



Grassroots American Values

A Firelands Area Conservative Action Group

<http://www.plan2succeed.org/grassroots>

WARNING: THIS NEWSLETTER MAY CONTAIN GRAPHIC MATERIAL

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Hate Mail: spill your venom and send it to grassroots@bex.net

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DISCLAIMER: This is not a Politically Correct organization. We do not exist to make people feel comfortable. So, feel free to feel uncomfortable!

About this Newsletter

National news often distracts us from local events. This Newsletter is intended for Conservatives in the Firelands area that want to be informed and involved. **You have our permission to send it to your Conservative friends, either by snail mail or E-mail.**

5.7% of your State Income Taxes fund all Ohio Public Libraries
Learn how: <http://www.olc.org/budget03/WhatisLLGSF.pdf>

Promises, promises... Senator Randy Gardner is part of the Finance and Financial Institutions Committee. He is also the proud recipient of the Ohio Library Council's Andrew Carnegie Award. On May of 2005 we contacted him and asked him to maintain the freeze on Public Libraries funding. In response his assistant, Shelby, called and accused us of censorship. After this delightful conversation, we wrote to thank him and reinforce our request. His final response was: "I will not be a candidate again for the Ohio Senate and do not expect to run for office in Lucas, Ottawa or Erie counties again the rest of my life." We will be sure to remind Mr. Gardner of his promise.

Our Caring Representative We asked Representative Bill Seitz to consider reviewing and applying restrictions to the law that allows age-inappropriate literature to be placed in the shelves of Children areas of Public Libraries [ORC 2807.31 Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles (C)(1)]. His answer? He admitted this law is "*much to the contrary of common sense*" and that we "*have identified a real problem,*" but our "*proposed solution is impractical.*" In other words, it is impractical to try to protect Ohio children! To read his letter, click on the link below and look for #6: <http://www.plan2succeed.org/grassroots/letters.html>.

A Darling of Public Libraries Ohio Representative Ralph Regula, member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, is a darling of Public Libraries. In 2005 the Friends of Libraries USA awarded him the Public Service Award, granted "*annually to a legislator who has been especially supportive of libraries.*" Also, he received an award from the board of the OH State Library for, according to its President Lucille Hastings, "*finding money when we need it and making it available to our libraries*"— i.e. **your** hard earned money. According to Vote Smart he also supported the interests of the racist group La Raza 100% in 2004...

Grassroots American Values

First Dinner Meeting

Meet the people behind GAV and learn about our mission

Date: November 15, 2006 at 6:30PM

Place: Three Monks Restaurant (Super 8 Motel, Avery, enter restaurant at rear of motel)
11313 Milan Rd. (Route 250)

Directions: From Rt. 2 Exit US-250, go South 6 miles; hotel on right.

Cost: Individual \$20.00; Couple \$35.00

Prices include: antipasto, dinner, vegetables (winter medley: carrots, broccoli and cauliflower), dinner salad, bread, dessert (cheesecake) and non-alcoholic beverages.

Menu: Filet Mignon with Red Skinned Potatoes or Chicken Parmesan

Limited number of tickets available. To order tickets and for more information write to: grassroots@bex.net - RSVP by November 8th.

G.A.V. PICKS

- *Because they Hate: a Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America*, by Brigitte Gabriel. A moving personal account of the suffering of Christians under Islamic fundamentalist rule
- *Rumsfeld: a Personal Portrait*, Midge Decter. Huron
- *America: the Last Best Hope*, William J. Bennett. Available at Sandusky and Huron Libraries (Look for the low brow critique by *Publisher's Weekly Review* on the CLEVNET web site!)
- *From my Cold, Dead Hands: Charlton Heston and American Politics*, Emilie Raymond. Huron
- *Silent Witness: the Untold Story of Terri Schiavo's Death*, Mark Fuhrman. Huron and Sandusky
- *When Washington Crossed the Delaware: a Wintertime Story for Young Patriots*, Lynne Cheney. Huron and Sandusky Children's area
- *George W. Bush*, Michael Burgan. Huron and Sandusky Children's area

