



## Letter from the Chairman

Primary election season is here, and with it comes the Party's endorsement in the contested races for the Republican nomination for many offices. Clear choices are presented, and stark contrasts can be drawn in some instances, as the lead-up to the May 2nd election will present the challenge for our candidates to get their name out, and garner the support of the voters on Election Day.

### Endorsed by the Republican Party of Cuyahoga County:

**For Governor/Lt. Governor of Ohio – Jim Petro & Joy Padgett**  
**For Ohio Attorney General – Betty Montgomery**  
**For Ohio Auditor of State – Mary Taylor**  
**For Ohio Treasurer of State – Jennette Bradley**  
**For Ohio Secretary of State – Greg Hartmann**  
**For US Senate – Mike DeWine**  
**For US Congress, 10th – Mike Dovilla**  
**For US Congress, 11th – Lindsey String**  
**For US Congress, 13th – Craig Foltin**  
**For US Congress, 14th – Steven LaTourette**  
**For State Senate, 21st District – Burrell Antonio Jackson**  
**For Republican State Central Committeeman, 21st Dist. – David H. Gunning II**  
**For Republican State Central Committeewoman, 23rd Dist. – Ebony Grantonz**

The above list reflects a wealth of experience and leadership within our Party, and within our State and Federal government. These candidates have earned our endorsement because they are the ones who in every instance have presented the ideas and vision that will move our State forward and keep Republicans at the helm come November. We are proud to be working together with these fine men and women to register voters and turn out the vote in May, so that we continue building for the future.

You also need to be aware of some Republican candidates whose names you need to write-in on May 2nd:

**For Common Pleas Judge, General Division – Roger Kramer**  
**For Common Pleas Judge, General Division – Michael Blumenthal**  
**For State Representative, 13th District – John Hildebrand**

Of course we have a host of additional candidates in judicial and state legislative races who are not opposed for the Republican nomination in May, and whose

names you will be getting to know over the next few months. An entire candidate list is available at [www.cuyahogacountygop.com/candidates.asp](http://www.cuyahogacountygop.com/candidates.asp).

Ohio, and more precisely Northeast Ohio, will be in the national spotlight again this year as the November election approaches, and we intend to be prepared to deliver every potential Republican vote in this County for our candidates. I mention this because the value of a robust County Party organization, one that not only works well with our State and Federal candidates and Party organizations, but also coordinates efforts efficiently with our local candidates, club and ward organizations, as well as the grass-roots support that is integral to the success of all of these, has never been made more clear than right now. Within days of each other early this year, we have had Karl Rove, RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman, Vice President Dick Cheney, and President George W. Bush, all visit our area. Do not believe for a moment that this level of national focus is a passing trend.

If you think that the RNC and ORP consider Cuyahoga County important in their Ohio victory plans when our latest result was to lose the County by over 225,000 votes (Bush-Cheney '04), imagine how integral we become to the broader Republican victory when we are able to ensure the nomination and election of a gubernatorial candidate, in Jim Petro, who is capable of carrying this County. Imagine our ability to broaden our support base once we again prove our ability to elect, re-elect and retain our County Judges, and to pick up new County offices as well. Imagine our potential for leadership in the State Legislature when we not only elect Republican successors to our term-limited Republican Representatives, but also pick up a new seat (or more) for our Cuyahoga delegation to Columbus.

The only way to achieve these accomplishments is to start early and work hard on the ground all year. If you are concerned about Republican success in order to lead the turnaround of our region, help your County GOP to register voters and get our vote out at the polls on Election Day. If you support candidates other than those we have endorsed, I encourage you to be diligent in working for those candidates as well; for it is only through a well-fought, respectful campaign, which encourages full participation in our Party, that we can emerge from this Primary season stronger. I ask all Cuyahoga County Republicans to join with me and with our team to ensure that we have the largest primary turnout in memory, and that from May 3rd on to November, we build upon that strength.

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## Get Out & Vote May 2nd!

[www.cuyahogacountygop.com](http://www.cuyahogacountygop.com)

## How We Win in May and November...

I get the inevitable question again and again from politicians in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga Counties, how do we win in May and November? It seems, in a sense, to intrigue the ones asking; but, I can tell there is a sense of frustration that borders on actual fear. They seem to think that I know some secret strategy that the RNC or ORP has bestowed upon the working class Executive Director from Cuyahoga County and that I am holding closely this much regarded win strategy that will blow them all away and set a clear course for victory in 2006!

