

DEMOCRATIC INQUIRY

February, 2014

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](#)

"You can't fake showing up." Did you file for your precinct position?

"Participation - that's what's going to save the human race." RIP, Pete Seeger. d. 1/27/2014.

"Social movements may have many 'defeats' - failing to achieve objectives in the short run - but in the course of the struggle the strengths of the old order begin to erode, the minds of the people begin to change." Howard Zinn, d.1/27/2010

"This must be a year when we rise together peacefully and not only let our voices be heard, but let our actions unequivocally speak for themselves." [Rev. Al Sharpton](#), President, National Action Network.

Alert - Wednesday's the deadline for filing for central committees and candidates. Friday have to turn in a count for our Wine Tasting Dinner on 2/15. The HUMOR sector has things-stupid-republicans-say.

Superbowl results: Obama 7, O'Reilly 0. The pregame interview, of course.

"Your detractors believe that you did not tell the world [Benghazi] was a terror attack because your campaign didn't want that out," O'Reilly said. "That's what they believe."

"And they believe it because folks like you tell them that," Obama said. "These kinds of things keep on surfacing in part because you and your TV station will promote them." SCORE!

SOTU poll gives Obama [good marks again](#), and a 17pt pickup. Link includes comparisons to Bush, Clinton SOTU had a focus on [income inequality](#). [ProPublica reprinted this graphic](#), Find how poverty is in your zip.

SOTU speech preceded by tweet: [Randy Weber R- Texas Twit](#) "On floor of house waitin on "Kommandant-In-Chef"... the Socialistic dictator who's been feeding US a line or is it "A-Lying?" republicans cry foul about Obama using Executive Orders. He's [not even close to his predecessors](#). Guess who has the record.

The War on Poverty is 50 years old. The republicans ended their participation years ago. That's why the [results are a 'mixed bag'](#) and it's hasn't gotten worse. And we're still using [indicators from 50 years ago to define the poverty level](#), making the poor even poorer. Prepare yourself as [republicans are now ready to join in the War](#), redefining it to their advantage as only republicans can do: "school choice" is one way.

NATIONAL

No surprise here, WaPo [Poll says republicans seen as more extreme](#), Democrats more bipartisan.

Supreme Court to hear [1st amendment argument against Labor Unions](#), that fair share payment is an infringement on free speech.

Nifty Supreme Court ruled for Verizon and against internet neutrality. BUT... there's a [loophole that could trump](#) power back to the FCC.

AG Holder has wavered on this, but he is back to saying '[no bank or executive is too big to jail](#)', based on his recent successes.

Here's the rest of the story of [8 people responsible for crashing the economy](#). No, nobody went to jail.

Arizona GOP censured McCain for being a RINO. So [he may run again](#).

Sp Ct arguments: Massachusetts defends [abortion clinic buffer zone](#) from protestors, Scalia thinks it stifles 1st Amendment people who just want to have a quiet conversation.

The DeVos family in Michigan is second generation conservative, and activist, and spending against labor unions. [More powerful than the Koch bros](#)? "Michigan is Stalingrad, where the battle will be won or lost!"

Sure, North Carolina is now a conservative disaster zone. Mother Jones points to [the best reporting on the takeover](#). Or takedown.

Poor, thirsty West Virginia. They keep voting against government regulations, voting republican, now they need government relief water to drink, due to an uninspected unregulated above ground storage tank containing pollutants leaking into the water supply.

ISSUES

First person on [Right To Lifers writing about them. Don't.](#)

If guns make you safer, why aren't we the safest country on earth? It's not like countries believing in disarmament, after they believed first in mutually assured destruction.

[When Corporations Collude](#) - wages suffer, and lawsuits follow. (See, the movie was called When Worlds Collide, and I just thought I'd play off that.)

Immigration Reform 101 especially [how Amnesty and "Legal Status" differ](#), and why it could be ok. I see it as analogous to Don't Ask Don't Tell, a transition law.

The [republican health care plan](#) is no longer like vaporware. Lack of caps will bankrupt you, and other problems. I wonder if their public info line is still 911?

SNAP (food stamp) [cuts cut WalMart's bottom line](#), profits down. Irony ensues.

Pot Patrol:

You knew this was coming: Fox news pretends (that's not news) Colorado [SNAP recipients can use it to buy pot](#). Not if Fox keeps smoking stuff for these dreams.

Nancy Grace [on Pot](#). Really. There's no other explanation. Must see tv.

Oh yes, virtual for profit schools is so 21st century. Unless you're a teacher trying to teach, according to a teacher that spent [15 months in virtual charter hell](#).

STATE

New candidates: Jim Donenwirth is running against Renacci for OH-16. George Ruciska is running for State Senate against LaRose, who we never voted for. State Rep Tom Letson from Warren is running for Ohio Supreme Court. Cuyahoga Common Pleas Judge John P O'Donnell is running for a different seat on the Ohio Supreme Court.

ABJ agrees with David Pepper, [DeWine fostering pay-to-play climate](#), and appointments.

