



# *The SCPD Progressive Patriot*

The Newsletter for Progressive Activists in NE Ohio

"A Grass Roots Coalition for Change"

## WHAT IS SCPD?

SCPD is a 501(c)4 grass roots organization of dedicated people committed to social justice on the local, State, national, and international levels. We support efforts that better the lives of all citizens by working to promote human rights, equal economic opportunity, responsive government, a safe, sustainable environment, and a society built on compassion. Our goal is to expand grass roots participation in the political process and to return the federal government to the will of the people.

If you are interested in SCPD, contact Ingrid Kunstel at [ikunstel@neo.rr.com](mailto:ikunstel@neo.rr.com)

AUGUST, 2006

## MAKING YOUR VOTE COUNT—A Voter's Rights Forum

Presented by Summit County Progressive Democrats and Portage Democratic Coalition

The close elections in Ohio and across the nation have highlighted problems with our election systems, raised questions about election integrity, and undermined the confidence of citizens in the election process. Because our democracy depends on election integrity, we must have assurances that our elections are accurate, fair, and transparent. Faith in the process is as important as the process itself.

SCPD and PDC are hosting this forum on Ohio's election systems to answer questions about election problems and proposed solutions. Please attend this FREE event - let your voice be heard for trustworthy and accurate elections.

**Topics:** House Bill 3 - its effect on our election process / Electronic voting - its effect on election verification and recounts / Kenneth Blackwell - the effect of his decisions on elections / Organizations for fair elections - protecting our rights / What you can do to protect your vote

**Speakers:** Peg Rosenthal - League of Women Voters Election Specialist / Charles Walker - Testified before Ohio Legislature against House Bill 3 / Ron Olson - Cuyahoga County Election Technician - Computer software specialist / Victoria Lovegren - Common Cause of Ohio, Board Member; Founder, Ohio Vigilance

**Sunday, September 10, 2006, 1:00-5:00 pm**

**Akron Summit County Library, Main Branch\***

*"Voting is the right upon which all other rights depend."*

- Thomas Paine

\*The Library is not a sponsor of this event

### Inside—

pg. 2-Breakfast  
with Cordray

pg. 3- Volunteer  
for a Candidate

pg. 4- A Day in  
the Life: Jennifer  
Brunner

pg. 5- Precinct  
Committee Chair  
Training

pg. 6--Voters'  
Rights Forum

## BREAKFAST WITH CORDRAY

*Ingrid Kunstel*

So, how many of us really know what the state treasurer really does and whether he affects our lives? Well, a group of African-American leaders found out by meeting with Richard Cordray, Democratic candidate for the position. It turns out that the position really can make a difference in Ohio; not just



in eliminating the corruption that has occurred (investing the state's money in rare coins and wine), but also in making state funds available to local communities to help grow Ohio. The meeting was set up by the Summit County Progressive Democrats PAC Outreach Committee.

Cordray began by saying that Ohio used to be a great state, but under this administration we lead the country in the wrong things—bankruptcy filings, home foreclosures, and the number of young adults leaving the state to find jobs. He wants to improve education at all levels, make higher education in Ohio affordable, spur job creation and retain businesses in Ohio. He cautioned the audience that these are long-term programs, and that it will take years of effort and focus to dig Ohio out of the hole that has been created.

Mr. Cordray indicated that as Franklin County Treasurer he has the experience and background to be ready to work the position of State Treasurer from day one. He plans to invest some of the money he is entrusted with to help strengthen Ohio communities. He wants to help new entrepreneurs.

He is also committed to providing financial literacy programs to young people to help them learn how to manage their money and plan for the future. As for funding our schools, he said he would use whatever influence the Treasurer's Office has to force the legislature to comply with the Supreme Court rulings. Relying solely on property taxes is not only unconstitutional, but unfairly discriminates against communities with the least assets and creates lesser opportunities for many children. He also plans to open the process of awarding state contracts, to make it more fair to women and minorities.

Questioned about his own record on minority hiring by County Councilman Gazzell Smith, Cordray noted that he has hired the first African-American Investment Director in Franklin County, as well as an African-American Comptroller and Human Resources Director. Two of his 8 paid Treasurer's campaign staff are also African Americans.



