



The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 52, No. 9

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

October 31, 2018

Our Favorite Candidates



Steven M. Dettelbach for Attorney General



Rich Cordray for Governor



Judge Melody Stewart for the Ohio Supreme Court



Rob Richardson for Treasurer



Jeanine Donaldson for Ohio Board of Education



Kathleen Clyde for Secretary of State



Zack Space for Auditor

Our Favorite Issues

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Issue 11: VOTE YES on Mental Health Equity

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

Equity is the superior growth model. It is the path to prosperity – for all.

- PolicyLink

Behavioral Health disparities in Lucas County means that minorities such as African Americans are more likely to be needlessly hospitalized, experience unnecessary direct encounters with the criminal justice system and less likely to receive access to proactive mental health care compared to whites.

Ultimately, then, not only are underserved populations deprived of positive mental health outcomes, the lack of health equity for blacks also jeopardizes valuable economic benefits for the community and the entire county.

Last year the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) served 32,000 people in order to save lives and lead individuals to recovery. Thirty three percent of those served were African Americans and another six percent were Latino. Ten thousand of the 32,000 were youth.

The MHR SB, now in its 50th year, is currently running Issue 11, a renewal levy to continue promoting inclusion, diversity and health equity. I spoke with MHR SB Executive Director Scott Sylak, to discuss the levy and issue of mental health equity. This is the final installment of our two-part conversation.

Perryman: What is meant by the term health equity?

Sylak: We want to improve health outcomes for minority populations who would otherwise not receive the quality of care that will allow them to thrive in their communities. So we know that in receiving quality behavioral healthcare you are more than likely to improve your physical healthcare too. People who are not stable on their psychotropic medications are unlikely to be taking their insulin, for instance, or their high blood pressure medications, cholesterol medications or other more serious medications, so that using be-

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Issue 5 and 6: Building Bridges

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

Let's not play these kids cheap; What do they have that is a strength? What do they have that you can approach and build a bridge upon? Education is all a matter of building bridges...

- Ralph Ellison

When Romules Durant, Ed.D. became Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools (TPS) he faced a city frustrated with the district's state of affairs. Contentious discussions among stakeholders and critics about persistent budget challenges; pemicious labor relations and piteous student performance were the norm.

Currently, TPS is seeking two renewal levies – Issue 5, a 6.67 mill ten-year renewal for emergency requirements and Issue 6, a 5.8 mill five-year renewal for current expenses and permanent improvements. No new money is being requested, so the average homeowner of a house valued at \$65,000 will continue to pay the same \$20 per month that they've already been paying.

Today, only five years after taking the reins, Durant enthusiastically trumpets a new and much improved school system designed to meet the current and future needs of contemporary students.

I spoke with Dr. Durant concerning the levy and the current state of the District.

Perryman: Why should the public approve Issue 5 and 6?

Durant: Again, to speak on the progress the district has made since I came in as superintendent from day 1 up unto this point. In 2010 our graduation rate was at 63%. Within my first year of work, we jumped to 70.3%, then 72%, to where now we're at 79%. Our minorities were graduating around 50% and now they're up to 76.7%. Not only that but we cleared \$100 mil-

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Community Calendar on page 4

OHIO DEMOCRATS

PUT PEOPLE FIRST

ROB RICHARDSON
for Treasurer of State

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for Justice of the Supreme Court

KATHLEEN CLYDE
for Secretary of State

RICH CORDRAY & BETTY SUTTON
for Governor & Lt. Governor

STEVE DETTELBACH
for Attorney General

ZACK SPACE
for Auditor of State

SHERROD BROWN
for U.S. Senate

MICHAEL P. DONNELLY
for Justice of the Supreme Court

Democrats have a **Blueprint for Ohio** that ensures:

Access to affordable health care

Jobs with a living wage

Family economic security

Access to quality education and job training

Find your polling place and commit to vote at iwillvote.com/OH

Paid for by the Ohio Democratic Party

The Hidden America Comes Out of Hiding

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

The tumult and fractious arguments of the present day political discourse is peppered with both angry rancor and name calling and a constant stream of fabricated lies from the White House.

One can get the sense, and a morbid sense at that, that the current political roiling is taking a heavy toil on any semblance that American politics is seen as being benign, civil or well behaved.

To say that it has become a blood sport is apparent. The cauldron heat of the recent Kavanaugh hearings exposed a grand canyon of mistrust between the warring political parties and the resultant wounds may take years to heal.

Any remote semblance of party cooperation on important issues is seemingly out of the window with both parties taking a "no prisoners" approach.

President Trump is, in my opinion, downright giddy with excitement about the chaos he is both contributing to and benefiting from.

Herr Trump, the P.T. Barnum of political Kabuki, is quite content and cozy in his cocoon of mis-directions and lies that foment intense blowback from the opposing party wherever he campaigns and brazenly lies about obvious facts.

From where I sit, Herr Trump has no inner moral code or compass and his levels of human empathy and compassion do not even register on a humanity Geiger counter.

The Republican GOP has totally abdicated any remote sense of checks and balances on the White House and are mute and deaf when they are confronted about their professed lofty standards of balancing the budget, fighting for the middle class and having a vibrant foreign policy against strong men and outright thugs who masquerade as national leaders.

It appears that the GOP is quite content with being amoral regarding the shenanigans of Herr Trump; and they do not wish to or want to stand up to him for their fear of being "tweeted to death" or Herr Trump castigating them at one of his tax payer-paid pep rallies held in safe red-ribbed states.

The Democrats are still using smoke signals to try to cobble together a coherent message of healthcare, infrastructure, saving Medicare and Social Security and a compassionate plan for immigrants properly seeking asylum.

A curse on both houses! Neither party is winning any plaudits for their negative conduct of not governing and especially not working with each other for the good of the commonweal.

Lest anyone forget, Herr Trump is simply the poster boy of the seething anger and bitterness that his GOP base is channeling through him and if Herr Trump constantly lies and belittles people, so be it!

His base is "good to go" about that. They are willing to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to his excesses and apparently even in cases wherein they will not benefit from any anticipated GOP sponsored plans to cut back on the social financial safety net of this society.

A word of caution: Do not let the GOP con you by saying that your Medicare and Social Security benefits are "entitlements!" They are not. They are earned and you need to fight tooth and nail to prevent the GOP from slashing those benefits so that they can make up for the giant financial hole they

created when they brazenly gave away the treasury to give their cronies and corporate fat cats mammoth tax cuts.

You would think that Herr Trump's base would be wise to the switch and bail tactics that the GOP is using but as long as Trump gives them a nightmare that millions of immigrants will be any day at their front door eating their beans and bread and stealing their cars, his base will stay put.

The politics of fear is not new. White landlords in the South have used that tactics for decades to divide and conquer poor white and black sharecroppers so that they would not organize and demand the rudiments of fair housing, pay and benefits.

The fear mongers used race and intermarriage as their fear tactics to tell the poor white farmer that big, black and burly Negroes were wild eyed about their fair-skinned white daughters or that black people would be sitting next to them in schools and in their churches...so watch out!

