

## DEMOCRATIC INQUIRY

June 6, 2014

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

The WCDP is on FaceBook @ [Wayne County Democrats](#)

And on [Twitter](#)

**"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**

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

Brad Gowin's [Ohio House and Senate Report](#) is now on the WCDP website & a separate emailing.

*"We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy — sun, wind and tide. ... I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that."* Thomas Edison, in conversation with Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Charles Lindberg. Evidently they weren't stopped in Ohio at the time.

### CALENDAR

Please let us know of speaking opportunities for candidates, especially Pete Crossland and George Rusiska, and other 'must attend' opportunities for them.

- June 13th, Friday. **ODP State Dinner**, Columbus. Details to follow. President Clinton is the speaker for ODP's dinner. If you get your tickets through the WCDP, it counts towards our annual assessment.
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCDP is canceled. Instead, there is a carry in dinner at the home of Jean Mohr.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Ohio Heartland Democratic Rally**, Johnny Appleseed Center, Ashland Co (just off of US 30) a family event featuring the statewide slate of candidates, music, food, and fun.

[Ohio Democratic County Chairs](#) have rolled out a very complete website.

Bergdahl is the new Benghazi. [Why the 5 detainees had to be released soon, no matter what](#). POW released in exchange. Obama (thought said mentioned proposed decided acted appeared). Republicans immediately (derided complained hearings Fox Rove countered compared Benghazi impeachment). Media examines all republican reactions. [Kasick and Renacci delete Bowe tweets](#). Go with the reactionary flow, gutless. You can check more deleted tweets with [Politiwoops, like Renacci's](#).

John Carney and David Pepper were in Wooster (you were invited) to make a several points: [Ohio is the poster child for what not do about charter schools](#). For profit schools are not accountable in multiple ways, have no standards, make their profits off of your tax dollars, to lobby for more dollars taken away from public schools. That week I came across this article about the Ohio charter school teacher telling kids about [the government conspiracy to control the weather](#). So I dug a little and found this audit report about monetary responsibility:

STAR ACADEMY OF TOLEDO - LUCAS COUNTY MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 UNAUDITED (Continued) 6 Budget

“Unlike other public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided by the Academy’s contract with its sponsor. The contract between the Academy and its sponsor, *Educational Service Center of Central Ohio*, does not prescribe a budgetary process for the Academy.”

When the power of advertising is used for good: [40 powerful issue ads](#). Of course, sometimes [it goes horribly askew](#). But I really [like this commercial](#) which makes a unique positioning statement. [What your last name says about your politics](#). WaPo database gives you the number of people with your last name and their political leanings. Are your namesakes with you, or are you the only one with any sense?

**Fox** push-polling question: "In the aftermath of the **Benghazi** terrorist attacks, the Obama administration incorrectly claimed it was a spontaneous assault in response to an online video, even though the administration had intelligence reports that the attacks were connected to terrorist groups tied to al Qaeda. Do you think the Obama administration knowingly lied about the attacks to help the president during the ongoing re-election campaign, or not?" **Only 51% said Yes.**

[Mother Jones](#): <sup>1</sup>Oh, all right. Here are the facts yet again: (a) Benghazi was an opportunistic assault, carried out with no more than a few hours of planning. (b) Reporting on the ground confirms that the video did, in fact, play a role in provoking some of the attackers. (c) Neither Susan Rice nor anyone else denied that Al Qaeda-affiliated groups were responsible. In the first few days after the attack they said only that we didn't know yet. (d) In any case, Ansar al-Shariah is primarily a local group with local grievances, and is only tenuously affiliated with Al Qaeda. Abu Khattala, who also led some of the attackers, had no ties to Al Qaeda at all.

## **NATIONAL**

Obama: Congress works, it's the [republican party that doesn't](#).

After a filibuster was broken, [Diane Humetawa](#) was appointed a federal judge, the first female Native American judge.

Remember how hard Fox came down on Bush about the [Walter Reed Hospital scandal](#)? That's because they didn't. Jon Stewart [points out the short term memory for republicans blaming Obama](#) about the VA: They don't support VA benefits.

[How many warnings](#) did **Bush** & Friends get before 9/11? A lot. There's [the Aug 6th briefing](#) about the threat. and there's "section of **George Tenet**'s memoir, [At the Center of the Storm](#). In it, Tenet describes a July 10, 2001, meeting at the White House in the office of **Condoleezza Rice**, then President George W. Bush's national security adviser. The meeting was not discussed in the 9-11 Commission's final report on the attacks, although Tenet wrote that he provided information on it to the commission."

