

DEMOCRATIC INQUIRY

April 7, 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 so good, we now carry it on the WCDP website. We'll also do a separate emailing for this.

CALENDAR

- March 31st – end of open enrollment for Obamacare. Extensions begin for people who have registered.
- April 1st, begin absentee / early voting began.
- April 6, 2014, Sunday, 4:30pm - 6:00pm **What:** Ashland County Fundraising Event **Hosted by:** Cathleen & Doug Mark, Karon Summer, and Ashland County Democratic Chair Paula Watson **Where:** The home of Cathleen and Doug Mark 508 County Road 30A Jeromesville, Ohio 44840 [Suggested contribution levels are \\$50, \\$100, and \\$250.](#) Checks can be made out to *Friends of FitzGerald*. **For more information or to RSVP, please contact Erin Ryan at (440) 382-2900 or erin.ryan@edfitzgerald.org.**
- April 7th, **Voter Registration Deadline**
- April 10th, Thursday 7 pm **Book Study: Behind the Kitchen Door, by Saru Jayaraman:** at UUFWC, 3186 Burbank Rd., Wooster. (An inside look at the food service industry. Who prepares and serves your food? What and how are they paid? What about the working conditions?)
- April 15, Tax Day
- April 22nd, **Scarlett Gray and Green Fair** at [COW](#) and [OSU/OARDC/ATI](#).
- April 25th, **The 159th Wayne Co. Jackson Day Dinner.** 7 pm The Pines, Orrville. Local candidates for OH-16 **Jim Donenwirth** and **Pete Crossland**, and **George Rusiska** (OH Senate District 27) are our featured speakers. Meet and Greet begins at 5:30. RSVP to Judy Gatti at judygatti@yahoo.com for reservations.
- April 27th, [Chasing Ice](#), at Trinity UCC, 150 E. North Street. 5pm Soup and Salad dinner, 6pm viewing of the movie "Chasing Ice" followed by discussion. In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for *National Geographic*: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate. Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a skeptic about climate change. But that first trip north opened his eyes to the biggest story in human history and sparked a challenge within him that would put his career and his very well-being at risk.
- Early Voting limited to 8 am to 5pm M-F.
- May 1st, Robert Reich's movie "[Inequality For All](#)" (a passionate argument on behalf of the Middle Class), 7 pm at The Lean Lecture Hall in Wishart, College of Wooster. [Maplink](#) for building and convenient parking. Sponsored by EcoOhio. "Does for economic inequality what [An Inconvenient Truth](#) did for climate change."

- May 4th Sunday. **Hunger Walk to support Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank:** Registration begins at 2 pm at Trinity United Church of Christ. Sponsored by Wooster Area Interfaith Justice Committee
- May 6th, Primary Election
- June 2nd, Lt Gov candidate Sharon Neuhardt fundraiser, 5:30-7pm, at the Home of Linda and Dan Houston, 1823 Burbank Road, Wooster.
- June 13th Friday. ODP State Dinner, Columbus. Details to follow.

Few presidents would say that *“The absence of effective State, and, especially, national, restraint upon unfair money-getting has tended to create a small class of enormously wealthy and economically powerful men, whose chief object is to hold and increase their power,”* and follow that statement with a call for *“a graduated inheritance tax on big fortunes ... increasing rapidly in amount with the size of the estate.”* - Theodore Roosevelt Paul Krugman writes on [the dangers of wealth concentration](#) to our democracy. Pretty much it’s what **Adam Smith** warned us about.

"I again recommend a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign expenses of any party... Let individuals contribute as they desire; but let us prohibit in effective fashion corporations from making contributions for any political purpose, directly or indirectly." **Theodore Roosevelt**

Every once in a while, we need to be reminded about [FDR's economic Bill of Rights](#), and the UN [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

[6 million enrolled](#) under the PPACA, with 4 days to go.

[Universal Health Care Action Network](#) is the place to go for PPACA enrollment help. [8.6 million now newly covered](#) under Medicaid and private health insurance. There will be an [extension](#) for people having technical difficulty with the application processes.

Ohio Medicaid expansion. How's that going? *"Ohio launched* the online portal, [Benefits.Ohio.gov](#), last December to handle the increase of applicants expected with the expansion of the program. More than 180,000 people have used the site." 115,000 have enrolled since the portal opened, including [54,000](#) who became eligible since Jan 1 have signed up this year.

March was cold, snowy, and contained a lot of bad news, bad news that are reasons for all of us to be very active this year!

