

DEMOCRATIC INQUIRY

March 5, 2014

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**"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](#) [BG's Ohio House and Senate Report](#)

Changes 1: Brad Gowins is authoring an important new section, Ohio House and Senate Report. This will alert you to important bills and their status that you should know about. Perhaps it should get its own email. For right now, because of its length, after the Links section. Don't miss it.

Changes 2: Following a suggestion, we're moving the Calendar up front so you don't miss events.

"Here's the thing about rights. They're not supposed to be voted on...that's why they call them RIGHTS."

Rachel Maddow

We spend \$8000 a year to educate a child. We spend \$40000 to incarcerate an adult.

Foxlogic: Corporations should have the right to control whether employee insurance covers birth control. But CVS shouldn't be able to not sell cigarettes.

"The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously." Hubert Humphrey.

"... Now, don't get me wrong, I think the Republicans are patriots; they love this country just like we do. They love their kids, they love their communities, but they just keep on offering a theory of the economy that time and again has failed America. They think we should give more tax breaks to those at the top, and invest less in things like education and research. I'm not making that up. Go on their website. That's what they think. They think we should let big banks and credit card companies and insurers do only what's best for their bottom line without responsibility to their customers or their communities."

Obama also succinctly added: ***"The problem isn't how they talk about their policies, it's their policies!"***

Journalism is printing what someone else doesn't want printed. Everything else is Public Relations. -

George Orwell. Along that line I recommend this TED talk by George Putnam on the ["duty of care" of journalism](#), (as opposed to corporate profit) and its effect on democratic politics. "Duty of care" is a legal term for liability in making sure you take reasonable care to do no harm. 10:41 min video, or transcript.

Cancer is a world wide problem. The number of [cases are increasing](#), with different types predominating depending upon global location.

Something else worrisome to ponder - "There have been 5 mass extinctions in earth's history, and [now we're facing a sixth](#)." Read the opening, and you may not make it through the entire interview. So make sure you read the last paragraph.

CALENDAR

- March 10th, Meeting Ed FritzGerald at the Wagon Wheel in Ashland, 5:30 pm.
- March 15th, Ohio Legacy Dinner, Columbus
- March 15th, Wooster Firefighters' Chili Cook-Off, 1st Amendment Public House, 150 W Liberty St Wooster. All proceeds benefit ACBC – Aluminum Cans for Burned Children. \$10 for chili and entry into the Bear, Ninja, Cowboy contest. 5:30-7:30 chili, 7:30-8:00 Bear Ninja Cowboy Contest, 8 pm Live Band.
- March 17th, Blue Cocktail Hour, with ODP Chair Chris Redfern, at The Ugly Duck Sports Bar, 3331 East Lincolnway, Wooster. 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Cash bar, regular menu available. (the old Howard Johnson's, or Club Bacchus)
- March 31st – end of open enrollment for Obamacare.
- April 1st, begin absentee / early voting
- April 7th, Voter Registration Deadline
- April 15, Tax Day
- April 25th, Wayne Co. Jackson Day Dinner. 7 pm The Pines, Orrville.
- Early Voting limited to 8 am to 5pm M-F.
- May 1st, Robert Reich's movie "Inequality For All", sponsored by EcoOhio at Red Cross Bldg in Wooster.
- May 6th, Primary Election

NATIONAL

A restored NLRB is looking at a rule [reducing the time it takes for a vote to happen](#). Unions want it, Chamber republicans don't.

The Keystone XL public comment period has begun. [So comment already!](#)

The [Farm Bill is now law](#). SNAP was reduced, Koch brothers got their subsidies, Clean Water Act got more exemptions.

It's time for the next step for [updating the 1993 Family Medical Leave Act](#).

Hear about Moral Monday in NC? [Here's the photos](#) to prove it actually happens. Just because its not on the news doesn't mean it isn't real. 80-100,000 people from 32 states filled the streets. NC's [Moral Monday movement is spreading](#) throughout the South.

Companies that target the Middle Class will tell you [their target market is shrinking](#). Even WalMart complained that cutting food stamps hurt their bottom line. Strange [how cuts hurt the top 1%](#).

[The clear benefits of a higher wage](#), by the NY Time editorial board.

What [economists have to say about Paul Ryan's report](#) on the War on Poverty: He misstates conclusions, he chopped out data, he misrepresents the data and the conclusions, it looks scientific but it isn't... republicans still "don't let the facts get in the way of a good story." (quoting Nina Turner)

US [House votes to take Consumer out](#) of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Renacci and Gibbs voted yes, of course.