OHIO'S PROPERTY TAXES

By Carolyn J. Blow (Adapted from *Ohio's Replacement Levy* by the same author)

This is the fourth of a four-part series on Ohio's Property Taxes. The series addresses the following topics:

Part 1: **Basic Property Taxation**

Part 2: **Why Property Taxes Continue to Grow - Kinds of Levies and Government Manipulation**

Part 3: **The Deceptive Replacement Levy - Explanation**

Part 4: **The Deceptive Replacement Levy - Solution to the Problem**

PART 4: THE DECEPTIVE REPLACEMENT LEVY – Solution to the Problem

Ohio law has traditionally given local voters the final say for all property taxes other than those that are levied on the ten "inside" mills, with a few exceptions. However, that authority is *no* authority when tax laws are cleverly written to force more taxes on citizens without their vote.

Neither is that any authority when laws are written so that voters are misled into voting for the opposite of what they really want or when the Yes and No choices on a ballot issue are both undesirable, as with replacement levies. This writer has discussed the replacement levy with people from across the state, and the situation is similar all over: many Ohio citizens have been unaware that they have been voting for tax increases with these levies.

From 1990 to this October 2006 writing, Greene County has had sixteen countywide replacement levies, and every one of them passed. Had the money requests been placed on the ballot as two separate issues and two separate votes, that is, a renewal levy being one and an additional levy being the other – which is the equivalent of the replacement levy – it is quite likely that every one of the renewals would have passed but that some of the additional levies would have been defeated.

What's the solution to the replacement levy problem? The law that authorizes the levies, ORC 5705.192, ought to be totally repealed for several reasons, including the following:

- The replacement levy is an unnecessary tax. Simple “additional” property levies have always been available – and are still available – to increase revenue for the government, and they do pass when voters see a need.
- It is impossible to see from the deceptive ballot that a replacement levy increases a tax – much less, by how much. In addition, as noted in Part 3, some levy proponents have taken advantage of that fact with misleading levy promotions that mimic the ballot.
- The replacement levy supposedly ties the increases in the cost of government services with increases in property values. However, there is no correlation between the two (appropriately so). Even if there were proportional growth between the cost of government services and property values, because government subdivisions and agencies get various other kinds of funding in addition to their property tax levies from local and state and federal sources, any attempt to directly correlate property taxes with the cost of government services is unworkable. Further, the fact that the “replacement levy *and increase*” and “replacement levy *and decrease*” exist – and not just the “replacement levy” – is evidence that having replacement levies is illogical; they are messy and confusing.
- Not only is the tax confusing for regular citizens, but this writer has received reports from various areas that their local officials who have voted to place replacement taxes on the ballot do not themselves understand the levies but are merely acting as advised by their financial directors or government managers. This writer believes that those officials who do understand the levies know well that their actions deceive voters, and they intend to get money in the easiest way they know.
- Replacement levies limit the reasonable authority of citizens – even citizens who know the levies are always used to increase taxes – to determine the extent of their government. When an existing levy is expiring, replacement levies force voters to choose between 1) voting No to no longer pay even the tax they had been paying, or 2) voting Yes to increase their tax. They are unable to vote simply to continue to pay the *same* tax they had been paying, as some people prefer. Government officials know that the majority of voters generally would not vote to eliminate a tax; therefore, by using the replacement levy, they put the equivalent of a new tax with the old. In that way, they twist the arms of the voters to increase their property tax. In fact,

in their levy promotions, proponents often insist that the voters must pass a levy or the government agency would have to cut services because it would not even have the revenue it had been getting.

Relatedly, Ohio also allows a “renewal” levy and an ordinary “additional” levy to be combined into one single vote, and although renewal-plus-additional-levy issues and ballots are straightforward – unlike replacement levies and ballots – they still deny voters a real choice. In this writer’s opinion, such combination votes ought to be illegal; renewals and additionals should be in separate votes. Thus, the replacement levy should also be illegal.