Alan Greenspan, who admitted he was all wrong about the economy, got applause for this: '[insecure workers will serve their corporate masters gladly and passively.](#)' The **Noam Chomsky** article, [On Academic Labor](#), will show you that the plutocracy is not an overstated, paranoid term: Citibank called for a '**plutonomy**' of investors, and those living a precarious existence are referred to as 'the precariat,' a reframing from the term proletariat. If the rich use these terms, was **Karl Marx** correct? One of the most important articles I've read in years.

Not coincidentally, [where the rich got richer, the poor are less able to buy food](#). per **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**. Including the US, where we just cut food stamps. Mother Jones busts [10 Poverty Myths](#), like the ones recently used by Paul Ryan. [Paul Krugman](#) writes about those in power who value (inherited) wealth over work, quoting from [Capitalism in the 21st Century](#). [The Second Machine Age](#) talks about how Information Age is creating wealth for a few, *without even creating jobs*.

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean that the facts don't support you. **NASA**-funded interdisciplinary study "highlighted the prospect that global industrial [civilisation could collapse in coming decades due to unsustainable resource exploitation and increasingly unequal wealth distribution](#)." Two things Democrats are clearly fighting against, so at least we're on the right side of history. Corroboration? Try this **UK Government Office of Science rpt**, or **KPMG's Global Megatrend #8**. Making the point - [340 million pounds of fish wasted](#) by only **8 fisheries** each year.

On the correct side of history, a positive note, the **UN** sees a global **Convention on [Climate Change treaty](#)** being signed in 2015. (Of course, not if republicans control the Senate.) [UN panel warns climate changes here now](#), will worsen human ills. [Pollution killed 1 in 8](#) people in 2012, according to the World Health Organization.

Exxon Valdez spill [documented effects still occurring](#), can be used for new spill damage claims. Galveston 3/22 [tanker oil spill](#) backs up Gulf traffic. **NY Times** [tracks oil spills](#), 110 million gallons since 1990. **Duke Energy pumped 61million gallons** of contaminated coal ash water into the **Cape Fear river**. After the millions of gallons of [coal ash sludge](#) broke into the **Dan River**. 20,000 oil gallons into an [Ohio nature preserve](#). [Twice as large](#) as original company estimates. 3/25 **BP spills 7 million gal. into Lake Michigan**. Coal and oil, energy for America's future and the new black death. Fracking lowers natural gas prices, [hindering alternative energy](#). **Fukushima** is still leaking.

NATIONAL

[Erosion of funding for the National Institute of Health threatens US lead in biomedical research](#). Number One, but slipping fast, which has serious business consequences too. It used to have bipartisan support. so why are republicans letting this go?

Dr. [Kimberly Marten was interviewed on Jon Stewart](#) about the **Crimea** situation. Basically, **Putin** screwed himself in taking over the Crimea. Not as badly as the Tartars were screwed.

SHENANIGANS: On the wrong side of history, again, is the republican party. Maybe that's why they are so loud about [comparing Obama and the Democrats to Nazis](#). They think we won't notice them bringing about the apocalypse. On the bright side, one Texas town [paid Ted Nugent not to appear](#). Pat Buchanan says [Putin is on the right side of Christianity](#).

ISSUES:

Factory Farming: [75% of rain samples contain...RoundUp](#). **US Geological Survey** study. Democrats are pro small business, and the family farm, the little guy going up against the powers that be. None so less than **Elizabeth Kucinich**, who writes [Monsanto: The Enemy Of Family Farmers](#).

LGBT: Did you know that since 1993, there's been a [Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act](#)? It originally helped protect Native American religious sites, and cannot be applied to the states. Supporters of state discrimination say they're only enacting the federal law on the state level, but that's not true. Make sure you read this link. UCLA corporate law professor says Hobby Lobby wants corporate protections but piercing the corporate veil in this one exception, [should have organized as a religious non-profit](#), so should lose.

Money in Politics: Koch brothers [outspend the top 10 unions](#). Big time. Koch brothers seek to discredit Obamacare [so negativity spills over to Climate Change](#) claims. It's about the money, their money. [Smear merchants](#) launch SuperPac. Willie Horton hooks up with Swiftboaters to screw democracy. Key to the latest extension of Citizens United is a fundamental misunderstanding [about the term 'corruption.'](#) Evidently the Conservatives are abandoning both originality (what they think the founding fathers thought) and precedent rulings in thinking money doesn't corrupt.