One more thing to worry about regarding the secretive TPP agreement: [trade officials received big bonuses](#) from companies, to leave and become trade officials.

Shenanigans: Is it [Democrats vs The Koch Brothers](#) instead of republicans? And is that a bad thing? Then again, Townhall.com proudly lists the [25 most influential conservatives](#). If we had an enemies list, this would be the star. The Kochs are on the list, and fund multiple others. "Para Bellum Labs will help create a culture to allow the RNC to innovate faster and recruit more talented people who can build digital platforms to understand public opinion, engage voters and power elections," RNC Chairman Reince Priebus. Para bellum is latin for 'prepare for war.' And the Nazis used it for the Luger parabellum. And bullets. Don't forget the bullets! [Read the Gawker article](#). Reich-wingers blame Obama - [18 Obama myths debunked](#). Laura Ingram updates redbaiting - [questions Sotomayor's allgiance](#). It's those damn Puerto Rican US citizen immigrant conspiracies!

So, you get a threatening crank email. To a private account only a few know about. Who sent it? "[Probably one of the crazy ones](#)." House republican crazy ones, and there's so many that it doesn't narrow down the list!

ProPublica has a great graphic representation of [how money flows through the Koch Network](#), aka the Kochtopus.

Sen. Rand(y) Paul has a [woman problem](#) of his own. Votes and kidnapping, for examples. He also has a plagiarism problem, since his NSA lawsuit's wording appears to be [lifted from a similar lawsuit](#). Maybe he shouldn't have run it through his campaign unit before filing.

Via PoliticusUSA: "*I remember, I was a teenager, had just become a teenager and voted for Ronald Reagan — limited government, you know, smaller government, lower taxes, strong national defense. You knew what you were getting. You knew how a Reagan administration, a Reagan presidency was going to be better for you.*" The problem is that Scott Walker was 13 years old in 1980, and 17 years old in 1984. The legal voting age is 18. There is no way that Scott Walker could have legally voted for Ronald Reagan unless he committed voter fraud. This is another example of why Scott Walker could be a formidable 2016 candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. The man will lie about anything. He has no conscience when it comes to lying.

Sen Warren is getting to be my favorite politico. Tells group Obama should [stop appointing corporate lawyers to judgeships](#), leading to 'corporate capture.'

The [LEGO movie is - corporate satire](#), just like Fox claimed. Take the kids and grandkids!

ISSUES

Food authority Michael Pollan says "[Our food is dishonestly priced](#)." Cheap food due to cheaper labor, cheaper quality, and worse.

Exxon, 'the sign of the double-cross' CEO has a problem. Public - fracking is good, no environmental damage. Private - [joined lawsuit to stop fracking](#) by his property.

Here's [how executive pay fosters inequality](#), the Board of Directors supporting the Oligarchy. Interactive graphic form.

[Paul Krugman](#) claims [media malpractice](#) about the CBO report on PPACA impact over the next 10 years. [Jon Stewart](#) (CBO Report 4/6) just made fun of them. Media & Eric Canto's ilk reports are of job losses, but the actual CBO report is people saying they don't have to work where they don't want or have to, and opens up jobs for the unemployed. [CNN noted it](#) too. CBO went so far as to issue an [official rebuttal](#) to the rightwing claim.

Then there's the spectacular [myth of Obama's part-time economy](#). The Atlantic busts that one. Right in the chops.

STATE

Connie Pillich wants you to [support the Ohio Equal Pay Act](#). It's a family issue, because when women make less than men, it affects all of us.

The Nation has a great article, [Why This Woman Should Be Ohio's Next Secretary of State](#). That Woman is Nina Turner, of course.

David Pepper: "Not only did Mike DeWine endorse Rick Santorum two years ago, he has spent his term as Attorney General filing lawsuits against women's health, particularly targeting their access to birth control coverage. What's worse, these lawsuits are taking place in other states, and being financed with Ohioans' hard-earned tax dollars, when few of them have any connection whatsoever to actual Ohioans"

"If hope were a stock, Republican Gov. John Kasich's [fourth State of the State](#) speech, delivered Monday

night in Medina. could have been a prospectus." Cleveland.com editorial, which said the proposal [missed by a mile](#).

Kasich admin [colludes with oil/gas companies](#), but deny it. Kasich aides [knew of plans to promote fracking in state parks](#), but lied about it.