The question of course is; how do we win the midterms, and in due course, the Presidency in 2008 when we have downstate politicians who have single digit approval ratings, a scandal around every corner, a hotly contested gubernatorial primary, and an increasingly unpopular war abroad?

Sorry to disappoint all who have asked, but there is no secret strategy being passed down to me or anyone in Ohio. The answer is not as complicated as the question, and to grassroots activists it will remain the only natural explanation of how we have kept Ohio Republican for the past 16 years. My apologies to the money guys, but I am from the grassroots school of politics. Of course, getting elected requires finances and one certainly cannot win without the necessary funds to run a competitive campaign, but I believe that people base their voting decisions on actual physical contact from a political party and its candidates. It is not an easy strategy and it takes a monumental effort from EVERY Republican voter who wishes to once again maintain our majority in State and Federal Government. Democrats, Unions, 527 groups, and out of state billionaire financiers have tried to buy the voters' allegiances for the past eight years and have failed miserably. They have no grassroots movement in Ohio and are absent a coherent vision. You cannot buy passion or purchase pride in an ideal. The votes are not for sale but they are for the taking for the Party that best reaches out to them and executes its plan. So how do we win in May and November?

We register new Republican Voters via direct mail, phone banks and community outreach programs. In every county across Ohio the ORP has already begun voter registration phone bank drives, following up on direct mail fliers. Have you volunteered an hour or two a week yet to help out? If not, what are you waiting for? We all have busy schedules and it will take each of us putting something aside to go and make the calls, but in the end it will be a major piece of our Election Day celebrations.

We write op-ed pieces and letters to the editors along with calling into local radio stations that air political programming. If we all wait and hold our breath for the liberal leftist papers to print something nice about a Republican candidate, I fear we may ultimately be facing extinction. Pick a topic, make it your own, and send it to every local paper and call-in talk show. We need some positive press for our candidates and our Party platform and it needs to come from average voters, not politicians or their press secretaries.

We excel in the door-to-door ground game. This is truly where the rubber meets the road and is essential to the victory strategy. In a poll taken after the 2004 Presidential election, the number one reason people voted for a candidate was personal contact! Our local candidates already know this is necessary, but the grassroots machine across Ohio needs to help our statewide candidates with this effort. People vote top of ticket down, thus in Presidential years we get an extremely high voter turnout 60-70% and the midterm elections typically draw voters in as well, around 40-50%. This year we have Senate, Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor and State Treasurer races which will bring in a higher than average voter turnout in my opinion; and, by us introducing our statewide AND local candidates we will once again be successful. In addition, we have the ability to produce higher than average vote totals for our judicial and county wide candidates if we get out the door to door activities.

Then, of course, comes the final 72 hour GOTV effort, although I am amazed we still call it that. During the 2004 Presidential election I stayed awake the final four days and yes I was up election night/morning until Andy Card appeared and shortly after that John Kerry surprisingly conceded the election to President Bush. So my final 72 hour push was more like 115 hours and I am sure many of you were doing the exact same thing. The final voter push is mandatory and includes final yard sign placements, Election Day poll workers, booth officials, absentee ballot workers, and Election Day monitoring of voter activity with phone calls to those who haven't made it to the polls as of early afternoon.

Forget the down state issues, they are on their way out and we need to focus on who we want in. Realize that the scandals are here to stay for this election cycle and be determined to get the Republican vision and message out to combat the negative press pieces. Back whomever your candidate is for the Governor's race but encourage that candidate to campaign on vision and message not personal attacks and mudslinging. The more we as Republicans abuse President Reagan's 11th commandment (thou shalt not speak evil of another Republican) the more we damage ourselves and give ammunition to our political foes for this November's General Election. Finally, promote the fact that by the efforts of our brave men and women in the US military there are now two more countries that have experienced the importance of freedom and the benefits that it entails. Countries that have not previously held free elections are now holding what we often take for granted – the freedom to choose their leadership and their future.

And since I went for the Reagan quote earlier I will end with this- If not us, who? If not now, when? Please help us get our message out to the voters of Ohio for Election '06, it is how we will win in May and November.