- The replacement levy is merely a way to increase taxes without full citizen awareness and without citizens’ having control of what kind of government they want and how they want to support it. The use of the tax is dishonest and disrespectful toward the taxpayer and voter.

For these reasons, the correct solution to the replacement tax problem – the solution that is most logical and honest and respectful toward the taxpayer and voter – is to totally repeal the replacement tax law.

A partial solution – one that addresses only the ballot language problem and is therefore much less desirable than total repeal of the law – would be to change the ballot wording to show the true tax increase. That is, it must show at least the proposed millage *and* the effective millage of the levy to be replaced and in no way indicate a tax decrease, including in the ballot title (the Revised Code prescribes the wording for the body of the ballot but does not address the ballot title, which is as deceptive as the body and is more noticeable to the voter). Such change in the law should also mandate that taxing authorities, county auditors, boards of election, and all others in government clearly indicate at least the effective millage of the existing levy along with the proposed millage and also the estimated increase in revenue for the taxing agency in all written and oral communication that is meant to inform the public about the levy.

Repealing the replacement levy or changing ballot wording would be done by the Ohio legislature – with much encouragement from citizens. Although at least some of the legislators are aware of the deceptive ballot language, any action by them thus far has been inadequate to remedy the problem.

The fact that state lawmakers are *very* greatly influenced by local officials cannot be stressed too strongly. Local officials have had much to do with getting the legislature to create the types of levies described in this treatise, and replacement levies, in particular, have been a cash cow that local governments will likely fight to keep, should a lawmaker introduce a bill to repeal their existence (no bill has been introduced as of this writing). That means that many citizens must be able to understand replacement levies and care enough about fairness that they can and will explain to their representatives and senators the unjustness of these levies and will encourage them to actively support the repeal of the law that authorizes the levies. The process of passing laws is usually quite slow. Repealing the replacement levy law could be especially difficult because, in addition to pressure from local officials to keep it, this writer, in speaking with some of the legislators, has found that many do not understand replacement levies, even though they vote on them at their polling places, just as other citizens do.

Because repeal of the replacement levy law or even a change in ballot language could take months or years – or might not happen at all – citizens should also work at the local level by voting against all replacement levies, no matter how desirable the intended use of the funds might be. Only if the levies repeatedly fail will local officials stop using them and again make

more use of the simple “additional” levy when they truly need funds for appropriate services. Informed citizens should also educate other citizens, including their local officials, and support only those candidates that pledge not to put replacement levies on the ballot but rather to use straightforward “additional” levies when they see an appropriate need for increased funding.

Educating others could include giving them the information in this treatise and writing letters to the editors of newspapers, especially before elections that have replacement levies on the ballot. When citizens understand taxation, public officials can’t take advantage of them. Not only would educated citizens be able to vote more intelligently on taxes, but, also, they could vote honest people into office at all levels of government and put pressure on elected officials and agency heads that are already in government so that they treat voters and taxpayers fairly and with respect.

It is the hope of this writer that Ohioans will hold their government accountable – that they will learn about taxation and individual tax issues, that they will educate others, that they will work to eliminate unfair and deceptive taxes such as the replacement levy, and that they will support only those candidates for office who are honest enough to do the same.

Readers may contact the author with questions or comments by writing to her at 1767 U.S. 68 South, Xenia, OH 45385.

➤ See our prior newsletters for more: www.plan2succeed.org/grassroots/ournewsletters.html

DOUBLE STANDARD



Terrorist-in-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was pictured on Time magazine cover with an angelic expression. Yet, the President of a Democratic nation was belittled. Since when is being a cowboy a bad thing?!



