



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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In This Issue:

Page 1: 2006 Elections

Page 2: GAV Dinner; Ballot Issues

Page 2: And now, a word on ballot issues

Page 6: GAV Suggestions; Keep Filth Away...; Straight Answers Anyone?

Page 7: Keep Age Inappropriate...

Page 8: Deep Thoughts; How you can Help; Cool Blogs; Reporters and Writers Needed

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

Contact: grassroots@bex.net

P.O. Box 286
Huron OH 44839

Copyeditor: Terry Kette

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>

2006 Elections Special Edition

Governor: Blackwell/Raga (www.kenblackwell.com) and Strickland/Fisher (www.tedstrickland.com)

Attorney General: Betty Montgomery (www.bettymontgomery.com) and Mark Dann (www.dannforohio.com)

State Auditor: Mary Taylor (www.citizensformarytaylor.com) and Barbara Sykes (www.sykesforauditor.com)

Secretary of State: Greg Hartman (www.greghartmann.com), Jennifer Brunner (www.jenniferbrunner.com), Timothy Kettler and John Eastman

Treasurer: Sandra O'Brien (www.sandraobrien.com) and Richard Cordray (www.cordraycommittee.com)

US Senate: Mike DeWine (www.mikedewine.com) and Sherrod Brown (www.sherrodbrown.com)

US House, 9th Dist.: Bradley Leavitt (leavittforcongress.com) and Marcy Kaptur (votemarcy.com)

OH House, 80th Dist.: Ed Enderle (www.edenderele.com) and Chris Redfern

(www.house.state.oh.us/jsps/MemberDetails.jsp?DISTRICT=80)

Board of Education, 2nd District: Kathleen McGervey (kmcgervey@yahoo.com write "Elections" in the Subject), Roland Hansen, Kenneth Ault and John Bender

(www.johnbender.homestead.com)

County Commissioner: Sparky Weilnau (www.votesparky.com) and Bill Monaghan (www.monaghanforeriecounty.com)

County Auditor: Rick Jeffrey (www.rickjeffrey.com) and Thomas Paul

Supreme Court, full term: Terrence O'Donnell

(www.justiceodonnell.com) and William O'Neill (www.oneillforjustice.org)

Supreme Court, full term: Robert Cupp (www.cuppforjustice.com) and Ben Espy (www.espyforjustice.com)

Court of Appeals, full term, 6th Dist.: Peter Handwork

Court of Appeals, unexpired term, 6th Dist.: Dennis Parish

(www.judgeparish.com) and Thomas Osowik

Court of Common Pleas: Robert Delamatre (www.eriecountygop.com/Candidates.htm)

Information on candidates' position on issues at USA Voter: www.usavoter.info

Official General Election Ballot: www.electionsonthe.net/oh/erie/cands/110706cands.pdf

Erie County Republican Party: <http://www.eriecountygop.com/>

Erie County Democratic Party: www.riedemocrats.org

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

Menu: Filet Mignon with Red Skinned Potatoes or Chicken Parmesan

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

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND, PLEASE, CONSIDER SENDING A DONATION

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

Grassroots American Values on Ballot Issues

Issue No. 6 (Ottawa), No. 8 (Erie) – Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement) Mental Health and Recovery Board of Erie and Ottawa Counties

GAV's Advice: Vote NO!

The operative word for this levy is **REPLACEMENT**. To the unsuspecting voter, this means a continuation of the existing tax levy. If this were the intention, the term used would be **RENEWAL**. A replacement levy is in fact an **INCREASE** in your taxes. While the nominal millage number remains the same, the levy will not be applied against the original property valuation, but the newest 2006 valuations. So, in effect, this is a dramatic increase in the individual tax burden. If the expenses of this Board remain the same, let them come back to the taxpayer with honest language and ask for a RENEWAL.

The Giving Tree, a Board-funded agency, is "required by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services to provide [...] Translator services for limited English proficient persons." Although its cost to taxpayers is "\$40.00 per hour plus drive time" the "services are available at no cost to clients of our agency" because the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Erie and Ottawa Counties will "cover the cost of the services" –i.e., will pay for the service with taxpayer money.

Issue No. 10 – Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement) Erie County General Health District

GAV's Advice: Vote NO!

Again the operative word for this levy is **REPLACEMENT**. To the unsuspecting voter, this means a continuation of the existing tax levy. If this were the intention, the term used would be **RENEWAL**. A replacement levy is in fact an **INCREASE** in your taxes. While the nominal

millage number remains the same, the levy will not be applied against the original property valuation, but the newest 2006 valuations. So, in effect, this is a dramatic increase in the individual tax burden. If the expenses of this Board remain the same, let them come back to the taxpayer with honest language and ask for a RENEWAL.