Mr. Cordray has been awarded the Ohio Legal Association's Presidential Award for work supporting legal services to the poor. In 2000 he received the Human Rights Campaign's Humanitarian of the Year Award for his efforts to promote tolerance and understanding in the community. He clearly plans to

continue to hire on the basis of competency and diversity.

The breakfast concluded with Vernon Sykes, candidate for the Ohio House from the 44<sup>th</sup> District, saying that he had worked with Mr. Cordray when they both served in the legislature. He expressed his respect and admiration for Mr. Cordray, for what he has accomplished and for the skills and focus he will bring to the job of State Treasurer.

## Volunteer To Help a Candidate– Make a Difference

Imagine you are a candidate for public office. You stand for something you believe strongly in, but people don't know you. And in most races simple name recognition is the criterion most voters use.

Think about it—most people could not name their own state legislator, let alone the Common Pleas judges or the County Council members. So as a candidate you want to get out your “message” to those voters who actually do pay attention, while also getting your name in front of those who vote mostly for whichever name they heard last or most of ten.

*This is a critical year for Democratic victories and SCPD PAC wants to help good people get elected. So please consider joining the 50 people who so far have participated in campaign activities.*

This is where volunteers come in. They help you march in parades, pass out flyers with your campaign message on them, put up yard signs, go door-to-door, send out post-cards, and get your name in front of people. When you go home at night, you are grateful for your volunteers because you know you couldn't do it without them

And SCPD PAC is an important force in filling this need for many candidates this year. Through the middle of August we had participated in 17 different campaign activities for a total of 134 “volunteer-units” (a volunteer-unit is one volunteer at one campaign activity.) At some of these activities we have split up and represented four or five different candidates at the same activity. These 134 volunteer-units have been done by about 50 of our members; many have participated in multiple events.



Dick and Mary King are two of SCPD PAC's most active volunteers. They have canvassed door-to-door for Ted Strickland, done “visibility” for Strickland at the Lock 3 GospelFest, marched in the West Akron Parade for Sherrod Brown, and provided support for the Sherrod Brown news conference in Akron. Nearly every weekend they are volunteering.

When asked why he volunteers, Dick says, “I hope to influence people to vote for candidates and issues that



will benefit ALL people of our community, state and country.” Mary adds to that, “Citizens shouldn't sit by and let self-serving people turn the United States into a third-world country, wringing profit from every source by privatizing public entities like schools and highways. Many folks don't have time to be politically active and some don't see the terrible effects of Republican policies, so it's up to the rest of us.”

Does volunteering make a difference? Mary says yes. “People are lonely and appreciate outreach. That's why I like canvassing. It lets people know that others are concerned too and maybe have some solutions to their problems.” Dick adds that it provides more information for people to make their decisions and creates enthusiasm.

We know that the level of campaign activity is going to heat up in September and October. This is a critical year for Democratic victories and SCPD PAC wants to help good people get elected. So please consider joining the other 50 people who so far have participated in campaign activities. The candidates need more people doing what Rich and Mary King are doing.

## A Day in the Life of a Candidate

*Ingrid Kunstel*

In case you have ever toyed with the idea of running for political office, let me tell you that it is not for the faint of heart. I had the opportunity to spend one day with Jennifer Brunner, Democratic candidate for Ohio Secretary of State. The day before, she and her campaign manager had been to Cleveland, Geneva and several other places before driving back to Columbus. At six the next morning they left Columbus to come to Akron for three SCPD PAC events.

The first event was a breakfast with ministers and leaders in the African-American community. Jennifer spoke about the fact that she is the first candidate in at least a decade who wants to be Secretary of State, instead of using the position as a stepping stone to the Governor's mansion.



*Candidate for Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, meeting with local African-American leaders*

She is determined to bring transparency to the election process, to insure that everyone who is registered will be able to vote and that every vote will be counted. She will require all counties to do a 3% random ballot check to see if the hand count matches the machine count and she will require standardized poll worker training across the state. She will also make sure that Diebold provides the source code to their voting machines so that the state can assure that the machines are accu-

rate, even if it means that she has to take legal action.