National Journal survey says [only 1% are political](#)ly active. That would be you people. (I thought it was 5%.)

If you can get hold of the Spring 2014 edition of The Crisis (NAACP, not the Catholic one), there is a wonderfully horrific article, "Under The Gun - Black people have been human targets for far too long." The Publisher's letter is entitled 'Unpaid Labor, Private Wealth,' and links slavery to prisoners working to profit prison owners.

A history of [Empathy, and how it may save us](#) all, by Jeremy Rifkin. Done in the same style as *The Story of Stuff*.

NY Times demonstrates [how the Great Recession reshaped the economy](#), in 255 charts (not as daunting as it sounds).

**SHENANIGANS:** Republican former Senator Alan [Simpson is a self-described monster](#), and has been for most of his life. Anita Hill wouldn't argue. ~ How is Obamacare enrollment numbers like [Holocaust totals](#)? Only a republican would make that comparison, and one did. ~ Sen. Carl [Levin asked the IRS to check out 'all' groups](#) engaged in non-profit political activity. According to the RWN (right-wingnuts) that only means them. ~ So how does a (Rove) 'rumor' spread? CNN traces a Hillary rumor to ground in [How Lies Take Hold](#). (short video) ~ Is getting people to forget the past the same as rewriting history? [Reagan, D-Day, and the suppression of memory](#) of the greatest progressive generation.

What does the 1% (Renacci) want? Not what the rest of us do. See the [poll results](#).

#### **ISSUES:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment: How the NRA warped the 2nd Amendment, rewriting history.

Rightwing freakout over [Dept of Justice decision to crackdown on domestic terrorism](#).

10 Pro-[Gun myths, destroyed](#). News you can use.

Climate Change: National Climate Change Report shows [current impact on US](#). Watch the time lapse video on CO2 change in the atmosphere.

[When did scientists notice climate change?](#) 100 years of science.

Worst carbon polluters in history? Well, this time lapse shows that [over the years](#), there's us....

You can do what Ohio republicans like Amstutz and LaRose did, which is roll back environmental protection laws, or, [do with this PA coal-burning plant did](#), which is move forward.

The Keystone Pipeline isn't all it's cracked up to be, because - it's got [some serious welding cracks](#). And leaks.

Explain to your friends and foes [the new EPA carbon reduction plan](#), courtesy of Mother Jones.

Remember [when republicans wanted to do something](#) in 2008?

Education: Common Core - I was originally opposed to what I thought was a race to the least common denominator. Now I know it isn't. (If the Teabaggers are against it, then it warrants a second look, doesn't it?) [Here's your second look](#), and check out the short video for what it's about. Download the standards pdf and wonder what the argument is.

Factory Farming: Would you let your 7 year old wear a nicotine patch while working in your garden after you sprayed it with pesticides? So [why is exposure okay for child labor in American tobacco fields?](#)

LGBT: [Federal judges troll Scalia](#), citing him as justification to reverse laws, to allow gay marriage.

Unitarian Universalists join historic United Church of Christ [lawsuit against North Carolina's same-sex marriage ban](#).

LGBT group [GOProud is closing shop](#) after only a few years

Money: Too Big To Fail:

Money & Influence: Sheldon Adelson, Kasick benefactor, starts his own [ALEC-like multistate network](#). Now he wants to [ban internet gambling](#). Let's see who plays along in Ohio.

[Economist vs Columnist](#): **David Piketty** (*Capital in the 21st Century*) responds to **David Brooks** (NY Times Op-Ed) and others in [Salon](#). "Thomas [Piketty and Elizabeth Warren](#) discuss why the rich get richer and the rest get shafted." from HuffPost Live.

Money & Economic Inequality:

IMF head says [inequality threatens democracy](#). And here's the charts.

GOP continues its [war on workers](#) through the election process. Here's the original article on the [war on worker's rights](#), or why you don't have rights as a wage slave.

Senate [republicans filibuster their own bipartisan bill](#), because Dems wouldn't allow them to move the goal posts again.

Economic [inequality through lobbying](#) - the tipoff. National Restaurant Association pays to keep wages and benefits low.