Money: Too Big To Fail: On the continuing story of the LIBOR scandal, [the FDIC is suing 16 Big Banks](#), and the British Bank Association (former LIBOR administrator) for collusion.

Money & Economic Inequality: Two related news items: There's a link between [how much money your family had in childhood and how well you're doing now](#). This is backed up noting that parental [wealth is the best predictor of college success](#), not SATs.

Climate Change: Smoking causes cancer. Duh. [Greenhouse emissions are impacting climate change](#). Duh, too, as far as the American Association for the Advancement of Science is concerned, because the science is just that strong. [Democrats and Republicans agree we should do something](#), the Democratic Party thinks so, the republican party, not at all.

Environment: Teddy Roosevelt created 18 National Parks. The republicans yelled when their sequestration closed parks. Now they want to limit Obama to [one new national park every four years](#).

Right to Privacy: If you're more worried about companies knowing more about you than the NSA, you may want to explore these [tips for protecting your online privacy](#), via Bill Moyers.

Separation of Church & State: [These guys want to remove it](#). Renacci scores a 35, Gibbs gets 25 out of 100, both flunking the ratings. PEW reports that 38% think there is too much religion in politics and a majority say that religious conservatives have too much control over the GOP.

Unions: Teamsters score NLRB victory against ['sharecropping on wheels.'](#) 'Independent' contractors are replacing employees but still have hours etc dictated to them, forming unions could violate the law, the result is less pay and less rights and higher inefficiencies.

Voting: Pew Research Center releases study on [who votes and who doesn't, and why](#). In a separate interview with Jon Stewart, the Director says millennials are more likely to be Democrats. But still, the higher you education and income, the more likely you are to be a regular voter.

Women's Rights: Survey says: [Promiscuity not linked to contraception](#). Study involved 9256 women living around St. Louis, shows [free birth control had other benefits](#) as well. Family Research Council, surprise, is not convinced that their position has been completely wrong.

STATE

Ohio's statewide Democratic candidates remember the [third anniversary of SB5](#).

Ted Strickland [has joined the top Democratic think tank](#), the [Center for American Progress](#), and has no plans for make a senate run against Portman.

Ed Fitzgerald [interview](#) in the Cinn Enquirer. In a response to Kasich's announcement today that he wants to cut taxes again for the wealthy, **Ed FitzGerald** said this: "As Governor, I will focus on growing our economy from the middle out, rather than top-down. One of my first actions will be to **reinstate the Homestead Exemption**, Ohio's seniors and most vulnerable should not have to pay for John Kasich's giveaways to the very well off."

Rich Javorek just received an endorsement from Progressive Majority for his run in House District 69, Medina County Oh. Spread the word.

Timken inks a *new deal with Russia*, and [what do Renacci and Portman think](#), benefactors of Timken contribution largess? Hey, it's just business.

My spam filter rejected **Senator Portman**. But I opened it anyway. Here's the lead paragraphs:

As the U.S. Supreme Court hears oral arguments in Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. this week, I wanted to let you know that I signed on to a legal brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down the requirement that, under President Obama's healthcare spending law, employers must subsidize coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, even if it goes against their religious beliefs. This affront to the right of conscience runs counter to our nation's tradition of religious liberty and pluralism.

As you may be aware, I also cosponsored the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011. This bill would allow a health plan to decline coverage of specific items and services that go against the religious or moral beliefs of the person or organization offering or purchasing the plan. It would also protect health care providers by ensuring that no health plan can require a health care provider to deliver or participate in care that is contrary to the religious or moral beliefs of that provider.

Voting in Ohio: **NY Times** headline: [Ohio Mistrusts Democracy?](#) about Ohio republicans blocking voting access. Ohio makes **Sunday NY Times front page** news: [New GOP Bid to Limit Voting in Swing States](#). So it's not in a good way. Akron City Council passed a resolution denouncing the new laws as unconstitutional. And "Cuyahoga County Executive **Ed FitzGerald** has formally submitted legislation to County Council [asserting his right to mail out unsolicited absentee ballot applications to all registered voters](#) in the county, a move that would be in direct contradiction to a [recently-passed state law](#)."

SB 310 - a new bill that would impose a **freeze on Ohio's clean energy standards** at the end of 2014.

Ohio EPA looking at dumping Cuyahoga [dredging material into Lake Erie](#).

The Vice Chair of the **OH House Education Committee** claims [public schools are socialism, have been since the start of the country, and should be done away with](#).