The Cleveland Public Library (www.cpl.org) is considering the acquisition of *Kiss of Fire*, by Youka Nitta for their Young Adult area (Young Adult = kids under 18). They already have *Yellow* Volume 2, by Makoto Tateno available to minors. These books should be in the CPL Adult area. Check the pictures of **Yaoi** (*) **Manga** (too graphic to be printed) to understand why these books should not be available to minors:

http://www.guidemag.com/temp/yaoi/a/mcharry_yaoi.html

CPL Youth Services: ChildLit@cpl.org

CPL Administration: <http://www.cpl.org/library-administration.asp>

(*) *yaoi* = male to male sex in Japanese

Questions you Might Like to Ask

By Milla Kette

If like me you received the Special Fire Levy brochure from the City of Huron Fire Division, you might also have a few questions. Here are mine:

- 1) How tall a building can the ladder truck reach? How much does it cost to man and maintain this piece equipment?
- 2) From the 1,250 emergency calls in 2005, 1,027 were emergency medical services. It is clear our firemen are largely ambulance operators. How much did the 1,027 EMS calls cost Huron taxpayers? Has the Fire Division ever considered contracting with North Central EMS for the same service (letting the users' insurance and MEDICARE cover the costs)?
- 3) The Fire Division has two ALS ambulances; how much is the cost to man and maintain them and their crews?
- 4) The brochure states that grants received through the Department of Homeland Security (totaling \$628,000) were used to replace and improve the City's radio communication system. How much was used and what were the improvements? How much was spent on SCBA [Self Contained Breathing Apparatus] equipment? How much went to "firefighter safety" (and what does this entail)? How much did the new boat cost and how much does it cost to man and maintain it?

To my surprise, after explaining the costs of the new levy, the brochure explains that the services provided will incur "*no additional charges to our residents*"... Then, obviously, they do not need the levy! I sent my questions by E-mail (October 3rd) and later on by letter (October 7th) to the Fire Division and as of today have received no response.

Keeping Age-inappropriate Literature Away from Minors

Alert Congressmen and Senators to what is available in Ohio Public Libraries for minors:

↗ Ohio House of Representatives: <http://www.house.state.oh.us/index.html>

↗ Ohio Senate: <http://www.senate.state.oh.us/index.html>

When they get a Library card, parents sign the most benign and vague disclaimer of their responsibility for what their children borrow (*); they don't even get a copy of this contract. Schools have flashing lights, speed limit signs, special cross walks and crossing guards – because children do not exercise good judgment. Why are they treated different in Libraries? To help parents Libraries should offer a card that will limit the kind of books minors can check out and keep age-inappropriate materials restricted to the Adult department.

(*) Last document of letter # 3: <http://www.plan2succeed.org/grassroots/letters.html>

↗ Sandusky Public Library (**), 114 W. Adams St., Sandusky OH, 44870

Phone: 419- 625-3834, Fax: 419-625-4574 E-mail: comments@sandusky.lib.oh.us

↗ Huron Public Library, 333 Williams St., Huron OH 44839

Phone: 419-433-50009, Fax: 419-433-7228 E-mail: huron@oplin.org

↗ Library Board members: <http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/public/aboutthelibrary.asp> (Sandusky) and <http://www.huron.lib.oh.us/Library%20Events/About.htm> (Huron)
↗ Other Libraries: <http://www.publiclibraries.com/ohio.htm>

() The Sandusky Library has actually moved several age-inappropriate books to its Adult area and for this we are grateful. We hope the librarian will continue on this path.**

G.A.V. RECOMMENDED EVENTS

↗ **NRA MIX N'MINGLE** Dublin, Saturday, October 14, 10:00am—1:00pm. Mingle with NRA-ILA Headquarters staff, fellow area NRA members, and pro-Second Amendment candidates and their staffs. Learn what you can do locally to elect pro-freedom lawmakers to office —and earn NRA items like hats, pocket knives, buttons, etc.: <http://www.nraila.org/workshops/>.