So outside of the closed McDonald's campus, [police arrested 110 out of 1500 demonstrators](#): clergy, community leaders, and wage slaves alike. Because they were a threat to the people in the empty building, you know.

Corporations are all about [maximizing shareholder value, right?](#) Not historically. Mostly since **Milton Friedman** started pushing it and the rightwing ran with it.

Sen.s Bernie Sanders and Harry Reid held a news conference for the movie [The Koch Brothers Exposed: 2014](#). The right went nuts. You can temporarily see it for free online by following the link, scroll down to the bottom of the article, or read the article before watching the movie.

Robert Reich has [10 ways to close the economic inequality gap](#). Rob Portman tells the American Enterprise Institute [what they wanted to hear](#), that it's caused by taxing capital gains, not the proven reality. The AEI is a sponsor of [ALEC and it's conferences, attended and reported on](#) by a Democratic Progressive.

Is the pro-business, screw-the-individual [Roberts court killing Class Action](#) lawsuits? Did I taint the question?

Are [401\(k\)s retirement robbery](#), part of the **Koch's** Social Security privatization plan? Connect the dots in this SALON article.

Right to Privacy: The future of the [NSA in the Snowden era](#): 4 experts take a look.

Separation of Church & State: The Supreme Court [throws out the Establishment Clause](#). You work, you become a Supreme Court Justice, and the Wall Street Journal distorts what you said. **Kagan's** dissent about [public prayer in public meetings](#). **Clarence Thomas**, however, thinks it is [okay for states to have a state religion](#). Wide [majorities losing faith in Spt Ct](#), term limits being considered.

Voting: [Jeremy Bird at TEDx](#) Chicago on voting. No relation, he was in charge of the presidential campaign here, I talked to him briefly once. The opening of his presentation compares the process the audience went through to get there, versus voting registration.

Women's Rights:

Immigration: Historically, enlisting in the US military was a path towards citizenship. The House [GOP leadership kills the ENLIST Act](#), which would have let some undocumented immigrants become US citizens.

Education: [Daily Beast](#) reports on [The Wingnut War on Common Core / Public Education](#). The attack is more aimed at public education as a whole than agreeing upon and setting common standards. Also, How do [private schools steal your kid's education](#)?

## **STATE**

Sherrrod Brown signed a letter about the Washington Redskins. He got backlash as a timewaster. This columnist shows [what Brown actually does for you](#).

2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment: Next time you visit **COSI** with your kids, you might want to [pack a gun with their lunch, if Senate Bill passes](#).

**SB 338**, stand your ground, [without the words](#). Also read [how the NRA rewrote history to reinterpret the 2nd Amendment](#)

Forget Government In the Sunshine. Ohio republicans go on the records to not allow committee meeting recordings.

Education: Pink Floyd fan (Ohioans don't need no education) [Kasick is a real education](#): After John Kasich took office, he cut school funding by \$1.5 billion, he signed into law a bill to end collective bargaining, he changed the laws for licensing teachers to make it easier for under-prepared "Teach for America" members to get into Ohio's classrooms (as real teacher replacements), he has more than doubled the amount of school vouchers, he has promoted the expansion of low-performing charter schools, and he has expanded the use of standardized testing in schools. "Excellent with Distinction" - you locals "are not getting the job done."

ABJ reports that [charter school dropout rates soar in Ohio](#), going against the national averages. School privatization group [uses personal information about kids](#) to target parents.

[CutHurtOhio.com](#) is produced by Policy Matters Ohio and Innovation Ohio to show you county by county how state cuts in Education and local government funds impacted your county.

"The state Senate and Ohio's House have stuffed into a pending mid-biennium budget-review bill [an item that could cost school districts and municipalities -- and Ohio homeowners](#)." Ohio.com [editorial board writes](#).

Ohio House Education [committee wants to fire teachers](#) based on rating system. Recess delays vote.

Ohio's private schools [like Common Core, want exemption](#) from it. How dare they be held to a quality standard?

Unanimous SB 229 [radically changed in House](#) by stacked committee hearing, now compared to SB 5.

51 businesses (including Honda and Honeywell) letter to Kasich: [HB 310 EPA rollback sucks](#) the energy out of jobs...