Herr Trump is reading out of the same racist playbook that George Wallace and David Duke used and he is doing so with gusto accompanied by bucking his eyes and saying how only he alone can solve these problems.

Mussolini would be green with envy if he could watch the sordid tactics of Herr Trump continually rip holes in the delicate gossamer fabric that we call democracy.

Trump has stirred the bottom crusty dredges of the pot and they have responded to his call (no longer a dog whistle!) and there is a coarsening of the political relationships between people. The battle lines have been drawn and there is no foreseeable end in sight.

If I was to get "spiritual" on you, I would say that a negative spirit has been unleashed in America and it is both energizing Trump and his base.


Trump has no use for democracy since it does not elevate him to the pinnacle of unbridled power and privileges, like the sultans of Saudi Arabia enjoy or Kim Jung Un (his lover in Korea) or other despots that rule by absolute fiat.

The only check that the populace has on autocratic wannabees like Trump

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**Save Money. Save Lives.
A Better Way.
Vote FOR Issue 10.**

- ✓ Issue 10 builds a Solutions Center so people who need help, get help. And people who need to be in jail, will be in jail.
- ✓ But jail is not the place for people with addiction and mental health issues.
- ✓ Even better, taxpayers will save millions every year by focusing on treatment and not costly jail time.



Paid for by Citizens for a Safe Lucas County



Vote FOR Issue 9

Together, we protect kids.

Find us on Facebook [lucas4kids.com](https://www.facebook.com/lucas4kids)

Lucas County CHILDREN SERVICES

Paid by Committee for Children • Summit County, Treasurer • 95 N. Cox 2302, Toledo, OH 43604

- ✓ Not a new tax — renews an existing measure.
- ✓ Pays for programs and services that keep kids safe.
- ✓ LCCS helps 1 in 8 Lucas County children.
- ✓ Backed by business, labor, and both Republicans and Democrats.

Why Issue 10 Is So Important

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Lucas County Jail is, quite simply, a facility with a flawed design that is falling apart and has been falling apart for some years now. It's a building with so many problems that repairs are no longer possible. It's a building with so many flaws that it inhibits the efficient dispensing of the criminal justice system.

The Sheriff's Department and the Lucas County Commissioners are proposing that a new jail be built, along with a Behavioral Health Solutions Center that will serve as an alternative to jailing those who have mental illnesses or who have substance abuse issues and present no harm to the community.

When Sheriff John Tharp came into office, he knew immediately that a new facility was needed. The current jail has massive problems that he realized could no longer be fixed and, even if they were, the issues of a design that caused inefficiencies would be solved by any kind of repairs. He set about trying to find a site downtown for a new facility.

The problem with trying to build a facility downtown was financial – the costs were extravagant – not at all suited for the type of building that prove to be efficient and cost-effective.

The solution, he realized after examining the costs with the County Commissioners, would be to build a new facility, a distance away from downtown.

The plan has arrived as a state of the art facility that will save taxpayers millions of dollars, that will continue to allow the community to build upon the successes of criminal reform efforts, will create over 800 union jobs and will improve operational efficiencies.

The Solution Center, an important part of the project, will enable law enforcement officials to seek a different way to dealing with the mentally ill or those under the influence of drugs or alcohol who do not need to be placed in

jail. Such solutions save money by reducing the number of people taken to jail and enhance public health and safety.

The new facility will be financed by a levy – Issue 10 – on the November ballot. If voters approve, the bond will generate \$10 annually - \$185 million in all – and will cost the homeowner of a \$100,000 home, \$4 per month over the life of the bond issuance.

The planned building will be located in north Toledo in the Alexis Road and Detroit Avenue neighborhood. The location will prove to be very convenient to so many area law enforcement officials who will benefit from the greatly enhanced efficiencies of a state of the art facility, the ease of access to the facility and the ability to provide alternate treatment for those who do not belong in jail.

Community safety will also increase since the new facility will be located away from densely populated neighborhoods.

The replacement of the downtown jail is important not only to end the endless and increasing expense of operating and repairing an outdated, badly designed facility but also to improve the safety of law enforcement officials and the inmates who live there.

Vote FOR Issue 10.

Hidden America... continued from page 3

is the power of the ballot box. If citizens are satisfied with the institutional gutting being done by Herr Trump, they will stay the course and continue to vote for him if only to spite Hispanics, African-Americans and uppity women voters.

One can only say as former president Harry S. Truman noted: You get the government that you deserve.

If Herr Trump keeps the Senate and the House stays as is, he will see it as a mandate to go further rogue and create deeper havoc in and among the three branches of government.

If the political correction does not happen with the upcoming mid terms then the country will suffer through two more years of a developing story that will show whether or not Americans have the stomach to wait it out until the next presidential election of 2020 before they have the courage to give Herr Trump his walking papers and only then start to remedy the damages that he and his ilk have gladly did to the republic.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Form No. 11-A Prescribed by the Secretary of State (08-17) print clearly

Absentee Ballot Application

R.C. 3509.03

Voter Name Required 1 First _____ Middle _____
Last _____ Suffix _____

Date of Birth Required 2 Date of Birth (do not write today's date here) _____ MM/DD/YYYY

Address at Which you are Registered to Vote Required 3 Street Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ County _____
City/Village _____ ZIP _____

Mailing Address Required 4 Street Address (or P.O. box) _____
City/Village _____
State _____ ZIP _____

Identification Required 5 Your Ohio driver's license number (2 letters followed by 6 numbers) _____ OR
 Last four digits of your Social Security number _____ OR
 Copy of a current and valid photo identification, military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that contains your name and current address.

Election Required 6 Date of Election (do not write today's date here) _____ MM/DD/YYYY
 General Election Special Election
 Primary Election For a PARTISAN primary election only, you must choose the type of ballot:
 Political party ballot Name of Political Party _____ Issues only ballot

Affirmation Required 7

- I wish to have an absentee ballot mailed to me at the address listed above.
- I understand this request must be received by my board of elections no later than noon on the Saturday before Election Day if by mail or by 2 p.m. the day before the election if in person.
- I understand that if an absentee ballot is mailed to me and I change my mind and go to my polling place to vote on Election Day, I will be required to vote a provisional ballot that cannot be counted until at least 11 days after Election Day.
- I understand that, if I do not provide the required information, my application cannot be processed.
- I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that I am a qualified elector and the statements above are true.

Signature X _____
Today's Date _____ MM/DD/YYYY

To assist the board of election in contacting you in a timely manner if your application is incomplete, please provide the following information.
Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.

Community Calendar

October 31
Braden UMC All Saints Day Celebration: 6 to 8 pm; Costumes welcome dinner provided

November 1
Kwanzaa Park Blockwatch and Neighbors' meeting: 6 pm; Featured speaker is Cindy Geronimo, of the Department of Neighborhoods Code enforcement; Developing a safe neighborhood will be addressed; Come enjoy conversation and complimentary refreshments; The Padua Center; All interested persons are welcome

November 3
Epworth UMC Church Arts and Crafts Bazaar: 9 am to 4 pm; Over 60 vendors – cards, jewelry, books, glass works toys, etc

November 6
ELECTION DAY!

