

If a public company were run into the ground, shareholders would demand a change in the management. They'd be particularly incensed if management were accused of stealing from the pension plan and planning to help the company by selling all its assets.

Well, the state of Ohio has been poorly run for the past 16 years. Further, incumbents such as Ken Blackwell, Betty Montgomery, Mike DeWine and Steve LaTourette have stood by and watched as their friends looted the pension plan and as Ohio lagged the nation in jobs, wages and overall economic growth.

Their only ideas for growth are to lease the Ohio Turnpike and other assets to private companies. Also, they want to cut funding for education and the environment and for fire and police protection so they can cut taxes to corporations. Apparently, their vision is to attract companies that want no taxes, the freedom to pollute and the ability to hire low-paid, uneducated employees who will work without health benefits.

In other words, the incumbents' vision for Ohio is to turn our state into a Third World country.

Luckily, we can throw these managers out. We can replace them with honest, competent people with a vision to grow the economy by attracting high-wage companies that are looking for an educated work force and a good quality of life.

While we all know that Ted Strickland and Sherrod Brown would take Ohio in a new direction, we need to get to know about our local races.

I had a chance to talk to candidates Lew Katz (14th U.S. House District), Judy Hanna (27th Ohio Senate District) and Paul Colavecchio (42nd Ohio House District) on one of their many trips to Hudson. They have a wealth of ideas to get Ohio back on track. Their opponents -- LaTourette, Kevin Coughlin and John Widowfield, respectively -- had no ideas to help Ohio. I believe the three incumbents hope nobody notices what a poor job they have done.

As the shareholders of the state of Ohio, it is time for us to bring in new management on Nov. 7.

James Field

Hudson