

DEMOCRATIC INQUIRY

November 30, 2013

Now available on the [Wayne County Democratic Party website](#)

**“There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask *why*?
I dream of things that never were, and ask *why not*?” – RFK**

[National](#) [State](#) [Local](#) [Calendar](#) [Votes](#) [Soapbox](#) [Humor](#) [Links](#)

SENATOR SHERROD BROWN is coming to Wooster Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 3:30 p.m. at El Rancho Grande, 117 W. Liberty St.

He wants to talk to YOU and hear what you have to say to him.

PLEASE JOIN HIM for this opportunity to have a one-to-one conversation about YOUR concerns current legislation the 2014 campaigns.

Light refreshments will be served

Sherrod [Brown's campaign manager](#) Sarah Benzing moved on, now focus of Iowa article as she works on her second campaign since Brown. Raise money, build and manage a multimillion dollar campaign organization, and it all comes down to one day's results.

FOO - Friend of Obama, [State Senator Eric Kearney](#) is Ed Fitzgerald's running mate.

A [long list of President Obama's accomplishments](#) to be thankful for. With citations.

Give generously, but avoid [America's Worst Charities](#). Derived from 10 years of federal tax filings, showing how little went to actually help people.

“The insurance industry has shown that, when left to its own devices, it would rather not give consumers all the information they need to make informed decisions,” said Consumer Union's DeAnn Friedholm. [Consumers should consider their options](#) after the President's announcement. Because we know Humana, Blue Cross, & more [canceled grandfathered policies](#) and didn't inform policyholders or misled them about their options are the marketplace. Violates a law known as 'twisting' and a lawsuit has been entered. (Twisting their rights away.)

For a more complete cost estimate of ACA exchange plans, check out [ValuePenguin.com](#), which includes calculation based upon your actual age(s), whether you smoke, and county you live in, and shows any subsidy amounts based on your adjusted gross income.

What do the rollout, the Haiti earthquake, Benghazi, Hurricane Sandy, the BP spill, sequestration, the debt ceiling, etc, have in common? The [right dubbed them all, and more, 'Obama's Katrina.'](#) This BS too shall pass. Did you know Kenya wasn't a country when President Obama was born? It wasn't independent until 1963, and became a country in 1964. Had to [look that one up](#). Obama was born in 1961. Hawaii was a state since 1959.

Good news, the FDA is moving towards banning trans fats, like Denmark did 10 years ago. [The Insanity of Our Food Policy](#) hits on cutting food stamps while boosting factory farm subsidies and other inanities.

What did the founding fathers believe about worker ownership, in the form of shares? Would you believe [a foundation of democracy](#) that preserves the republic from Big Money? They put the social contract in society. Find [The Citizen's Share here](#) and read the intro.

What do Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee have in common, besides being poor? [No state minimum wage](#). See who's above the federal minimum wage, who's below, who's right there. And you may want to check the correlation between red states and [the poor in education](#).

Promoting the Workplace Non- Discrimination Act is a wonderful thing that Democrats are backing. So republicans McConnell and Rand Paul tried to add a [rider for Right-to-Work](#) (for less). It passed the Senate without it.

The reality of [The Hunger Games](#) reflecting our lives now. Brought to you by [The Harry Potter Alliance](#), "an army of fans, activists, nerdfighters, teenagers, wizards and muggles dedicated to fighting for social justice with the greatest weapon we have-- love." Did you know that Superman was an alien immigrant?

Wouldn't it be nice if we were all on the same page? Daily Kos say why [All Politicians Must Run In Support of Obamacare and Progressive Causes](#). Because progressive values are traditional American values. Senator Warren on expanding Social Security - [It's values, not math](#). And it's part of the retirement crisis we're facing.

""Collectively, these enhancements to our current regime may not solve another important problem evident within some large financial institutions -- [the apparent lack of respect for law, regulation and the public trust](#)," he said." He being the head of the Federal Reserve of New York.\

The Electronic Frontier Foundation is warning us not to let Congress fast track the [Trans Pacific Partnership deal](#). Varied groups want to [Expose the Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) deal, because it's being done in secret. Multiple Dems have [signed a letter to the President](#) expressing their concern.

Thar she blows again - Sarah Palin ('ain't racist') claims economic slavery to our China masters. Washington Post's reality check looks at [how much we owe, who we owe it to, over time](#). China holds about 10%. Palin is also concerned that Pope Francis sounds "[kind of liberal](#)". Wait until she meets Jesus for real. Thank you John McCain for Palin, the political gift that keeps on giving. Wonder how she feels about the [Pope posing with anti-fracking t-shirts](#)? Fracking unintended consequence: [rural volunteer fire departments struggle](#) with increased calls and costs.

Steve LaTourette's group [targets Tea Party](#) candidates.

"Everybody in, nobody out." [Vermont passes single payer](#) universal health insurance law.