13 [Ohio coal mining permits have expired](#) since Kasick became Governor. They're still operating, and still contributing to his campaign. Late last year an [EPA veteran resigned under pressure](#), citing pressure coal companies and permits as a reason, and Carney has called for an investigation.

LOCAL

Black College Of Wooster student voices concerns on CNN. White Wooster [woman's response proves his point](#). More discussion will ensue, but probably without her.

'Non-partisan' Tea Party holds candidate night, ignores all Democratic candidates.

VOTES

Humor

Introducing Anti-Unionol! From the makers of Wage-B-Gon & Retire-Not, this new anti-worker suppository reduces economic equality and the middle class. Find out if it's right for you.
<http://www.anti-unionol.com/> (AFSCME satire page)

(M) How do you hide money from a Republican? Put it in a science or history book, they'll never look there. (Being Liberal)

SNL: [Fox and Friends](#) on Obamacare, Climate Change, mistakes in the last hour.

SOAPBOX

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.

2014 Candidates

Ed Fitzgerald Governor www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com

David Pepper, Attorney General [Campaign Website](#)

John Patrick [Carney for State Auditor](#)

Connie Pillich, Treasurer pillichcampaign@gmail.com [Campaign Website](#)

Nina Turner, Secretary of State info@ninaturner.org [Campaign Website](#)

Dr. [Pete Crossland](#),

Jim Donenwirth, OH-16

George Ruciska, State Senate

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 .

You can find a list of events anywhere 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 Or, for complete cost estimate of ACA exchange plans, check out

ValuePenguin.com SLATE's [chart](#) that puts coverage changes in perspective.

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.

Brad Gowins' Ohio House and Senate Report

OHIO SENATE and HOUSE REPORT (2/25)

From the House/In the Senate

****Amended HB 171 (Passed in the House, currently on 2nd consideration in Senate):** To enact in the ORC to permit public school students to attend & receive credit for released time courses in religious instruction conducted off school property during regular school hours.

****HB 215 (Passed in the House, 2nd consideration in the Senate):** To amend & enact sections in the ORC to authorize a board of education or governing authority to enter into an agreement with a volunteer who is a current or retired law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to generally provide to a board of education or governing authority of a school and to such a volunteer immunity from civil liability for injury, death, or loss arising from the volunteer's services, and to provide a tax credit for volunteer service.

****Amended HB 8 (Passed the house, 2st consideration in the Senate):** To authorize off-duty peace officers to possess deadly weapons or dangerous ordinance in a school safety zone, to authorize a board of education or governing body of any school to designate employees who may carry concealed handguns in a school safety zone, to generally prohibit the disclosure of the names of the designated employees, to exclude from collective bargaining the development and implementation of a protocol to designate the employees, and to generally provide immunity from civil liability to a board of education, or governing authority of any school and to a designated employee of such school for injury, death, or loss arising from the employee's possession or use of a handgun in a school safety zone.

****Sub. H. B. No. 203 (Passed the House, 2nd Consideration in the Senate** To amend sections and to repeal Revised Code to modify concealed handgun law; to permit investigators employed by the Attorney General to investigate Medicaid fraud to go armed in the same manner as sheriffs and regularly appointed police officers; to expand the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force in self-defense; and to provide that the exercise of a constitutional or statutory right is not, in itself, the offense of disorderly conduct or inducing panic and does not constitute reasonable, articulable suspicion of criminal activity

From the Senate/In the Senate

****SB 259 (2nd consideration in the Senate):** To amend the ORC to require that same-sex married couples who file a joint federal income tax return must file a joint state tax return.

****SB 255 (2nd consideration in the Senate):** To amend sections of the ORC to permit a person to present proof of financial responsibility to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, a peace officer, a traffic violations bureau, or a court through use of an electronic wireless communications device. need a concealed handgun license in order to carry or have concealed on the person or ready at hand a firearm and is subject to the same laws regarding carrying a concealed firearm as a person who has a concealed handgun license.

From the House/In the House

****H. B. No. 424-Representatives Bishoff, Hackett. (2nd Consideration in the House 2/11/14)**

To amend section 4113.99 and to enact sections 4113.35 to 4113.39 of the Revised Code to prohibit employers and educational institutions from requiring an employee, applicant, student, or prospective student to provide access to any personal Internet account of the employee, applicant, student, or prospective student.

****H. B. No. 445-Representative Hagan, R. (Introed in the House 2/11/14)**

To amend section 2949.25 of the Revised Code to require the Governor and the Director of Rehabilitation and Correction to be present at the execution of a death sentence.

