

Blackwell: Business as usual

J. Kenneth Blackwell's July 3 commentary ("Lease the Ohio Turnpike?") was a stunning revelation, although not for the intended reason. Blackwell stated that Ohio ranks "50th (dead last) in job creation," and that "Ohio's economy is lagging and growing worse."

The stunning revelation was that Blackwell, finally, publicly admits that Ohio is in a deep hole. One would never have guessed that he grasps this fact, based on the TV spots for his Republican primary campaign. In those ads, he lauded himself for bravely battling a handful of Ohio newspapers over Issue 1 (the anti-gay-marriage amendment) in 2004. How courageous of him.

Now I'd like to pose several questions that are unlikely to be raised in the upcoming gubernatorial debates:

How many jobs did Blackwell's efforts create? How many laid-off workers were retrained so they might qualify for those jobs of the future that we keep hearing about? How many homeless people (so many of them veterans suffering from battle-related stress) were brought in off the streets?

And, since they make up the largest population among the impoverished of this country, how many children were brought above the poverty line and given a brighter future?

Blackwell likes to advertise himself as a new kind of sheriff who is going to ride into Columbus and clean things up. But he has been in town and has stood by all this time, close-mouthed, as a band of thieves have robbed the working citizens of this state.

Based on what I see, a vote for J. Kenneth Blackwell is a vote for four more years of the same thing we've endured for eight years under Bob Taft.

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