Fox's faux outrage: Since 2010, it was announced by [HHS, CBO, noted in the NY Times](#), that some people would lose their year to year individual coverage. Ins companies drop plans and people all the time. What happened was exactly what was predicted. Fox News columnist makes bad career move - he tells the truth. [Insurance canceled? Don't blame ACA, blame the insurance companies](#). Media Matters reports "*If you thought CBS' sourcing couldn't get any worse, you were wrong. CBS News' story on Obamacare was based entirely on a "partial transcript" that was leaked to the network by the Republican chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Darrell Issa.*" CBS - Cuz Bullshit Sells. Or, Circulating Bull Shit.

"[Beware the military industrial complex](#)." Watch 2 min 30 sec of the last great Republican president's farewell address and get the lead in to that warning, and think how we ignored it. ChickenHawks (avoided service proponents of war)oppose 6 month Iranian deal. Former republican UN ambassador Bolton "[The only option in Iran is war](#)." Because that worked so well in Iran and Afghanistan, right? Proving once again that even a fascist religious dictatorship is easier to get along with than some republicans.

Africa's Western Black Rhino [officially extinct](#). Daily, 4.8 billion gallons of treated effluent are dumped into the Great Lakes Basin. That includes most of the drugs, medications, that people pour down the drain, because the [system isn't built to clean](#) them out. So what drug combo is in your drinking water?

NATIONAL

Prayer before town council meetings is on the Supreme Ct docket. Can you come up with a prayer acceptable to... "*Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus. Give me an example of a prayer -- Wiccans, Baha'i,*" Justice Samuel Alito directed Douglas Laycock, the attorney representing Galloway and Stephens." "*And atheists*" Justice Roberts chimed in." Or is tradition acceptable even if it upsets a quarter of the population?

[Texas abortion law](#) left in tact by Supreme Court, 5-4. Read about the opinions.

"Let's Talk About Limits," ([PDF](#)) is an editorial by Guns and Ammo's editor. Ex-editor. [It got him fired](#), and the magazine apologized for the column.

We're aware of regional differences in the US. But a *current* Tuft's (University) Magazine article points out that "[THE BATTLE LINES OF TODAY'S DEBATES OVER GUN CONTROL, STAND-YOUR-GROUND LAWS, AND OTHER VIOLENCE-RELATED ISSUES WERE DRAWN CENTURIES AGO BY AMERICA'S EARLY SETTLERS](#)" and are the fore bearers of today's not 5 but 11 distinct regions. Click and see the map.

Pew Charitable Trust maps out [impact of SNAP cuts](#). That could mean \$34.83 per month LESS for a family of 4, a 6% decrease. So every time you go grocery shopping

in 2014, take out 6% of the qualifying food necessities, to have a touch of what it means. Or buy it and donate it to an overwhelmed food bank

Ever hear of the [State Policy Network](#)? The Kochs and ALEC strike at you again. Read about their [Ohio Stink Tanks](#) like The Buckeye Institute. (Really, I didn't make that term up.)

Crossroads claims popular support from small donors, but they make up [just .2% of their donations](#). 50 donations were \$1mill, and those weren't even the big donations. Who's better at laundering money than drug dealers? [Dark money groups](#) that fund dark money groups that fund dark money groups...

Wouldn't you like to know [23 Petty Crimes That Have Landed People in Jail. For Life](#). Not all were victimless crimes, but some, really, life?

STATE

PPACA spurs [innovation, job growth, new companies](#) in Ohio.

Slate cites Business Insider graphing coincident economic indexes: [5 states are falling behind](#). Guess where Ohio is. You get 46 guesses.

The Akron Beacon Journal has a series of [articles on the State Board of Education](#), which at the moment is rural republican loaded, with lobbyists, tea partiers, religious advocates, the private school advocates.

PolitiFact's [PunditFact](#) is now alive and kicking people around the block. Or you can check [PolitiFact Ohio](#).

A recent [Ohio Politics roundup](#). Pepper, the Cuy Co Exec race, Jobs Ohio favors Columbus, and this tidbit:

"The debate exposes the eccentricity of Ohio politics: Seething that Kasich bypassed a recalcitrant GOP-controlled legislature and used the State Controlling Board to get Medicaid expansion, the tea party has vowed to withhold its support from him," Hallett writes. "Democrats, who support Medicaid expansion, criticize Kasich for opposing Obamacare. Meanwhile, the Ohio Republican Party, which hates Obamacare, lauds Kasich for expanding Medicaid."

Actually I thought they were also doing lawsuits to stop it. See last issue.

Ohio expanded Medicaid, but... you can't get there from here. The ACA marketplace tells you, if you're eligible, to go to the Ohio site, but the [Ohio Medicaid site will tell you incorrectly that you're not eligible](#). It won't be fully up until December 9th, it

doesn't tell you to come back, it doesn't hold on to information until it's ready, it won't send you a notice.