Frack that. Did you know --

The State of Ohio has a law, <http://oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov/industry/unitization> which makes it possible for an oil or gas company to drill on your land without your permission simply by claiming that it is part of a unit, and needed to maximize profits? (Thanks Jan Daily)

Port Clinton points out that it's more difficult to vote in Ohio, and asks [Is it more fair?](#)

Mike [DeWine argues about Free Speech](#) with Forked Tongue. I mean that tongue has to have a fork stuck in it. He has to defend a Election Committee law he disagrees with, which bans false statements made maliciously during a campaign (First Amendment free speech). Mike DeWine argues that [Ohio politicians have a right to lie](#). Unfortunately, he's arguing that to the **Supreme Court**. I wonder if he'll lie when he's making his case? The 'political lying is protected free speech' case involved [Susan B Anthony List v Driehaus](#), a Democrat, and is getting to be typical of Ohio campaigns, where the Election Commission can't do anything but say it happened or didn't happen, and in this case didn't even publish their findings.

LOCAL

CALENDAR

- February 5 – declaration of candidacy for Central Committee due at Board of election. No petition this year.
- **February 11th, Tuesday, The Ashland County Democratic Party invites you to *it's Annual Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner*, ... 5:30 Social Hour ... 6:30 Dinner I.A.M. Hall, 930 Grove Ave.**
- February 15th, Saturday, The 2nd annual Wine Tasting Dinner at El Rancho Grande, at 7 pm. Rsvp to jimandinez@gmail.com . Payment can be made on our website.
- March 31st – end of open enrollment for Obamacare.
- April 15, Tax Day
- April 26th, Jackson Day Dinner

•

VOTES

Humor (Unintentional)

How's that rebranding going, republicans? Got the kinkys worked out yet?

""I made a prediction a long time ago and it's come to pass. I said what we're gonna do is turn Detroit into an Indian reservation, where we herd all the Indians into the city, build a fence around it and then throw in the blankets and the corn." — Oakland County (MI) Executive Director L. Brooks Patterson.

Daily Show shows another [clueless billionaire](#) arguing for no minimum wage. Don't these people ever watch the show before being interviewed?

Joshua Black, Fla 68th District candidate tweeted: ""He should be executed for treason. I think the appropriate punishment is death. They killed Benedict Arnold. (Obama) shouldn't be allowed to kill Americans without a trial."

After the SOTU, [republican threatens reporter](#), "I'll throw you over the fucking rail." But the headline is just "I'll break you in half!" Which he also said.

Daily Kos: Susanne Atanus is one of the Illinois Republicans attempting to unseat Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky this year. She is not going to be of any particular help to the ol' [rebranding effort](#). "I am a conservative Republican and I believe in God first," Atanus said. She said she believes God controls the weather and has put tornadoes and diseases such as autism and dementia on earth as punishment for gay rights and legalized abortions. "God is angry. We are provoking him with abortions and same-sex marriage and civil unions," she said. "Same-sex activity is going to increase AIDS. If it's in our military it will weaken our military. We need to respect God."

Mike Huckabee's new republican sensitivity training results reflects his new stump speech:

"Republicans don't have a war on women," Huckabee said. "We're having a war for women. To empower them to be something other than victims of their gender.

"If the Democrats want to insult the women of America by making them believe that they are helpless without Uncle Sugar coming in and providing for them a prescription each month for birth control, because they cannot control their libido or their reproductive system without the help of the government, then so be it," he continued. "Let us take that discussion all across America, because women are far more than the Democrats have played them to be."

Via Politico, Glenn Beck, in interview yesterday with Fox News's Megyn Kelly: "I remember it as an awful lot of fun and that I made an awful lot of mistakes. I think I played a role, unfortunately, in helping tear the country apart." And this: "I wish I could go back and be more uniting in my language. I didn't realize how really fragile the people were. I thought we were kind of a little more in it together. And now I look

back and I realize if we could have talked about the uniting principles a little bit more, instead of just the problems, I think I would look back on it a little more fondly.”

But at least, Richard H. "Dick" Black, the Republican congressional candidate notorious for [questioning whether marital rape should be a crime](#), announced Wednesday that he had [dropped out of the running](#) for the Republican nomination in Virginia's 10th district.

Mitt [Romney slow jams the news](#) with Jimmy Fallon. Without feeling.

SOAPBOX

I've often positioned Democrats as the party of Democracy, and republicans as the party of Capitalism. Here's a NYTimes book review title - "[Capitalism vs Democracy](#)". Start with the opening paragraph: "Thomas Piketty's [new book](#), "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," [described](#) by one French newspaper as a "a political and theoretical bulldozer," defies left and right orthodoxy by arguing that worsening inequality is an inevitable outcome of free market capitalism." Which is what Adam Smith and I argue, along with progressive taxation, which Piketty also argues for, but says will never happen. Read the review, before the book comes out in English and creates an earthquake here. You'll sound prescient.

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](#)

Jim Donenwirth, OH-16

George Ruciska, State Senate

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-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. 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.