November 7
Effects of Addiction on Our Families and Communities: 6 pm; Question and answer session with community leaders; Robinson Elementary; Become part of the solution to end addiction in Lucas County

The Case FOR Issue 9

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Issue 9 supports Lucas County Children Services, the county agency responsible for protecting children from abuse and neglect. This issue renews an existing but expiring 1.85 mill property tax levy for child protective services in Lucas County.

Issue 9 is not a new tax and would be in effect for 10 years. I will generate \$13.3 million annually and will provide LCCS with a stable sustainable source of income as it meets an increasing need for child protection in the community.

In 2017, LCCS spent a total of \$45.5 million to protect children, up from \$42.4 million in 2014 reflecting the increasing need for services as more children were placed at risk. Thanks to the support of the residents of Lucas County, LCCS has a second operating budget, assed in 2016, of a five-year, 1.8 mill measure that runs through 2021 and represents \$12.8 million in essential operating revenue.

These local levies are so important because of the dearth of support from the state for child protection. Ohio currently ranks 50th in the nation in state funding for child protection – if current state funding levels were doubled, Ohio would still rank last. That means that counties and their residents must pick up the slack.

This issue – Issue 9 – means that the homeowner of a \$100,000 house will pay \$56.66 annually – about \$4.72 per month – to help keep our children safe.

In order to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used wisely, LCCS

is committed to holding the line on spending while continuing to operate an agency that is one of the most innovative, efficient and effective child protection agencies in Ohio. LCCS spends the largest proportion of its budget – \$12.8 million – to keep 150 caseworkers on staff. Foster care costs \$67.5 million and contracts for services to clients cost \$1.8 million.

The agency helps one in eight children in Lucas County, so continued funding is vital as the job of child protection continued to get more complex and challenging. Overall referrals for suspected child abuse have increased nearly 14 percent since 2014. The number of children in LCCS care and custody remains steady at about 1,000 every day

In 2017, Lucas County experienced 1,600 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect – twice the number of children the case workers saw in 2011, largely a result of the ongoing heroin and opiate epidemic. In fact substance abuse is the most frequently cited reason.

Issue 9 will allow LCCS to continue its efforts to keep children with family whenever possible by providing caseworker and financial support and will help LCCS maintain its position as n of the top-performing public children services agencies in Ohio. It will allow LCCS to continue its move to mobile technology, allowing caseworkers to be more efficient and effective. It will allow the agency to continue its collaboration with law enforcement, organized labor and other area partners.

Issue 9 protects children. Vote FOR Issue 9

Vote Early for Ohio Democrats

Ohioans have a tremendous opportunity in 2018 not only to shape the future of our state for many years to come but also to send a message to the rest of America and the world.

On Nov. 6, we have the chance to declare that the Buckeye State is still the heart of it all -- that we reject the politics of division, corruption and chaos we are seeing in Columbus and Washington today, and that we embrace fairness, and community, and opportunity for everybody.

It's time to put people first, and elect Rich Cordray and Betty Sutton, and Democrats up and down the ticket to make sure Ohioans have access to affordable health care, quality education and good-paying jobs. It's time to elect leaders we can trust.

If we can turn Ohio blue, retake the governorship, win Ohio's other four statewide offices, and make gains at the Ohio Statehouse, it will send a signal that Ohio is a state that will take the lead and make change happen.

Every election matters, but the 2018 election matters more than most. With the Ohio governor, secretary of state and auditor sitting on the redistricting commission, the results of those elections this year will reverberate in Ohio until 2031.

And you can cast your ballot almost every day between now and Election Day -- even on Saturday, starting on Oct. 27.

For Attorney General, Steve Dettelbach will continue the work he's done as a U.S. Attorney and a career federal prosecutor. Steve has vowed to stand up for the vulnerable and hold the powerful accountable.

Auditor candidate Zack Space is running a hard-charging campaign to restore faith in Ohio's broken political system. Zack is on a crusade to shine a light on the corrupting influence of money in politics, and to do his part to eradicate partisan gerrymandering in Ohio that results in political extremism and dysfunction.

One of the most qualified Secretary of State candidates in Ohio history, Kathleen Clyde is a leading state legislator who has focused her entire career on protecting voter rights. Kathleen is committed to making sure our elections are secure, our districts are fair, our map-making is transparent, every voice is heard, and every vote is counted.

Clyde recently attended a NAACP candidate forum in Cincinnati that her opponent said he would attend but never showed up. As Sherrod Brown often says, this election is about who you're fighting for and what you're fighting against.

Rob Richardson, a longtime champion for workers across Ohio, is running for state Treasurer to bring accountability, innovation and opportunity back to the office.

For the Ohio Supreme Court, Judges Melody Stewart and Michael Donnelly, are highly qualified, deeply passionate, and will help bring more balance to the court. They will work (as they have worked for years) to increase

access, accountability, and transparency in Ohio's criminal justice system.

Find all the information you need to make your voice heard by voting early or on Election Day Nov. 6 at IWillVote.com/OH.

Issue 12 Working in Our Community.

Local small business people Fred Michael, Laura and Andy Vargas gather to support Issue 12.

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Diversified Contractors Accelerator Program (DCAP) provided financial solutions to encourage increased participation by local minority and women-owned contractors in construction projects. Issue 12 supports business people like those pictured above.

Please vote for Issue 12, Not a New Tax.

- 100% of funds are used for job creation efforts in Lucas County.
- Issue 12 is supported by business and labor, including the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Paid for by Committee for Jobs

Candidates Forum and Voter Registration Panel

By Denise Black-Poon, NANBPWC/AKA
Guest Column

A Candidates Forum and Voter Registration panel discussion took place on Wednesday, Oct 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the New Life Center at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1430 W. Bancroft, Toledo, Ohio.

The purpose of this forum was to enlighten the community on the candidates and issues that will appear on the November 2018 election ballot.

The guest panelists who spoke on behalf of their candidacies were: Joe McNamara, candidate for Lucas County Judge of Clerk of Common Pleas; Joel Kuhlman, candidate for judge on the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals; Lindsey Webb, candidate for Lucas County Treasurer, Sandy Spang, candidate for Lucas

County Board of Commissioner, Stephanie Eichenberg, vice president of the Toledo Board of Education. Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz also spoke as did Toledo Councilman Larry Sykes who addressed issues concerning child and family services.

Each panelist presented information about changes that were taking place and how this election would affect Toledo and the surrounding area. Special attention was paid to issue 1 which is a state issue on neighborhood safety, drug treatment and rehabilitation. Issue 15 was also another big issue concern for the City of Toledo that deals with the regional water commission charter amendment. The Toledo Public Schools' levy renewal was also the focus of attention or many in attendance.

Candidates reinforced the importance to get out and vote. Information and forms were presented on voting locations, registering to vote, candidates running for office, issues on the ballot and why it's important to vote.