Steven M. Backiel  
Executive Director  
[Republican Party of Cuyahoga County](#)

## Bring a Friend... Get Involved!

As the Republican candidate for Cuyahoga County Commissioner this year, I am often asked about my sanity. People – even good Republicans – are dumbfounded as to why I would want to run.

Usually they take a deep breath, look beyond me and say, “you know” then they pause and steal a quick glance at my eyes to be certain that I am willing to buy into their paradigm before continuing, “you can’t win.”

I usually grin, as if in recognition of their logic, and say, “yeah, but you never know.”

I tell you this story because at some point in the next few months, it is likely that we will cross paths and to save us both the discomfort of the previous conversation, I wanted to get the notion that a Republican cannot win in Cuyahoga County out of the way. I believe Republicans can (and will) win county office, and it is only a matter of time.

To win county-wide elections we need two things – a strong organization and good candidates. This year, I (along with Joe Gallucci our candidate for County Auditor) have made a commitment on the latter, and I think that our Chairman Rob Frost, Executive Director Steven Backiel and their staff are working hard on the first part.

It was only two short years ago that our party fielded no candidates in the county races. Previously, the chairman was often distracted by the operational and financial aspects of the party, leaving little time to recruit candidates. Now we are able to focus more on county and state races, as well as recruitment. As party members, it’s our duty to help both our candidates and organization grow and improve.

So, I want to challenge each of you to get more involved and bring someone new with you to get involved. We have so many great opportunities for participation from the Central and Executive Committees to the Young Republicans to Ward clubs. When was the last time you asked one of your friends or neighbors to join you at a RPCC event or activity? If each of us gets one more person involved with the party, we will be twice the size before the end of the year. Think of the exponential growth we will achieve. It is a simple and achievable goal for us to work towards.

I hope that when I see you next, you will pull me aside and introduce me to the person you brought with you to that event. It is what we must do to win!

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WENDELL ROBINSON AND HIS CAMPAIGN FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, GO TO [www.WENDELL2006.com](http://www.WENDELL2006.com)**

# Vote May 2nd!

## Cuyahoga County Republicans Endorse Former Voinovich Staffer to Challenge Kucinich

### Central and Executive Committees Select Mike Dovilla in 10th Congressional District

**PARMA, OHIO** – The Republican Party of Cuyahoga County has endorsed Mike Dovilla, R-Middleburg Heights, to be the party’s candidate for Congress in the 10th Congressional District of Ohio. The county GOP’s central and executive committees met jointly at the Schaaf Community Center on March 8, 2006, to endorse candidates seeking office in contested primaries.

County Chairman Robert S. Frost commented on the endorsement, “Mike Dovilla is a seasoned political veteran who combines Midwest values with a true understanding of how to get things done in Washington– and more importantly has probably written more legislation that has been passed into law than Dennis Kucinich. We are fortunate to have recruited a strong farm team of candidates, in Ed Herman two years ago, and now Mike Dovilla, who are dedicated enough to this region to fight for our effective representation in Congress.”

“I am honored to receive the support of my fellow Republicans here in Cuyahoga County,” Dovilla stated. “We must put Cleveland’s communities first. It’s time for this district to be represented by a full-time Congressman committed to the needs of our region and who better represents the values of this area. In the months ahead, we will continue to work hard to spread our message of hope and renewal for the people of the 10th District.”

Dovilla announced his candidacy for the U.S. House after returning home to Cleveland from a successful stint on Capitol Hill. His service in Washington included three years as a senior staffer to Ohio Sen. George Voinovich and two years as an executive director in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, a position to which he was appointed by President George W. Bush. Dovilla continues to serve the nation as a Navy Reserve intelligence officer.

For more information on Mike Dovilla, please visit [www.mikedovilla.com](http://www.mikedovilla.com)

Work with Mike to promote the 3Cs...

