

Ohio GOP's base tactics

In response to the June 6 story headlined ``Taft signs bill, kills ballot issue":

Ohioans have learned that the Taft administration has locked the door and turned out the lights before leaving the room. By limiting state general revenue spending to 3.5 percent a year, Gov. Bob Taft would hamstring the next governor while effectively removing power from an informed electorate whose votes would lay bare the shortcomings and disastrous effects the limit has on Ohio's economic struggle.

No one wants runaway spending. But a new administration needs some room to act on its own plan to better Ohio's economic picture. A specific plan for Ohio is the question to be placed before all gubernatorial and legislative candidates. Meantime, under years of Republican runaway spending, Ohio is still at the bottom in many areas. But scandal, fraud and waste are proliferating. Maybe they should have imposed tighter limits and demanded more accountability for themselves over these many years.

It appears the Republican plan is to let Ken Blackwell put economics aside so he can focus on the really important 2006 GOP platform: ``No gay marriage!" In this same issue of the Beacon Journal, we read that President Bush renewed the battle cry for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. All of this makes me pine for the days of moderate Republicans who embraced equal rights, civil liberties and socially responsible conservative economics. Where are they?

It's interesting that the GOP powers have so little faith in their ability to win this year that they are pre-emptively striking to constrict Ohio economics and using base tactics that prey on limited social issues that divide us and pervert the Constitution.

How about jobs, health care, education and poverty? Now there's a significant issues discussion that truly draws on our religion and our humanity.

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