This candidates forum and voter registration drive was a joint collaboration with National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Toledo Club and Maumee Bay Adult and Youth Clubs; YWCA of Northwest Ohio; Top Ladies of Distinctio; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; YMCA; LMHA; Toledo Public Schools; Books 4 Buddies; ABC Healthcare; Monroe Neighborhood Center, and the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Beta Gamma Chapter.

There is still time for early voting. These organizations encourage everyone to partner with others and go to the polls to vote. Make every vote count. Voting gives you the right to choose your representatives, give you the power to question decisions, and shows that you're a responsible citizen.



Perryman, Issue 5 and 6... continued from page 2

\$100 million out of the budget. Our enrollment in 2010 was at 22,000; went down to 21,000; We are now up to 23,000, taking us back to our enrollment back when it was 10 years ago. So again, we're gaining more kids and increasing our graduation rate within it, all happening within the last five years.

Perryman: What other changes are you proud of?

Durant: Coming into the district, we literally had only 4 Advanced Placement courses. Right now we're at 23. Also, through our College credit plus program we're adding about 800-900 students taking college courses. 11% of last years' graduates all graduated with college credits. We have built 12 associates degrees during this time in TPS. We have more associate degrees than some community colleges have, all within TPS within that timeframe. We've also increased our industry partners to over 600. At the same time when I came in, there were 80 internships in the district and 95% of them were all at Toledo Technology Academy. We are now at over 500 internships throughout the district.

We have added 2200 students into our career tech, meaning more kids are now going into career technical programs than at any other time. Kids can choose to go into agriculture, botany and aviation. We have magnet schools. All our magnet schools have a 98% graduate rate. Jones Leadership Academy is one that focuses on business. You walk out of there with potentially an associate degree in business. And I'll give you another one, through a new partnership between TPS, ProMedica and the University of Toledo, we will be launching a pre-med high school.

So again, developing and launching more the-

... continued on page 12

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Rich Cordray, Candidate for Governor, Receives Support from Area Union Leaders

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Calling the event "Labor Day for Cordray", a very enthusiastic and energized group of over 100 union members welcomed candidate for governor, Rich Cordray, last Friday to Laborers Local 500.

The event was organized and moderated by Local 500's leader and Business Manager David Fleetwood. Fleetwood said "Because it had been rumored in some circles that the northwest Ohio union labor force was somewhat divided or undecided as to who they were endorsing for governor, we wanted to make it perfectly clear by our presence and verbal confessions that although there maybe one or two local unions that have for whatever reason chosen to abandon the solidarity of our ranks, the overwhelming majority of union labor in northwest Ohio stands with the only candidate that we believe stands with us."

Prior to the event, Toledo Federation of Teacher's President Kevin Dalton stated: "The Toledo Federation of Teachers has endorsed Rich Cordray because he cares about public education. He is committed to holding charter schools accountable while addressing issues that have become obstacles to the educational process"

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur introduced Rich Cordray who then spoke to the opiate crisis, healthcare, and restoring economic health to our local communities in Ohio. Cordray reassured the unions that Ohio will never be a right to work state "... If I have anything to say about it". Union Leadership sat attentively and then all participated in what they called "Roll Call." Each Union Leader along with NWO's AFL-CIO's Executive Secretary-Treasurer George Tucker touted the thousands of members they represent and why they were standing with Cordray/Sutton for Governor.

"Labor" Day for Cordray was celebrated by AFSCME Ohio Council 8, Boilermakers Local 85, Communication Workers of America Local 4319, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Greater Northwest Ohio AFL-CIO, IBEW Local 8, Insulators Local 45, Laborers Local 500, Ironworkers Local

55, Teamsters Local 20, Toledo Federation of Teachers, Toledo Firefighters Local 92, UA Local 50 Plumbers-Steamfitters-Service Mechanics, United Auto Workers Region 2-B, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75, United Steel Workers Local 1-346.



Baldemar Velasquez, founder of FLOC, addresses the audience



Rich Cordray speaks



Al Jones, David Fleetwood, Rich Cordray, Kevin Dalton



Please Join Business, Labor and Faith Communities in Supporting Issues 5 and 6. Not new taxes.

AFSCME Council 8
 AFSCME Locals 272, 349, 840, 2134, 2853
 Ark Church
 Baptist Council of Toledo & Vicinity
 Bethlehem Baptist Church
 Canaan Manifested Word Church
 Central Baptist Church
 Christ Congregational Baptist Church
 Church of New Beginnings
 Church of the New Covenant Baptist Church
 Communications Workers of America
 Corinth Baptist Church
 Deliverance House of God
 Eastern Star Baptist Church
 Ebenezer Baptist Church
 Faith Ministries International
 First Antioch Baptist Church of Christ
 First Church of God
 Friendship Baptist Church
 Garden of Prayer Church
 Gethsemane Christian Discipleship
 Glass City Church of Christ
 Grace Temple Church of God in Church
 Greater Northwest Ohio AFL-CIO
 Harvest Christian Center

Harvest Time Holiness
 Hope of Glory Church
 I.M.A. of Toledo
 IBEW Local 8,
 Political Education Committee
 Indiana Baptist Church
 Insulators, Local 45
 Iron Workers, Local 55
 Jerusalem Baptist Church
 Macedonia Baptist Church
 Majestic Praise Ministries LOGIC
 Mega Blessings
 Monroe Methodist Church
 Mt. Ararat Baptist Church
 Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 NAACP
 New Bethel Church of God in Christ
 New Light Church of God in Christ
 Northwest Ohio Baptist Association
 Oregon City Federation of Teachers

Praise City Church
 Resurrection Baptist Church
 Roofers, Local 134
 Second Baptist Church
 Serenity Church of God in Christ
 Shiloh Baptist Church
 Southern Baptist Church
 St. Marks Baptist Church
 St. Paul Baptist Church
 Teamsters - Local 20 Political Action Committee
 Temple of Praise
 The Cross Church, Inc.
 The Padua Center
 Third Baptist Church
 Toledo Association of Administrative Personnel
 Toledo Federation of Teachers
 Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Trinity Faith Tabernacle
 United Auto Workers
 United Pastors for Social Empowerment
 Walk The Word Ministry
 Walls Memorial Chapel AME Zion Church
 Warren A.M.E. Church
 Worship Center



Toledoans United for Social Action Speak out on Issue 1

Special to The Truth

On Monday, October 29, Toledoans United For Social Action held a press conference to express the organizations support of Issue 1. The following are excerpts from their remarks

Rev. Marcia Dinkins, Ohio Organizing Collaborative & TUSA:

The Mayo Clinic has called the opioid addiction crisis that is killing 115 people a day in this country "the most important and most serious public health crisis" facing United States today.

It's a crisis we know all too well in Ohio. Ohio is among the top five states for opioid overdose deaths, with over twice the national per capita average. In 2017, more than 13 Ohioans died every day.

Yet, unlike with other public health crisis, when it comes to addiction, we treat the disease not with healthcare but with incarceration, turning patients into criminals and creating new barriers that then impede people's capacity to recover and rebuild there lives. This approach is a mistake that has already cost too many lives.