Issue No. 11 – Proposed Sales and Use Tax Erie County

GAV's Advice: Vote NO!

This is a ¼% **INCREASE** in Ohio Sales tax. Reasons why we are against it:

- The stated purpose of this tax is for *“providing additional revenue for the County General Fund; revenue for the expansion and operation of the County Jail; the operation of the Erie County Drug Tax Force; revenue for the criminal and administrative justice services; and pay expenses for administering the tax”*.

According to Huron Chief of Police Randy L. Glovinsky, the Drug Task Force has received reduced federal and state funding while drug arrests have increased, which results in an over crowded jail. In other words, more drug arrests require more jail space; more jail space requires more tax money, more tax money means more arrests, which means more jail space, which requires more tax money, ad infinitum. (We wonder where the money came from to attach \$3,500 laptops to the Erie Co. police cars...) GAV believes **spend/arrest/jail, spend/arrest/jail** is obviously throwing good money after bad. Apparently the Sheriffs Department is willing to spend every last cent you have to **spend/arrest/jail, spend/arrest/jail**. Perhaps a new strategy needs to be employed at the State level. Erie County cannot fight the War on Drugs alone. Let's not continue down a path that is clearly not working.

- This year Erie County has enjoyed a huge growth in sales tax collection revenue with the increased growth of retail sales; which begs the question of why an increase in the rate is required anyway. A basic knowledge of economics would lead one to believe that if you increase the rate of sales tax, you will reduce retail sales, and therefore a reduction in tax revenue. For instance, if you purchase a \$20,000.00 car in Erie County you would be forced to pay an additional \$50.00. How many car sales will Erie County dealerships lose to Huron County auto dealerships? Would you travel 5 miles for \$50.00?
- Construction Companies pay taxes on the cost of materials on “real-property” projects (i.e. non-tax exempt buildings). Erie County contractors doing work outside Erie County will likely change their tax collection status from collections based upon County of origin to County of destination payments. This means a contractor working outside Erie County will stop paying sales taxes (entirely) to the Erie County but will pay it entirely to the County where the work is performed. On a \$1,000,000.00 project with \$300,000.00 in materials, the County will lose \$2,250.00 in sales tax rider revenue.
- The only thing Erie County has been good at doing is growing retail and housekeeping employment. Increase of sales tax will only serve to put this anemic growth at risk. Erie County has placed enough “Business-Go-Away” signs up for business and manufacturing. Let's not add to those signs.

Issue No. 14 – Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement and Increase) Huron City and Township

GAV's Advice: Vote NO!

This is a double whammy for Huron and Huron Township. Part 1 includes a 3-mill

replacement. Again the operative word for this levy is **REPLACEMENT**. To the unsuspecting voter, this means a continuation of the existing tax levy. If this were the intention, the term used would be RENEWAL. A replacement levy is in fact an INCREASE in your taxes. While the nominal millage number remains the same, the levy will not be applied against the original property valuation, but the newest 2006 valuations. So, in effect, this is an increase in the individual tax burden. Part 2 includes an **additional** 1.8 mill on the new property valuations.

GAV's is against this levy for so many reasons on so many levels, we gasp trying to articulate them.

- The clear intent of Huron City Council is to add revenue to the General Fund without asking voters for... more revenue for the General Fund! Instead they ask for more money for the Fire Department and have the chutzpa to call this a Fire Levy. Who can be against Fire Departments? That is like being against baby kittens. Whenever you hear this levy is for the Fire Department, think instead *baby kittens*.

If the City wants more revenue for the General Fund, ask for more revenue for the General Fund; don't ask for more money for poor little baby kittens!

- The Huron Fire Department has grown from Volunteer, to full time, to port security, to divers, etc., etc. etc. This is a small community with equipment that make larger cities would grow envious. Huron has a ladder capable of reaching a 7 story building. Unfortunately, Huron has a severe shortage of 7 story buildings. Huron has a new \$300,000 fire boat. A gift from Homeland Security to be sure, but owned, operated, manned, trained all by Huron Taxpayers. GAV does not recall any fires on the Huron River lately (or ever for that matter), and of those fires, which cannot be reached from shore on a river that is 75 yards wide?
- The City of Huron offers **free** ambulance services to Huron Residents. North Coast EMS charges \$350.00 to \$550.00 for ambulance service –all of which is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most insurance plans. Rather than reduce the cost to taxpayers by shifting burden to the actual users, Huron wants us to pay more. Of the 1,345 emergency calls in 2006, the City of Huron provided 1,027 **ambulance calls**. This means 76% of the emergency calls were ambulance calls. Sounds as though Huron could be pursuing a millage reduction for taxpayers if only Huron would shift the cost burden to the actual users. Why didn't this occur to them?

