

Coughlin's priorities

At least state Sen. Kevin Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, has done one thing for public education: He has given English teachers in the state a real-life example of irony ("Bill toughens offender law," Beacon Journal, Aug. 11). Here is a guy who, for many years, has been part of the majority in the state legislature that has collectively thumbed its nose at the Ohio Supreme Court, now complaining about other people thumbing their nose at the law.

Four times the court has declared Ohio's reliance on property tax to fund schools to be unconstitutional. Yet Coughlin and his colleagues in the majority refuse to reform our school funding program.

I know he will make a lot of noise about how the legislature has provided more funds than ever before to schools. Big deal -- we are all spending more for gas, food, clothes, health care. That doesn't mean we actually have more as a result of the increased spending.

The voters are consistently rejecting school levies until the reliance on the property tax is changed. Many schools here in Summit County are in dire financial straits. Yet Coughlin watches all this and still refuses to lead us to a better method. If we keep sending the same majority party back to Columbus, we will keep getting the same result.

Maybe it's not irony; maybe it's just hypocrisy. And maybe it's time for voters to thumb their nose at these guys.

Frank Kunstel

Cuyahoga Falls