### **Continue putting Community back in Cleveland!**

#### **Economy & Jobs**

- Work with local business and communities to recruit people to live, work and raise their families in northeast Ohio’s communities and reverse Cleveland’s “brain drain”
- Leverage region’s strengths in medicine, education, the arts, and manufacturing – and expand investment in new industries
- Bring federal money back to the 10th District while ensuring fiscal accountability in Washington

#### **Community**

- Partner with local leaders and our neighbors of the 10th District for a better community
- Enhance quality education to be competitive in today’s global economy
- Ensure commitments to Social Security and Medicare are promises kept to our seniors

#### **National Security**

- Expand care of our veterans, from the heroes of World War II to the nation’s newest vets
- Support and equip our troops no matter where they are sent to fight for freedom
- Defend our homeland by aggressively prosecuting the War on Terror

# Your Primary Candidates for May 2nd

## Federal Candidates

MIKE	DEWINE	US Senate	
MIKE	DOVILLA	Congress	10th District
LINDSEY	N. STRING	Congress	11th District
CRAIG	FOLTIN	Congress	13th District
STEVEN	LATOURETTE	Congress	14th District

## State Candidates

JIM	PETRO	Governor
JOY	PADGETT	Lt. Governor
BETTY	MONTGOMERY	Attorney General
MARY	TAYLOR	Ohio Auditor
GREG	HARTMANN	Secretary of State
JENNETTE	BRADLEY	Treasurer of State

## Judicial Candidates

ROBERT	BRIAN	MORIARTY	Court of Appeals	8th District
RALPH		PERK	Court of Appeals	8th District
DICK		AMBROSE	Judge	General Division
MICHAEL		BLUMENTHAL	Judge	General Division
MARILYN	BARKLEY	CASSIDY	Judge	General Division
JOHN	F.	CORRIGAN	Judge	General Division
JEFF		HASTINGS	Judge	General Division
PEGGY	FOLEY	JONES	Judge	General Division
KATHLEEN	ANN	SUTULA	Judge	General Division
ROGER		KRAMER	Judge	General Division
SCOTT	RUSSO	MILLER	Judge	General Division
MARTIN	J.	KEENAN	Judge	Juvenile Division
CHRISTOPHER		MCMONAGLE	Judge	Juvenile Division

## Local Candidates

JOSEPH	A.	GALLUCCI	County Auditor	
WENDELL		ROBINSON	County Commissioner	
BURRELL	ANTONIO	JACKSON	State Senate	21st District
HOWARD		SHRIMPTON	State Senate	23rd District
DAVID		LYNCH	State Senate	25th District
BEVERLY		VALENCIC	State Representative	7th District
JIMMIE		HICKS, JR.	State Representative	9th District
ROSALIND	A.	MCALLISTER	State Representative	10th District
ANTHONY		CEFARATTI	State Representative	12th District
JAKE		HILDEBRAND	State Representative	13th District
WILLIAM	J.	MCGIVERN	State Representative	14th District
DAVID	G.	FAGO	State Representative	15th District
EDWARD	FITZPATRICK	HERMAN	State Representative	16th District
JOSH		MANDEL	State Representative	17th District
THOMAS	F.	PATTON	State Representative	18th District
MATTHEW	J.	DOLAN	State Representative	98th District
ROBERT	T.	BENNETT	STATE CENTRAL	23rd District
EBONY	F.	GRANTONZ	STATE CENTRAL	23rd District
DAVID	H.	GUNNING II	STATE CENTRAL	21st District
PHYLLIS	A.	MOSLEY	STATE CENTRAL	21st District
NANCY	D.	SUHADOLNIK	STATE CENTRAL	24th District
MIKE		WISE	STATE CENTRAL	24th District
DAVID	B.	BAILEY	STATE CENTRAL	25th District
VALERIA		MCPHERSON	STATE CENTRAL	25th District

**Please Get Out  
& Vote on May 2nd!**  
These candidates are counting on You!

## Upcoming Events

**RPCC Annual Picnic**

**Young Republicans National Convention - July 6-9**

**Hall of Fame Dinner**

To know the events and meetings that are happening in your community, please check out our website at

[www.cuyahogacountygop.com](http://www.cuyahogacountygop.com)

## Just So You Know

We have a new political coordinator, **Elizabeth LiBassi**.

After being an active volunteer for the past few years, she has joined our staff to help recruit volunteers and assist candidates. If you would like to become involved with the County Party, please email her at

[elibassi@cuyahogacountygop.com](mailto:elibassi@cuyahogacountygop.com) or call at **216-621-5415**.