In Ohio, we have the opportunity to finally change course and lead the way to a better direction--one that treats drug addiction as what it really is: a disease that kills, but one that can both be prevented and treated to make life better for millions of families.

It's time to stop treating people with addiction like criminals. With Ohio's Issue 1, we finally have the opportunity to move in a different direction and take an affirmative step toward our collective recovery. Given the breadth of this crisis, everyone loves someone who is impacted by opioid addiction and we all have a stake in a shared remedy.

Rev. John D. Walthall, Pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Toledo Ohio

We are failing to curtail the opioid crisis through incarceration because addiction is not a criminal justice issue--it's mainly a public health issue.

People suffering from addiction don't pose a significant public safety risk. The sad truth is that more often, addictive behavior hurts mainly the substance abuser and his/her own family. Ohio spends more than \$1.3 billion per year on a prison system where far too many people who pose very little risk to public safety sit behind bars for years. That cost leaves taxpayers hurting; if Ohio does not reduce prison overcrowding immediately, taxpayers will have to pay to build a new prison at a cost of \$2 billion and that will do nothing to guarantee that we'll have fewer opioid death.

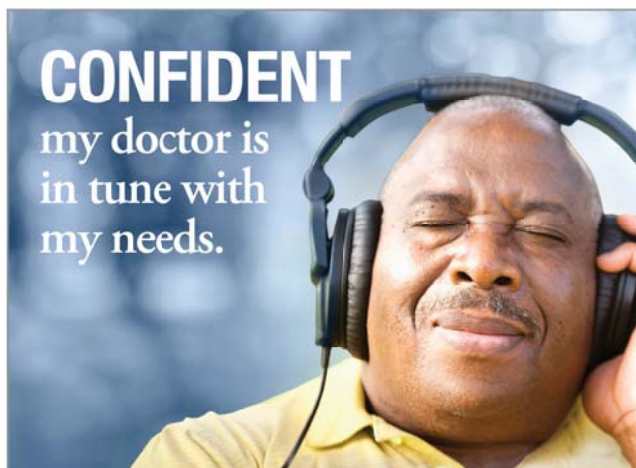
More than 2,600 people are currently in state prison for low-level drug possession offenses. Sending people struggling with addiction to prison sometimes removes access to drugs but sometimes not since imprisoned people can access illegal substances.

Ohio spends more to re-incarcerate people whose drug abuse was not effectively addressed earlier. Best justice practices demonstrate that supervision and treatment at the local level are more effective than state prison at addressing addiction and stopping repeat crime committed by people cealing with addiction.

Issue 1 reduces drug-possession--currently defined as fourth and fifth-degree felonies to misdemeanors--and requires that the savings from incarcerating fewer people are re-invested in services that actually address the addiction crisis including treatment and rehabilitation for the substance abuser. Five other states have taken action to reclassify drug felonies as misdemeanors (Alaska, Connecticut, Utah, California, Oklahoma) and a growing body of evidence shows treatment in the community produces better public safety results than incarcerating people. Combined with re-investing resources in public health treatment efforts, this policy can help increase public safety by allowing law enforcement to better spend resources on dangerous crimes, curtailing prison crowding and stopping new prisons from being built to house substance abusers that won't be helped by being behind bars in the first place.

Rev. William C. Davis, Retired Pastor of Braden UMC Toledo Ohio

...continued on page 11



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Meet the Mayor Draws Questions from Concerned Citizens

By *Tricia Hall*
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dozens of professionals, residents and City of Toledo employees crowded Our Brother's Place, located in downtown Toledo, on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 for a question and answer forum featuring Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

Event organizers Keith Mitchell and Paul Hubbard opened the forum by explaining that the Mayor would answer any question that is asked, laying out the question format, and introducing the mayor. In addition to the mayor, there were two staff members and two city council representatives in attendance.

The first question asked what was going on with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that has been featured in local news lately.

"Every organization listed on the resolution is worthy of support. The actual question is whether the federal government rules are followed, the rules must be followed to receive the funding. CDBG is federal money that funds neighborhood initiatives. We went through this process of collecting applications and presenting information to City Council, before additional needs were identified by these organizations. City Council passed Councilman Sykes's resolution, and I signed it. I support those organizations and signed the ordinance, but the federal government decides if we are following the rules or not," explained Kapszukiewicz.

The second question asked about the retention rates of minority Toledo Police Officers.

"I don't know the answer to that question, but when it comes to gender or race or other areas of improvement, we have to focus on recruitment and the pool of applications that meet the criteria. We are going to tweak the standards to increase the pool of qualified candidates. As I was told by an officer, the current standard only lowers the available pool of candidates," said the mayor.

... continued on page 14



Paul Hubbard, Mayor Kapszukiewicz, Keith Mitchell



Johnny Mickler Sr. and Mayor



Elgin Rogers, Councilman Tyrone Riley



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Social Action... continued from page 8

Throwing people in jail isn't a cure for addiction. Addiction is a disease, not a crime. The illness is one that is often rooted in and/or connected to bigger health issues like mental illness, genetic predisposition and environmental factors. Like all disease, without addressing root causes and pathology, the illness will persist even if you temporarily stop the symptoms--getting high--by keeping people behind bars.

We learned during the 1980's "war on drugs" that sending hundreds of thousands of people to prison separates families and destroys lives but actually does very little to address addiction. In fact, these policies added new dimensions to the addiction crisis, creating a cycle that leaves millions of substance abusers with criminal records that later impede their capacity to get jobs, reunite with families, finish school and rebuild their lives.

We should be learning from our past public policy mistakes, not repeating them: addiction, lack of access to health care, poverty and incarceration have already devastated too many communities. Poverty increases the risk of drug use and poor people are more likely to be put behind bars. The "war on drugs" policies persist, still putting over a half million people behind bars annually for smoking marijuana, taking pills or other drugs--exacerbating the cycle.

Brother Author Walker/Friendship Baptist Church/ Co- President of TUSA

In Ohio, we have an opportunity to move beyond division and polarization and work together to pass a policy that creates a long-term approach to an epidemic that clearly will impact generations of families.

Issue 1 is an effort to get past blame and past partisanship, allowing Ohioans to act together to disrupt this cycle and adopt a strategy that can more meaningfully address addiction by investing in health care, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The ballot initiative would require that state funds saved due to a reduction of inmates, resulting from the initiative's implementation, be spent on substance abuse treatment programs, crime victim programs, probation programs, graduated responses programs, and rehabilitation programs.

Rev. Willie L. Perryman, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church

When it comes to the opioid crisis, the real criminals--the prescription drug companies who manufacture and distribute massive quantities of addictive pills that have driven ever more demand for opioids--are still at large. PhRMA isn't facing any criminal penalties for their role in creating the epidemic. In fact, the biggest drug companies just got a huge reward in the form of tax breaks under the new law that the president signed last year. The largest drug companies got over \$6 billion in tax breaks under the new law this year alone.

