

More contrary views of ABJ's DeWine endorsement

In your Sunday endorsement of U.S. Sen. Mike DeWine's re-election, you wrote: "Sherrod Brown needles DeWine for toiling on the little things. What the Democrat misses is how impressively those things add up." I'll join the Beacon Journal editorial board in offering kudos to DeWine for his attention to the "little things."

But what you missed was DeWine's performance on the big things that are of utmost importance to your readers. Where do we, as Ohioans and as Americans, stand at the end of DeWine's second term as U.S. senator?

- Ohio ranks 46th out of 50 states in job creation.
- The median wage for Ohio workers declined between 2000 and 2005, from \$14.34 to \$14.08 in inflation-adjusted 2005 dollars.
- Ohio ranks 50th out of 50 states in its ability to attract and hold on to well-educated young people, ages 19-24. That bodes well for Ohio's future.
- Nearly seven in 10 Ohioans believe the state is "going in the wrong direction."
- We continue to fight an unnecessary and costly war that has claimed too many American and Iraqi lives and has destroyed the long-standing respect and admiration of the United States throughout the world.
- The national debt has increased almost 50 percent in the past five years, to over \$8.5 trillion.
- Nearly 46 million Americans have no health care and more than 40 million more have only minimal coverage.
- The legislative branch has abandoned checks and balances on the executive branch, resulting in a president with unprecedented power and disregard for established law, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

DeWine's performance on the big things makes the Beacon Journal's endorsement laughable, if not disgraceful. Fortunately, the Republican National Committee, apparently anticipating defeat, reportedly has suspended financial support of DeWine's campaign. Brown's lead in opinion polls was cited in the New York Times story as a reason for the party's alleged financial abandonment of DeWine.

There is a very good explanation why Sherrod Brown is running ahead in the polls: Unlike the Beacon Journal, the majority of Ohioans are unhappy with the state of the state and of the nation, and know that it's time to elect a candidate who will bring much-needed change to both.

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