The argument has been made by a Huron Firefighter's local that the pay and fringe benefits are better working for a municipality than it is for a private sector employer. GAV is sure that working for the government is entirely more rewarding than working for a merit based employer. But the Taxpayers are not out to make government employment more *fulfilling*. We only want essential services provided at the least possible cost. It is **not** the role of government to provide unnecessary service at the most possible cost.

And now, a word on ballot issues

October 18, 2006. Kevin O'Brien

Ohio voters are going to be busy Nov. 7. We'll elect a governor, a secretary of state, a treasurer, an auditor, a senator, 18 members of Congress, two Supreme Court justices and a host of state legislators.

And in Cuyahoga County, we'll pick a commissioner and an auditor, then staff our Common Pleas Court –a task that always demands the utmost precision. Should the delicate balance of Gallaghers to Corriganes to McMonagles be upset, we'll finally have a warm St. Patrick's Day Parade. But we'll also have to deal with a lot of fire and brimstone damage.

And be warned: The judicial section of the ballot contains a really bad Russo. See if you can spot –OK, here comes a hint– her. If you do, see if you can vote against –repeating the hint– her.

And as if all of that weren't enough to set voters' heads spinning, there are five statewide ballot issues.

If you're not a straight-ticket Russo voter, you can do some research at www.sos.state.oh.us. Just click on the 2006 Statewide Issues Guide to see the ballot language, plus pro and con summaries on each question.

If research isn't your thing, I've got some more hints. In no particular order, they are: no, no, no, no and hell, no.

My default position on ballot issues is no. We hire 99 representatives, 33 senators and a governor, and provide nice offices for every one of them in Columbus. Their job is to make good laws and avoid making bad ones. No, they're not particularly good at it, but it's their job. I'm willing to help them out from time to time. But since I don't get to debate and amend and horse trade and back-scratch and do all of the things legislators do to make the perfect law, a proposal must be perfect when it gets to me. Otherwise, I vote against it. This election, imperfections abound.

Issue 1: Earlier this year, the legislature passed a gaggle of pro-business reforms to Ohio's workers' compensation laws. This upset labor groups and trial lawyers, who challenged some provisions of the new law. These are on hold, awaiting the pleasure of Ohio's voters. Most of the reforms seem inoffensive. The part that's offensive is the removal of workers' comp claimants' names and addresses from public view, with an exemption that gives access only to journalists. From the journalistic mountaintop, where I dwell with Ohio's only other first-class citizens, I advise all you second-class citizens to tell the legislature to try again. **No.**

Issue 2: A modest proposal to raise the minimum wage in Ohio from the current \$5.15 per hour to \$6.85 per hour is attached to a patently ridiculous proposal to harness the minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index. That means Ohio's minimum wage would rise automatically, year after year after year. A couple of decades of that, and we won't even be able to pay the last minimum-wage worker to turn out the lights as he leaves Ohio (to look for a job). And this one's a constitutional amendment, so if it passes, even our nimble legislature will be powerless to undo the inevitable damage. **Hell, no.**

Issue 3: This one would finally bring slot machine parlors, and maybe even casinos, to Ohio. Heck, we'd have some big winners even before the first one opened: Forest City Enterprises Inc., developer Jeff Jacobs and the owners of Ohio's seven horse-racing tracks. I have no objection to Ohioans gambling, and I wish they didn't have to take their money out of state to do it. I'm all for businesses making money and creating jobs. But even if I believed this scheme

would make college more affordable - which I emphatically don't - I detest the idea of the state picking economic winners and losers, and doing so in the Constitution. **No**.

Issue 4: "How about we ban smoking in all but a few public places?" the tobacco industry suggests. "We can use the state Constitution to do it." How about, for the third time, let's leave the Constitution alone? **No**.

Issue 5: "How about we ban smoking in all public places," tobacco foes suggest, "but leave the state Constitution alone?" How about, let's allow the free market to do what it does best - give people choices and let each individual decide which businesses to patronize and which to avoid? Good call on the Constitution, but **No**.

O'Brien is The Plain Dealer's deputy editorial director.

Contact for Kevin O'Brien: kobrien@plaind.com, 216-999-4146

Previous columns online: www.cleveland.com/columns

PARENT ALERT: Help Keep Filth Away from Young Minds



Should this kind of book be available at the Young Adult area of any Ohio Public Library?