She has just begun a new program in this campaign called Better Lives, Better Ohio. Since the Secretary of State is the keeper of records, she will use that data to track foreclosures, predatory lending, teen pregnancy rates, suicide rates, criminal recidivism, etc. She will use this information to make the legislature accountable for the decisions they make about our state.

*Jennifer spoke about the fact that she is the first candidate in at least a decade who wants to be Secretary of State, instead of using the position as a stepping stone to the Governor's mansion.*

From the breakfast, Jennifer went to a coffee shop where her campaign manager could connect to the internet while she stayed in the car calling people to ask for campaign contributions. Then it was on to a reception for activist women in Summit County. In a relaxed setting, these women had an opportunity to hear Jennifer talk about her candidacy and to ask questions. She seemed to enjoy the exchange of ideas. However, at 4:00 she had to leave to go to the Beacon Journal to meet with their editorial review board before coming to the SCPD PAC monthly General Membership Meeting where she spoke and answered questions.

In many ways this day was "laid back" for Jennifer. She spent the night in Akron in order to attend a Strickland breakfast with 200 African Americans the next morning, rather than driving back to Columbus. It was the considered opinion of all of those who had been with her that day that we were exhausted. How she and the rest of the candidates in this "Ohio Democratic Dream Team" do this day after day is the question!

Thank goodness they do. This is our time and these are the candidates we have been waiting for!!

## ATTENTION PRECINCT COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

Actively working precincts is the key to a good election turnout, and a knowledgeable and energetic Precinct Committee Chairperson (PC) can make all the difference.

To help PC's with the latest techniques and strategies, SCPD is putting on a free **PC Training Workshop**. This workshop will present a practical approach to organizing your precinct, getting the people in your precinct educated about the candidates, and getting out the vote on November 7.

SCPD will present the workshop in Akron on September 7, and in Hudson on September 14.

**Please RSVP.** We ask that PCs RSVP so that we can have your precinct list printed and ready for you at the workshop.

This free training is sure to be valuable, and it comes just in time to really make an impact on the November election. Don't miss it!

### Akron Workshop

September 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

North Hill Public Library, 183 E Cuyahoga Falls Ave., Akron

RSVP by Sept. 5 to [ikunstel@neo.rr.com](mailto:ikunstel@neo.rr.com), or by phone at (330)-923-0732.

### Hudson Workshop

September 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hudson Public Library, 22 Aurora St., Hudson

RSVP by Sept. 12 to [ikunstel@neo.rr.com](mailto:ikunstel@neo.rr.com), or by phone at (330)-923-0732.



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 SBAUMAN@NEO.RR.COM

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## MAKING YOUR VOTE COUNT: A Voters' Rights Forum

The SCPD Issues Committee is hosting a forum on Sunday, September 10, 2006, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, at the downtown Akron Summit Public Library. The purpose of the forum is to educate the public about changes that impact the voting process, actions to protect the vote, and what voters need to bring to the polls. Many Ohio citizens are very concerned about the potential impact of Ohio House Bill 3 on voters' rights, as well as how electronic voting machines affect the process. As voters, we need to be aware of what we need to do on Election Day and how we can take action to improve the system.

Speakers for the forum are:

Peg Rosenfeld—League of Women Voters Election Specialist. Speaking on House Bill 3, election audits, provisional ballots, and update on legal challenges on House Bill 3.

Charles Walker—Executive Director Police Community Dialogue, former Board Member of Community Action Agency, Testified before the Ohio Legislature against House Bill 3 and other legislation. Speaking on Voter's ID.

Ron Olson—Software project manager with 27 years of experience in Information Technology; Worked as Election Day Technician in Cuyahoga County; Worked with Ohio Vigilance and CASE Ohio since 2005; Wrote CASE report with recommendations to the Cuyahoga Election Review Panel. Speaking on Adopt a Board of Elections.

Victoria Lovegren, Principal, Election defense Alliance; Board Member of Common Cause of Ohio; Founder, Ohio Vigilance; Organizer of "We Count" –a conference about Fair Elections and Democracy. Speaking on electronic voting machines, Project Post.

The Portage Democratic Coalition is co-sponsoring the forum. The public is invited.

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**Summit County  
 Progressive Democrats,  
 an Ohio chapter of**