[Scientific American](#) features Ohio, and not in a good way. [Fracking Regulations Weak and Scarce Despite Natural Gas Bonanza](#). Includes the stealthy shifting of testing what little is tested from the Dept of Health (which partners with the DOE for nuclear testing) to the Dept of Natural Resources (which has no expertise or experience). [ALEC is busy undoing our state](#) standards.

Voting in Ohio: [Husted blames republicans](#) for voting hour cuts he proposed, and those he did on his own. If you can't win as a republican, run as a Democrat.

Husted changes voting rules, then [Ohio has worst turnout](#) since 1986. Cause and effect?

How [gerrymandered is your district](#)? Ohio rates an **81.58%**, **OH-16** rates an **89.07%**!

Will [term limits lengthen in Ohio](#), as someone redistricts us? Committee on change on pace to finish this year.

We know you can't use your elected office to campaign. We know this. [Mandel evidently does not know this.](#)

Taylor: Obamacare future premiums will rise double digit! [Filings: single digit.](#)

### **LOCAL**

Read the local letters to the editor comments online lately? One over the top leftwing has been threatened and told to die, more than once over several days, by a below the bottom rightwing. I think they should post real names instead of internet names, but maybe this is a reason not to.

### **VOTES**

#### **Benghazi Select Committee—Passage - Vote Passed (232-186, 14 Not Voting)**

The House approved a resolution establishing a 12-member panel to examine both the events that led to the Sept. 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, as well as the Obama administration's response to it and to subsequent congressional inquiries.

**Rep. James Renacci** voted **YES**

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#### **Research Tax Credit —Passage - Vote Passed (274-131, 26 Not Voting)**

The House passed legislation that would permit companies that incur research and development expenses in the United States to deduct up to 20 percent of the amount in which their qualified research expenses exceed a calculated base amount for the current taxable year. It would also permanently extend and expand a tax break for university and corporate research expenses that expired in December 2013. Sixty-two Democrats joined all but one Republican to support the bill.

**Rep. James Renacci** voted **YES**

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#### **Charter School Program Expansion—Passage - Vote Passed (360-45, 27 Not Voting)**

The House passed a bill to require the Education secretary to consolidate the federal Charter Schools Program, which gives grants to states to open charter schools, and the Charter School Credit Enhancement Program, which assists schools in acquiring better credit terms for facilities, into one program, and direct a certain percentage of funds into national charter school management activities.

**Rep. James Renacci** voted **YES**

### **Humor**

Stereotyping, profiling, branding, name-calling. In just a few minutes, this [actress goes through a real identity crisis.](#)

### **SOAPBOX**

## LINKS

[Ashland Co. Dem Party](#) –  
Holmes Co Dem Party [facebook](#) page –  
[Medina Co. Dem Party](#) –  
[Stark Co. Dem Party](#) –  
[Wayne Co. Dem Party](#)  
[Ohio Democratic County Chairs](#)  
[President Obama, Senator Sherrod Brown, “The Road We’ve Traveled”](#)  
[William M. O’Neill](#) Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court.

## **2014 Candidates**

**Ed Fitzgerald Governor** [www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com](http://www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com)  
**David Pepper, Attorney General** [Campaign Website](#)  
**John Patrick** [Carney for State Auditor](#)  
**Connie Pillich, Treasurer** [pillichcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:pillichcampaign@gmail.com) [Campaign Website](#)  
**Nina Turner, Secretary of State** [info@ninaturner.org](mailto:info@ninaturner.org) [Campaign Website](#)  
Dr. [Pete Crossland](#), candidate for OH-16  
**George Ruciska**, Dist 27 State Senate candidate (site is almost prepared)  
[judgeodonnelforjustice.com](http://judgeodonnelforjustice.com)

Brad Gowins is the County Coordinator for Carney for Auditor, and the Campus coordinator for Freedom Ohio at the COW and Ashland U. His email is [Bradley.e.gowins@gmail.com](mailto:Bradley.e.gowins@gmail.com) .

You can find a list of events anywhere [Benefits.Ohio.gov](http://Benefits.Ohio.gov), for Ohio Medicaid enrollment.

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-Amstuz [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](http://www.healthcare.gov) Or, for complete cost estimate of ACA exchange plans, check out [ValuePenguin.com](http://ValuePenguin.com) SLATE's [chart](#) that puts coverage changes in perspective.  
[www.thehealthsherpa.com](http://www.thehealthsherpa.com) will also guide you through the plans. 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](http://www.WayneDemocrats.Org) often for news and new editions

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