Deep Thoughts and Other Idiocies

- *"We tell you not to concern yourselves with the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, these are doomed."* Ayman al-Zawahiri in video aired on the eve of September 11, 2006.
- *"To be radical is not to be insane, it's to go to our roots. Let's go to our roots, let's be truly radical."* Kook-in-Chief Hugo Chávez in Cuba for a summit of the Nonaligned Movement.
- *"It is not essential that a past president, bullied and sandbagged by a monkey posing as a newscaster, finally lashed back."* Keith Olberman kindly commenting on Chris Wallace.

How You Can Help

- Visit your local Library and learn what they have available to children and teens.
- Ask your Librarian about their policies.
- Make your position known to your Library.
- Write, call, fax, and email your local Library with suggestions of family friendly books for children and teens.
- If your Librarian does not act upon your concerns, contact the Library Board of Directors.
- Write, call, fax, and email your Congressman.
- Support Grassroots American Values in our efforts.

Cool Blogs & Links

- <http://www.electionsonthe.net/oh/erie/> Erie County Board of Elections
- http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=52330 Gay pedophilia
- <http://newsbusters.org/node/5574> With all due respect!
- <http://www.lifenews.com/nat2630.html> NEA against abstinence!
- <http://www.eagleforum.org/psr/2006/aug06/psraug06.html> Eagle Forum on NEA
- <http://www.safelibraries.org/tonilibrarnov205.htm> Dangerous books for young minds
- <http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110009033> Pages & Quarentine
- <http://podcast.markharringtonlive.com/show/20060905> Must listen: Linda Harvey
- <http://www.ohiogop.org/News/Read.aspx?ID=1282> Who (really) is Barbara Sykes?
- <http://archive.ala.org/online/news/1999/991122.html#hefner> Libraries & Playboy
- http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/lifestyle/2006-09/14/content_689220.htm Wiser than women
- <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=7§ion=0&article=59952&d=5&m=3&y=2005> Bill Clinton: always on the wrong side
- <http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=95001270> El Rushbo: always on the right side

- <http://www.newswithviews.com/Jackson/nicholas13.htm> Children at Risk
- <http://www.family.org/cforum/news/a0042076.cfm> Banned Books Week is a fraud!
- <http://www.suntimes.com/news/politics/74516.CST-NWS-clin28.article> Hey, Angry White Male is cool now, or Because Clinton did It We Should Also Loose our Temper Too!
- http://www.spectator.org/dsp_article.asp?art_id=10418 Why we don't trust him
- http://www.nationalledger.com/artman/publish/article_27268634.shtml Who says it:that makes a difference!
- <http://www.ohioelectioncentral.com/> Ohio Election Central
- <http://www.ohioelects.com/?story=dispatch/2006/10/06/20061006-A1-00.html> The truth about slots
- <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/news.shtml> Vegetative, but still a human being
- <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=7747> Not all is lost in Brazil!
- <http://www.ytedk.com/chappindex.htm> The book on the Chappaquiddick cover-up

Protest in Coshocton: Citizens Ask Library to Protect Children



On September 23, 2006 the Coshocton group COPE (Citizens for Positive Education) protested *Banned Books Week* in front of the Coshocton Public Library. Banned Books Week is sponsored by the millionaire American Library Association to lead people to believe books are regularly banned in America. The ALA real agenda seems to be to get kids to read as much filth as possible and for this they count with the support of most librarians. The ALA by the way has never officially criticized Cuba for imprisoning librarians (*). These librarians were thrown in prison for providing access to books excluded from Cuba's censored library system.

According to Nancy McFarland, the group's founder, "*four teens passing by shouted that they liked sex.*" The kids explained they learned about sex in the library and also through their school sex-ed programs. Another student explained it is "*in*" to be bisexual. A petition asking the "*move of all adult material from the Children and YA departments to the Adult Section*" was also available to the public during COPE's protest. To contact COPE write to: nancymcf@clover.net.

(*) http://www.nationalreview.com/nr_comment/nr_comment072803.asp

Reporters & Writers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to write 500 word editorial comments on local governmental activities. Writers can use a pen name if they do not want their real names disclosed. If interested, please respond to grassroots@bex.net.