While the drug companies are getting big breaks, Congress is doing very little to address the opioid crisis beyond lip service because politicians don't want to spend the federal money required on managing the crisis.

Although President Trump is soon expected to sign a law that will put around \$1 billion a year over the next 10 years into addressing the opioid crisis--most experts agree that amount is a drop in the bucket. At the height of the AIDS/HIV crisis--the last huge public health crisis--Congress spent over \$100 million over ten years--to address the epidemic.

Not only are the President and Congress failing to take meaningful action to address the crisis they all keep talking about to score political points,

but over the past two years Republicans leaders have actually taken us in the wrong direction by repeatedly trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act including Medicaid expansion which insures over 700,000 people in Ohio.

Nearly a million Ohioans that previously had no access to healthcare now have coverage thanks to Medicaid and the ACA marketplace, including people struggling with addiction. Research shows that the uninsured rate among people with opioid-related hospitalizations fell dramatically in states like Ohio that adopted Medicaid expansion, from 13.4 percent in 2013 (the year before expansion took effect) to just 2.9 percent two years later (2015). After neighboring Kentucky expanded Medicaid in 2014, the number of Medicaid beneficiaries using substance use treatment services in the state jumped by 700 percent.

The ACA required states to include SUD services as a covered Medicaid benefit. It also required that insurance companies cover mental illness (including addiction) as an essential health benefit and stopped insurers from charging people with pre-existing conditions, like mental illness and addiction, more for services and treatment.

Pastor James H. Willis, Sr./ Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church/ President of TUSA

Passing Issue 1 is urgent for people struggling with addiction, not just because putting them in jail won't help but because getting treatment will save lives and protect families.

Failing to pass this measure because of fear-mongering or partisan politics..... ultimately hurts everyone and damages our state. We can't wait any longer for politicians to take action..... It's up to the people of our state to take matters into our own hands..... and make a decision that could have life-saving consequences..... for hundreds of thousands of people and their families.

Addiction is a serious illness, but it's not a crime..... Putting substance abusers behind bars punishes substance abusers, families and taxpayers but it won't address the underlying issues or stem the tide of destruction..... and death that is already washing over our state.... It's time to change course and head in a better direction because, at the end of the day, this crisis is not about opioids--it's about saving the people we love.

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Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

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Perryman, Issue 11... continued from page 2

havioral healthcare as the bridge to improving healthcare in general is something we are very interested in.

Perryman: And closing disparities among people of color as compared to the majority population, I would assume.

Sylak: That's well stated. The other thing I wanted to bring up in relation to African American males being overrepresented is the realization that 36% of the individuals that receive services in our system are referred through the criminal justice system. The disproportionate minority contact within the criminal justice system is well documented in Lucas County and a strategy that we are implementing is to divert individuals away from the system. This strategy is changing the way we improve access to diversion programs, services or employment opportunities that can lead to stability within their communities.

Perryman: We've talked so much about the link between criminal justice and mental health, but there is also an important but underreported economic link to mental health. A study by the National Institute of Mental Health concludes that poor functioning while at work accounts for more lost days on the job than absenteeism. So that means that there's a lot of lost productivity due to people who are functioning, but who still have some mental health challenges. Additionally, the study estimates that over six percent of workers in this country have major depression, which translates to approximately \$37 billion lost to this illness every year. So this is an issue that's not just in the criminal justice system, but it's an issue that's in the everyday population that may indicate a silent epidemic.

Sylak: We need to do a better job of creating employment opportunities and supporting those who are already employed, there's no doubt about that. We also need to do a better job of identifying people earlier on in the spectrum of mental health issues so that doesn't evolve into more serious issues down the road, and that is one of the reasons why the continuation of these local levy funds are so important to us.

But yes, individuals who are more stable in their recovery are more productive in their employment, and are able to work and thrive. Many of the people in our system are employed and are employable and actually want to work.

Perryman: As a pastor, I have observed, that sometimes those who have

mental health challenges such as anxiety or depression, are sitting in our congregations. Someone has asked the question "What does depression look like?" The answer was, "Depression could be a black and blue bruise on a relative, it could be an overweight mother who forgets to take her blood pressure, it could be a corporate executive who wears an airtight game face all day, overworking themselves, or a person overeating or even a pastor who preaches with the Holy Spirit on Sunday but has some substance usage problems at night or even somebody just that's not functional at home as far as cleaning up the house or taking care of themselves personally," (Williams, 2008). So, my question is, how can we recognize mental health issues in our churches or in our families when the symptoms are not so pronounced, but where intervention is truly critical?

Sylak: Research tells us that most people, if they're feeling that way, that they will tell you. So asking them in a supportive manner, identifying why you are asking the question, is very appropriate. Educating yourselves as to what resources are available is the second step of helping that individual engage in at least an assessment to determine if there are more treatment services needed. There are many things out there that can help our local faith communities. The MHRSB has a mental health first aid component that is available to the faith community. It is an 8-hour training to help people identify when individuals are likely to need an intervention of some kind, somebody to talk to and what to do when that intervention moves beyond a spiritual base to a need for a clinical intervention, potential medication or hospitalization. We don't want to discount the role that spirituality plays in recovery. Many people enter recovery through spiritual guidance and there are many examples of both spiritual and clinical practices coexisting and supporting each other.

Perryman: Finally, talk about the groundbreaking work you've done in diversity and inclusion, including your efforts to engage with black vendors and to increase African-American employment throughout the system.

Sylak: It is my belief that our work in this area needs to be intentional. We need to create strategies that engage minority communities in a way that they are comfortable to seek employment, seek board leadership not only on our board, but also in the agencies that we fund. So, we have actually added policy language into our contracts and are monitoring efforts to improve percentage rates at our board level, our staff level, our agency employment level and at our agency board leadership goals. We want to ensure that our public monies reflect the demographics of those in which we represent. So we take our role of diversity and inclusion very seriously.

In addition, we have a director in charge of health equity. We have \$300,000 in our line item budget to improve health equity conditions in Lucas County as they relate to behavioral health. We have a \$100,000 budget for community funds of which many of those small \$5000 grants go to minority led enterprises in the communities that are engaging at risk populations and minority populations in a way that our provider networks will never be able to do. We know that by doing that, we can help improve development, social emotional development of youth, to help them develop better skills, to improve conflict resolution, perform better in school and to then ultimately help them to avoid contact with the criminal justice system.

Perryman: Is there anything else you want to add?

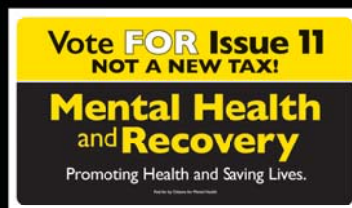
Sylak: Well, I'm going to remind you, sir, that this is not a new tax and we also have a fantastic levy chair, Pastor Donald L. Perryman, if you want to call him for any additional questions (Laughter).

Perryman: Thank you!

