.  
Trustee and President of the Board of the Women's  
Aviation Museum. 7:00 PM  
Ross C. DeJohn Community Center 6306 Marsol Road  
**Contact: Don Manno, 440-442-4151 or  
Mitch Helms, 440-449-8332 or mayfieldgop@aol.com**

#### Monday, May 19, 2008

Brooklyn Republican Club Meeting 7:00pm  
Brooklyn Senior Center, 7727 Memphis Ave.  
**Contact: George Johnston: 216-749-7764**

#### Tuesday, May 20, 2008

West Park Republican Club Meeting 7:00 PM  
St. Mel's Catholic Church Rectory 14436 Triskett Rd  
**Contact: Richard May at 216-252-7202**

#### Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Lyndhurst Republican Club Meeting 7:30pm  
Lyndhurst Community Center, 5301 Mayfield Rd.  
**Contact: Lillian Turjanica: 440-442-1371**