****H. B. No. 450-Representative Patterson. (Introed in the House 2/18/14** To amend sections 5739.02 and 5739.05 of the Revised Code to provide a three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of back-to-school clothing, school supplies, personal computers, and personal computer accessories are exempt from sales and use taxes.

****HB 403 (2nd consideration in the House):** To generally authorize a person who has a valid concealed handgun license **to carry a handgun concealed into any publicly owned facility that is not a secure facility**, to limit this general access with respect to a nonsecure school building so that it applies only if the person is a government official.

****HB 387 (1st consideration in the House):** To allow a person who had a concealed handgun license to carry concealed all firearms other than dangerous ordinance or firearms that state or federal law prohibits the person from possessing; to provide that a person 21 years of age or older and not legally prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by federal law does not

****House Joint Resolution 10 (introduced in the House):** To enact Section of Article 17 of the Ohio Constitution to permit the electors to recall an elected official

****H. B. No. 424 (introduced in the House)** To amend section 4113.99 and to enact sections 4113.35 to 4113.39 of the Revised Code to prohibit employers and educational institutions from requiring an employee, applicant, student, or prospective student to provide access to any personal Internet account of the employee, applicant, student, or prospective student.

As always, for more detailed information of the above information or anything not covered please refer to <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/statusreport/> and <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>)

Process of Bill to Law: Introduction (**1st Consideration**). Assigned to Committee and committee reviews it and either recommends its passage or it doesn't (**2nd Consideration**). Bill is brought to the floor to be voted on (**3rd Consideration**). A bill must pass through both chambers (**Senate & House**) and be concurred by both chambers before it is sent to the Governor to be signed in to law.

THIS BILL WAS PULLED FROM THE HOUSE FLOOR BY DEMOCRATIC SPONSOR BILL PATMON WHO HAS PROMSIED TO REWORK THE BILL AND REPRESENT IT AT A LATER DATE.

**** H.B 376**

To enact sections 9.69, 9.691, and 9.692 of the Revised Code to enact the Ohio Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 9.69, 9.691, and 9.692 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 9.69. Sections 9.69 to 9.692 of the Revised Code shall be known and may be cited as the Ohio Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Sec. 9.691. As used in sections 9.691 and 9.692 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Burden" means any action that directly or indirectly constrains, inhibits, curtails, or denies the exercise of religion by any person or compels any action contrary to a person's exercise of religion. "Burden" includes, but is not limited to, withholding benefits, assessing criminal, civil, or administrative penalties, or exclusion from governmental programs or access to governmental facilities.

(B) "Compelling governmental interest" means a governmental interest of the highest magnitude that cannot otherwise be achieved without burdening the exercise of religion.

(C) "Exercise of religion" means the practice or observance of religion. "Exercise of religion" includes, but is not limited to, the ability to act or the refusal to act in a manner that is substantially motivated by one's sincerely held religious belief, whether or not the exercise is compulsory or central to a larger system of religious belief.

(D) "State action" means the implementation or application of any law, including, but not limited to, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and policies, whether statutory or otherwise, or any other action by the state, a political subdivision of the state, an instrumentality of the state or political subdivision of the state, or a public official that is authorized by law in the state.

Sec. 9.692. (A) State action or an action by any person based on state action shall not burden a person's right to exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless it is demonstrated that applying the burden to that person's exercise of religion in that particular instance is both of the following:

(1) Essential to further a compelling governmental interest;

(2) The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

(B) A person whose exercise of religion has been burdened or is likely to be burdened in violation of this section may assert that violation or impending violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding, regardless of whether the state or a political subdivision of the state is a party to the proceeding. The person asserting that claim or defense may obtain appropriate relief, including relief against the state or a political subdivision of the state. Appropriate relief includes, but is not limited to, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, compensatory damages, and the recovery of costs and reasonable attorney's

*****NOTE:** HB 376, also known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), substantially expands opportunities for an individual to file a lawsuit if they feel that their exercise of religion has been burdened or is likely to be burdened by any state or local action, law, or administrative rule. A person

may use HB 376 to take legal action or as a defense in a case against the state or local government, a private person, or business entities. A challenged law will be upheld only if the government can show that the law is essential to further its compelling interest and that there was no other way to achieve that compelling interest.

Accordingly, this bill could be used to justify discrimination or even criminal acts committed in the name of religion. For example, this bill could undermine local LGBT anti-discrimination laws, provide defenses for perpetrators of domestic violence who claim religious protection, or force public schools to change lesson plans to accommodate individuals' religious ideologies

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.