* full disclosure: Donald L. Perryman is a former board member of the MHRSB and is current levy chairman for Issue 11.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhopepastor.org

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New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Praise City - Toledo
UAW Local 12
Wes: Toledo Democratic Club
Toledo Police Department
Gary Johnson
Open Door Ministry
The Victory Center

Perryman, Issue 5 & 6.. continued from page 6

gard to college career readiness. And, kids also have an option to attend traditional schools that have vocation. So right now, Rogers already has construction academy within Rogers High School. Next Fall, Waite High School will also have a construction academy within the school.

Perryman: What separates TPS from other like schools?

Romules: Whether urban or other schools, TPS is the most comprehensive school district in Northwest Ohio and in the State of Ohio. Meaning, we have as many programs as Penta County. We offer as many AP courses or foreign language courses as anyone else, including Latin or Russian. Our kids can take courses for college credits. We would have the highest enrollment of 8th graders in college in the state because Toledo Early College is providing, and we're the only ones right now, that allow 8th graders to have admission. So again, when you say what separates us from them? I'm

Perryman, Issue 5 & 6.. continued from page 12

not talking about only urban schools, I'm talking about all school districts because when you look at our thematic schools, a good percentage of the students come from the suburbs.

Perryman: The reality is that we're talking about 21st Century urban education, which is very different from that which I experienced several decades ago or that you went through recently. Urban education today has numerous challenges, evidenced by the F received by TPS on its most recent State Report Card.

Durant: So, if a child was already 2 years behind before they even start school, it's a social issue that says we've got a system that's not aligned to today's time and these kids are showing up already a year to 2 years behind. They don't grade kindergartners when they first start off because if they did they might be establishing that there are a lot of failing communities.

Perryman: So, the difference between TPS and others, including charter or even private schools, is that TPS educates kids who are disadvantaged or disabled and they are factored into the mix whereas other schools are able to exclude these particular students from their systems.

Durant: That's exactly right. Here's the thing, just this year we added 452 kids, who have never been in TPS, with Individual Education Plans (IEP), special ed. Educating those students is something we've got to take on. 20% of our student population is in special ed. We have 2000 kids who are homeless and another 360 are in foster care. When you put it in perspective, that's close to about 3200 and 3300 kids within one district are either homeless or foster care, which is larger than some suburbs have total enrollment. The bottom line is we don't have a choice in who we do or do not educate because our door is open to everybody.

Perryman: Along those lines, a recent study done by scholars at the University of Virginia concluded that kids that went to a private school did no better than those who attended public school when you control for family income and family resources. So private schools are not a better choice for low-income students.

Durant: As poverty decreases, performance goes up. The issue is that we haven't solved the issue of poverty.

Perryman: So that grade of F on the report card is really a measure of the amount of poverty in the district.

Durant: I keep telling people that this is not a grade of this district; this is the grade of the social system that the district operates in and that's not something under our control. We can, however, bring efficiencies and partnerships, which provide the opportunity for our students to have a great educational experience. We have been building the bridges to accomplish that over these past five years.

Perryman: Developing community partners, in my opinion, appears to be invaluable.

Durant: There's no way TPS can do this alone. You need social service agencies and you need the churches. My thing is we've got to awaken the faith-based community to take back our community. I listened to you once give a sermon that asked, "When did we turn over our responsibility of raising kids to the schools?" I took notes, because it was the truth. It is impossible for schools to both rear or raise children and also educate them.

Perryman: Finally, five years is a very short period of time to move the needle forward. Yet, people want immediate results without understanding the complex dynamics of the large-scale institution that you lead. You've had to evaluate, correct and fine-tune the structure and processes of your system. You've had to build the bridge as you walk on it, so to speak.

How have you done it?

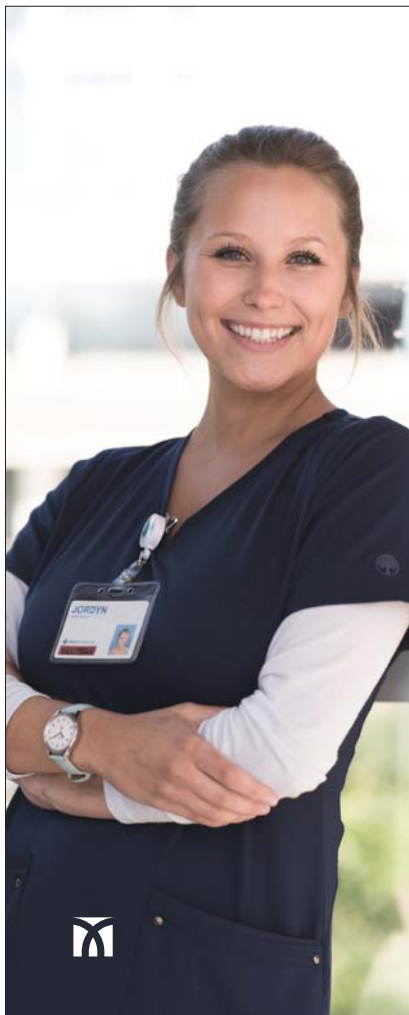
Durant: No sleep. (Laughter). Literally having all hands on deck and seeing the big picture. Seeing that I've got to work on the front end so I can get it on the back end. Sometimes you just don't know what you don't know, you need to try it out. It's really doing all those things as well as embracing the community, going to the churches, getting more and more people involved. The average tenure for a superintendent is 3 years, if you're African American or minority it's less than 3. You've really got to really keep moving.

I'm just TPS proud and I appreciate the support from yourself and others.

Perryman: Thank you.

Vote yes on Issue 5 and Issue 6!

(contact Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org)



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Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Uniform Sales & Services. Received in accordance with law until November 9, 2018, 3:00 PM ET. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

Oklahoma Shows Issue 1's Promise for Ohio

After sentencing reform, felony filings dropped, crime didn't rise

In 2016, Oklahomans voted to reclassify low-level drug possession and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors and direct the savings toward rehabilitative services. Since the law took effect, felony cases have dropped dramatically, setting the state on a path to lower incarceration rates without an increase in crime, according to a new report by the Oklahoma Policy Institute and Policy Matters Ohio.

Oklahoma's amendment mirrors Issue 1, which Ohio voters will decide this November. State Question 780 reclassified drug possession and low-level property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. State Question 781, a companion ballot initiative, directed the state government to calculate the savings of those measures through lower incarceration and distribute that money to counties to fund mental health, substance abuse, and other rehabilitative services. Oklahoma state legislators also passed laws that encour-

aged district attorneys to file more nonviolent felonies as misdemeanors and that raised the threshold for charging property crime as a felony.

SQ 780 and 781 took effect July, 2017. During the first year, felony filings dropped 29 percent. Misdemeanor filings have increased by 14 percent.

"In 2016 Oklahoma had the highest incarceration rate in the nation. Low-level drug offenses and property crimes were among the most common charges filed by district attorneys," said Director of Open Justice Oklahoma, at OK Policy, Ryan Gentzler. "The huge drop in felony filings shows we're heading in the right direction."

Total crime in Oklahoma fell by nearly four percent between 2016 and 2017. Nonviolent crime dropped by more than three percent. Rates of petty larceny, which is covered by SQ 780, fell since it was implemented.