Husted sets voting hours between 8 am and 5 pm M-F. You know, when most people are at work. No souls to the polls this year, as Husted ended voting on the Sunday before election, which will probably disenfranchise people working six days a week with Sunday off. From ODP: Today, the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), [Toledo Blade](#) and the [Akron Beacon Journal](#) all had editorials calling on the Republican Party to drop their partisan campaign to pass bills today to curtail the right to vote before the 2014 election. There is no debate in Ohio on this: the Republicans are afraid of an election where people can vote easily.

Ohio HB 376, the Orwellian [Ohio Religious Freedom Restoration Act](#) (or the [Ohio Defense of Religious Persecution Act](#)), co-sponsored by right-wing ultra-conservative Ron Amstutz and 42 others, is the same gay discrimination bill that is sitting on the Arizona gov's desk, sponsored by the same religious bigots, Alliance Defending Freedom. Per Brad Gowin, 'currently it is on 2nd Consideration in the house. This means that it was assigned to a committee and they will give the bill 3 hearings of their own. After the three hearings they could recommend to the House that it be passed. This would then place the bill on 3rd Consideration and require all members of the house to vote on it. If passed out of the house it will have to repeat the same process in the Senate.' Update: as Jan Brewer vetoes the bill, ACLU reports Ohio's RFRA (which closely resembled AZ's bill), was just "indefinitely postponed."

Ohio's [Heartbeat Bill sponsor goes dumb](#) when asked obvious question by Al Jazeera reporter. Video.

End [discrimination on Ohio birth certificates](#). Suit filed by same sex parents.

Ohio's [Income inequality in one graphic](#). Compare to other states.

Cleveland's Menlo Park [charter school for the gifted](#) (very smart) is not 'value added,' it's value subtracted. Your tax dollars at rest.

Chris and Sarah Cupples are...an official married couple.

WOUB on Kasich vs Ed about [Education deregulation](#). Because it worked so well for banks.

[Jennifer Brunner](#) Franklin County Board of Elections certified her as candidate for Democratic nomination for 10th District Court of Appeals; no primary

House Bill 153, which would establish a medical-pot program, is stalled in committee, but its supporters are working to get a measure on the November ballot.

Ohio House passing [new voter restrictions](#). There's no evidence of voter fraud, per the Secretary of State, but what the hell.

Ohio [Voter's Bill of Rights](#) aims to end this partisan BS.

LOCAL

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 .

Jim Renacci gets a [lifetime rating of 5%](#) from the League of Conservation Voters. 4% for last year. Gibbs got a 6%. So far this year they're at zero. Lifetime 97 No votes, 5 Yes votes. One Yes vote was a revote on the same issue.

Renacci [fined \\$9749 by FEC](#) for...depends how you look at it. Faulty bookkeeping, minor error, playing fast and loose, being late, shuffling debt, etc.

We now have two challengers to Jim Renacci. Dr. Pete Crosslands from Summit and Jim Denonwirth from Cuyahoga.

Robert Fisher vs Gibbs

Frank LaRose held his 2 monthly local [office hours](#) . What, you didn't get the memo?

The Wayne Co Sherriff reports: A record year in Ohio for the issuing of licenses for carrying concealed firearms... Among area counties:

- A total of 2,295 new licenses and 938 renewals were reported in Wayne County, along with a dozen license suspensions, five revocations and 20 denials.
- A total of 1,179 new licenses and 522 renewals were reported in Holmes County, along with seven license suspensions and five denials.
- A total of 463 new licenses and 326 license renewals were reported in Ashland County. Another three license applications were denied, and three more were suspended.
- A total of 1,394 new licenses and 1,604 renewals were reported in Medina County, along with 25 license suspensions, seven revocations and nine denials.

VOTES

US [House votes to take the Consumer out](#) of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Renacci and Gibbs voted yes, of course.

Humor

Upworthy presents [the 5 awkward times experts shut down news anchors, by being experts](#). Sometimes it hurts to face the facts.

Reagan speechwrite Peggy Noonan wrote an [ironic un-self-aware column](#) about (Reagan-era) Greed is not so good, and Daily Kos enjoyed pointing it out.

Patrick [Stewart is Chuck Depree, an anti-Obamacare worker](#) on The Colbert Report.

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, OH-16

Jim Donenwirth, OH-16

George Ruciska, State Senate

judgeodonnelforjustice.com

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. 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 stagers](#) 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

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