Ohio Charter Schools meet all legal requirements. Except they are [exempt from 150 laws public schools follow](#). Like having qualified teachers and an actual curriculum, keep records or make a report, not being able to charge for a federal school lunch program. Read the report to the General Assembly [list here](#).

JobsOhio has procedures to prevent conflict of interest. Our procedure is to tell you that. [The Auditor says no procedures](#).

LOCAL

Canton Wal-Mart asks workers to donate to [workers less fortunate](#) than them: other Wal-Mart workers. So Bob Cratchet & Tiny Tim can have a happy Thanksgiving. National attention given.

A Jim [Renacci letter is part of Fed investigation](#). He wrote the letter to Kasick, then received \$90,000 from Suarez employees, who were then reimbursed by the company. He said he (a US Congressman) didn't really expect action by the governor from the (official) letter.

If you had a Gallagher yard sign posted on your property will you please save it for her? She wants to save them for future use. If you notify her she will pick them up from you.

drjanicegallagher@gmail.com [330 264 6668](tel:3302646668)

CALENDAR

12/4/13 SENATOR SHERROD BROWN will be in Wooster Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 3:30 p.m. at El Rancho Grande, 117 W. Liberty St.

2/14/14 Valentines Day Wine Tasting Dinner at El Rancho Grande

VOTES

The [3 charts](#) that explain why it was past time to go nuclear.

[Soapbox](#) Remember the cartoon for [How A Bill Becomes Law](#) from School House Rock? Bet you don't remember corporate lobbyists writing the bill. Mother Jones and My Times pointed that happened, overturning part of Dodd-Frank prohibiting banks using savings for derivative speculation. [NPR reports](#).

Ohio votes like it's 1999, or 98. NBC reports on [GOP turning back voting rights](#) in Ohio.

Humor

Humor - [You might be a conservative if...](#)

"Amazon's new original comedy series, "Alpha House," features four U.S. senators — all Republicans — sharing living quarters on Capitol Hill. But the show, a creation of Gary "Doonesbury" Trudeau, tries to make fun across political aisles."

LINKS

[Ashland Co. Dem Party](#) –

Holmes Co Dem Party [facebook](#) page –

[Medina Co. Dem Party](#) –

[Stark Co. Dem Party](#) –

[Wayne Co. Dem Party](#)

[President Obama, Senator Sherrod Brown, “The Road We’ve Traveled”](#)

[William M. O’Neill](#) Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court.

[www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com](#)

[State Senator Eric Kearney](#) is Ed Fitzgerald's running mate.

John Patrick [Carney for State Auditor](#)

You can find a list of events anywhere at [Accountable Congress](#), searchable by location or event. [Scalable District Map](#), showing the bisecting of streets, cities, counties, etcetera. Easy to backspace and find other districts as well.

[Ohio Fracking Map](#), showing producing, permitted, drilled, and drilling sites. The Ohio chapter of the Sierra Club released this.

Kasick-Amstutz [tax shift calculator](#). How well did you do against the 1%?

Wayne Co. Precinct voting location changes - [new locations](#).

City of Wooster [Comprehensive Plan Review](#) Wooster Envisioned, Creating a Blueprint for the Future. You must sign up to participate.

Keep Wooster Beautiful blogspot [questions the facts](#) the city administration are presenting. Nice counter-points.

Wayne Co will lose an extra \$100 thousand in school funding, it's going to for profit companies. [Follow the links](#). Check out any county or district.

[www.healthcare.gov](#) Or, for complete cost estimate of ACA exchange plans, check out

[ValuePenguin.com](#) SLATE's [chart](#) that puts coverage changes in perspective. Politifact has the [Top 16 Myths about the ACA](#). If someone you know is having trouble accessing the government site, here are [7 Alternatives](#) for access that can be tried. Here's the [ObamaCare Facts page](#), dispelling the myths. There's 10 standards health insurance has to meet now. Here's the list and an explanation for [PPACA Section 1302](#) . This American Cancer Society PPACA [implementation timeline chart for exchange and non-exchange, group and non-group plans](#) is very useful. Especially if you want to limit deductibles, go with the exchange!

Graphic [charts](#): 10 Corporations control almost everything you buy. 6 Media companies own 90% of all media. Through 4 banks. (See the timeline of bank ownership) . Here's what some of our [Founding Fathers said about corporations](#). I'll add the Adam Smith's [Wealth of Nations](#) admonished us to watch out for businesses as a threat to politics, and regulate them.

[Science staggers](#) on due to fed budget cutbacks.

Think ~ Talk ~ Act

Be sure to check www.WayneDemocrats.Org often for news and new editions

You may opt out any time by hitting reply and putting "opt out" in the subject line. On the other hand, feel free to forward this to friends! All opinions expressed here are my own, and not to be construed as official opinions of any association, institution, party, group, gathering, or anything or anyone else.