OK Policy estimates SQ 780 will save the state nearly \$45 million over first six years. Those savings

haven't been realized yet because Oklahoma's reclassifications are not retroactive, Gentzler said. Under Ohio Issue 1, people with low-level drug possession felony convictions will see their convictions modified to misdemeanors. Policy Matters Ohio estimates Issue 1 will redirect \$136 million from state prison spending to community-based programs a year.

"With Issue 1, Ohio has the chance to build on what Oklahoma has done," Gentzler said. "We'd like retroactive reclassification so more people can free themselves from the baggage of a felony conviction. Ohio has the chance to help thousands of people rejoin society. I hope you take it."

The OK Policy team penned an open letter encouraging Ohioans to vote for Issue 1.

Meet The Mayor... continued from page 10

The third question asked how the new jail will, if the issues passes, impact homeowners in Lucas County.

"Issue 10, is a proposal to increase property tax. The funds would be used to build a new jail. I don't want to speak for the commissioners, but I will do my best to answer your question. This, issue is not pushed by the City of Toledo, but proposed by the Lucas County Commissioners, who operate the jail. The jail would be built in the Alexis Road and north Detroit Avenue area, not just a jail but a campus. If the issue passes, taxes would go up. They would argue that there is a need for a new jail. A federal judge issued an order about the jail and its current poor condition. There is some controversy about the proposed location, but the commissioners and even the Sherriff believe the proposed space and campus is the best option. The jail would be only one floor and offer mental health and diversion services, in hopes of reducing the jail population. There isn't enough room in the old jail site and vertical buildings aren't the best anymore. Reasonable people can agree or disagree, reasonably," he answered.

The fourth question asked what the difference between Issue 15 and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council

of Governments' (TMACOG) plan.

"Issue 15 is on the ballot because it is a regional water plan. Honestly, the suburbs are our customers and if the suburbs leave and get water elsewhere like Detroit, we could face higher rates. Toledoans could pay three times our current rate. We want to create a board, a regional board or commission to set the rates, and make decisions. Toledo would still maintain the ability to veto, this issue still protects Toledo. It's just changing the charter. Honestly, the difference between issue 15 and TMACOG is we would share decision making authority with the suburbs. It's an achievable compromise," answered Kapszukiewicz.

The fifth question was asked by resident, Gail Gant. "What is going on with St. Anthony Church. Why can't we save it, it's such a beautiful building."

"We saved it, we did save it. That building would have been demolished in 72 hours if we hadn't stepped in. The cathedral was built in the 1900s and the 10th tallest cathedral in the country. We don't know what the plan is, because the neighborhood must decide the plans. The Padua Center, the Junction Coalition and the residents will determine what happens next," Kapszukiewicz replied.

The sixth question focused on ways the City of Toledo is working to attract and retain businesses.

"When I talk to corporate leaders or even small

business owners, and I ask them what they see in their future as possible threats, they say the same. They are worried about workforce development. There are businesses who invest in Toledo but invest less than what they could invest. They can't find employees to build or transport their products or services. There are companies who want to build five structures or expand, but only had enough workforce for two," said the mayor.

The final question asked what the City of Toledo was planning to do for youth who need recreation activities.

"We currently have a basketball program that meets on Fridays between 8:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. We don't do a good job of publicizing what we do well in the City of Toledo, but we do need more positive options. I promise by the time the weather breaks this spring, we will have new ideas for youth in the recreation area," Kapszukiewicz said.

Event co-organizer Keith Mitchell delivered closing remarks and words of gratitude to the Mayor for participating in the open discussion. "I want to thank the mayor for coming today. I also want to encourage more events like this in the future. I know Paul, Fletcher {Fletcher Word, the third organizer} and I would love to see more events like this in the city."

2019 Proposed Service Changes



All comments must be received by 5:00 PM, Monday, November 12, 2018, to be included as part of the official record for final route adjustments and implementation purposes.

Reduced federal investment, higher operating costs due to inflation, and lack of support for adequate local funding are forcing significant changes to TARTA service for 2019.

Therefore, TARTA seeks public input on proposed service changes of various routes to be effective Sunday, December 30, 2018.

Proposed Service Changes:

- Discontinuation of Sunday service;
- Discontinuation of holiday service;
- Modification to Fixed Route services:
 - Discontinuation of **6 King Road/City of Sylvania**;
 - Schedule adjustments to **39 Franklin Park Mall/City of Sylvania/39M Monroe/Centennial-Sylvania**—4:15 PM outbound and 5:00 PM inbound trips discontinuation;
 - Schedule adjustments to **29X Waterville Express**—5:15 PM outbound trip discontinuation;
 - Introduction of experimental **47 Maumee-Arrowhead/Work Express**, to replace **43 Maumee-Arrowhead/Western via UTMC** name, routing, and schedule adjustments;
 - Weekdays—discontinuation of 6:00 AM and 10:30 PM lineups;
 - Saturday—discontinuation of 7:30 AM and 7:30 PM lineups;
- Modification of Muddy Shuttle and Walleye Shuttle services

Details of proposed routes updates are available at TARTA.com

Comments may also be made by writing to:
James K. Gee, General Manager
 Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
 PO Box 792
 Toledo OH 43697-0792



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ATTORNEY GENERAL
✓ STEVE DETTELBACH

SECRETARY OF STATE
✓ KATHLEEN CLYDE

AUDITOR OF STATE
✓ ZACK SPACE

TREASURER OF STATE
✓ ROB RICHARDSON

OHIO STATE SUPREME COURT
✓ MELODY STEWART

6TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS
✓ GENE ZMUDA

STATE REPRESENTATIVES
✓ PAULA HICKS-HUDSON (44)
✓ LISA SOBECKI (45)
✓ MICHAEL SHEEHY (46)

LUCAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
✓ GARY BYERS

LUCAS COUNTY AUDITOR
✓ ANITA LOPEZ

LUCAS COUNTY TREASURER
✓ LINDSAY WEBB

**LUCAS COUNTY JUDGE -
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**
✓ JOE MCNAMARA

**LUCAS COUNTY JUDGES
(UNOPOSED)**
✓ MYRON DUHART

✓ STACY COOK
✓ GARY COOK

U.S. SENATE
✓ SHERROD BROWN

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
✓ J. MICHAEL GALBRAITH –
District 5
✓ MARCY KAPTUR –
District 9

✓ **#1 - DRUG
TREATMENT AND
REHABILITATION**

✓ **#5 - TOLEDO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

✓ **#6 - TOLEDO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

✓ **#9 - LUCAS COUNTY
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

✓ **#10 - LUCAS
COUNTY JAIL
CONSTRUCTION**

✓ **#11 - LUCAS
COUNTY MENTAL
HEALTH**

✓ **#12 - TOLEDO-
LUCAS COUNTY
PORT AUTHORITY**

✓ **#15 - CITY OF
TOLEDO
- REGIONAL WATER
COMMISSION CHARTER
AMENDMENT**