The Cleveland Public Library (www.cpl.org) is purchasing the Yaoi (yaoi = male to male sex in Japanese) comic book **Kiss of Fire**, by Youka Nitta. We asked the CPL's Director, Mr. Andrew Venable (Andrew.Venable@cpl.org) to make sure this book is not available in their Young Adult area (YA=kids under 18). They already have *Yellow* (volume 2), by Makoto Tateno available for minors. The CPL classifies these books under "gay men" and "erotic comic books" and their audience is to be Young Adults! We offered a link to pictures of Yaoi so Mr. would understand why this kind of literature should not be available to children. Too graphic to be printed: www.guidemag.com/temp/yaoi/a/mcharry_yaoi.html. Mr. Venable sent a vague answer explaining that *if* the CPL has shelved materials "*inappropriately*" they will be "*shelved in the proper areas.*" Hopefully Mr. Venable is not going to give this task to the same ones responsible for shelving this filth in the wrong place!

Straight Answers Anyone?

By Milla Kette

I received a long and polite, but vague answer from the Huron Fire Division. While I thank the time they took to write it, I would have liked a straightforward approach. Since the questions were not properly answered, I decided to somewhat rephrase them and send them again:

How much does it cost to man and maintain the ladder truck? In what situation does Huron FD need a ladder truck (105' Seagrave Aerial) that can reach the window of the 7th floor of a building?

How much did the 1,027 EMS calls cost Huron taxpayers? Has the Huron Fire Department considered contracting with North Central EMS for the same service (letting the users'

insurance and MEDICARE cover the costs)?

How much is the cost to man and maintain the two ALS ambulances?

From the \$628,000 in grants received from the Department of Homeland Security in regard of the replacement and improvement of the City's radio communication system, how much was spent and what were the improvements? How much went to "firefighter safety"? How much did the new boat cost and how much does it cost to man and maintain it?

Since firemen are trained both as firefighters and paramedics, are they paid more as a result? What is the base salary for a firefighter? What is the base salary for a paramedic? And what is the base salary for a firefighter who is also a paramedic?

You stated that the Huron Fire Division pays North Coast EMS to transport patients to "doctor's appointment in Cleveland." Am I to understand that Huron residents pay for transportation of nursing home residents to doctors' appointments? If so, how much does this service cost Huron taxpayers?

Since "more than 80% of fire departments in the United States perform some level of emergency medical services," would it be correct to say that firefighters no longer perform their main duty, but are paramedics? In other words, aren't fighters competing with private businesses that provide ambulance services? Doesn't that cost jobs?

You stated in your letter that private contractors (such as North Coast EMS) "attempt to maximize profit by transporting a maximum number of patients with as few ambulances as possible." Are you insinuating the for profit motive somehow diminishes the quality of services?

When private citizens have trouble breaking even, we simply tighten our belts. Has the Huron Fire Department ever considered this commonsensical and highly effective approach?

(So you will understand me, when I ask "how much" or "how much is the cost" I mean the dollar amount.)

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.

(*) See 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
Board of Directors: <http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/public/aboutthelibrary.asp>
↗ Huron Public Library, 333 Williams St., Huron OH 44839
Phone: 419-433-50009, Fax: 419-433-7228 E-mail: huron@oplin.org
Board of Trustees: <http://www.huronlibrary.org/board.html>
↗ Other Libraries: <http://www.publiclibraries.com/ohio.htm>

() The Sandusky Library has actually moved most 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. Suggestions for your Library

The politically incorrect guide to Islam and the Crusades, by Robert Spencer is an excellent book. Suggest the Huron and Sandusky librarians purchase this title.

Deep Thoughts and Other Idiocies

"I think people should work so they can pay their taxes because we need their money."

Barbara Sykes, Democratic candidate for state auditor.

"I'd like to study Latin; I'd be able to communicate better with the people of Latin America."

Brazilian President, "Lula" da Silva, August 12, 2005. (It was **very** hard to pick only one!)

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.americasfuture.org/media/audio/060912-latin-america.mp3> **IMPORTANT:** Americans are oblivious of the fact that Democracy is being substituted by dictatorships in Latin America. Listen attentively to what the Brazilian speaker, Olavo de Carvalho (a lone Conservative voice in Brazil) has to say.
- http://www.dispatch.com/print_template.php?story=220699 Starting early
- <http://livingbookreviews.com/> Good book reviews
- <http://www.christianlibraryj.org/> Christian book reviews
- <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2006/oct/06101603.html> A problem to solve another?
- <http://www.renewamerica.us/columns/rush/061023> Robertson was right!

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.