



### **FDITORIAL**

# Voters should choose Democrats statewide

### Statewide executive offices need thorough housecleaning

Any consideration of the candidates for state office this year must begin with an understanding of what is happening on the national level.

Our review of the national scene leads us to endorse the entire slate of Democratic candidates for U. S. Senator, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, and the Ohio Supreme Court.

Fact is, if we evaluated each race in isolation, we would likely come to the same conclusion based on each candidate's record and stated policy positions.

We are living in perilous times. We have a dangerous man in the White House. Donald Trump is ignorant of American history, ethically deaf, morally blind, and with a personal compass so stuck on self as to render him contemptuous of a majority of his fellow citizens, especially the 99% of us who are not super rich.

He is using all the powers of the Presidency, constitutional and otherwise, to take the country back to the allegedly halcyon days of yesteryear.

The democratic values of liberty, equality, and fraternity that we prize — our voting rights, freedom of the press, our health care — are under assault 24/7. Even more remarkably, under this President, so is the truth, which to be sure, is always on the scaffold.

Those of us who thought during the last national campaign that the MAGA slogan referred to pre-Civil Rights Movement era that ushered in greater integration with new and transformative opportunities, Women's Liberation, gay rights, and environmental stewardship, were tragically mistaken. Mr. Trump's MAGA-era predates World War II, the Civil War, even the French and Indian Wars.

It references a time when women knew their place, black people were subservient when not invisible, Native Americans were a nuisance, and rugged, virtuous, propertied white men with powdered wigs and vast estates, made deals and ruled the world.

That's where this president is taking us. And he is leading this devolution with remarkable swiftness, aided by the Orwellian, commercialized propaganda network of Fox News, and a once proud and principled Republican Party that has totally surrendered to him out of some amalgam of cowardice, greed, ambition, and privilege.

So, first and foremost, no statewide candidate who is not in fierce and open opposition to these policies can be supported in 2018.

Sadly, there are no such candidates on the GOP state slate.

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### **Endorsements in Contested Races • November 6, 2018**

### State Issue 1:

**Drug and Criminal** Justice Policies Initiative: **FOR** 

**U.S. Senate:** 

**Sherrod Brown** 

### **Governor:**

Richard Cordray

**Lieutenant Governor:** 

**Betty Sutton** 

**Secretary of State:** 

Kathleen Clyde

### **Attorney General:**

Steve Dettelbach

### **Treasurer:**

Rob Richardson

### **Auditor:**

**Zack Space** 



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### **US CONGRESS**

### District 9:

Marcy Kaptur

**District 11:** Marcia Fudge

District 14: **Betsy Rader** 

District 16:

Susan Moran **Palmer** 

### STATE SENATE

District 21: Sandra Williams \*

District 23: Nickie J. Antonio

District 25: Kenny Yuko \* **STATE HOUSE** 

OF REPRESEN-**TATIVES** 

District 6: Phil Robinson

District 7: Aziz Ahmad

District 9: Janine Boyd \*

District 11: Stephanie D. Howse \*

District 13: Michael J. Skindell \*

### Cuyahoga County **Executive:**

Peter Corrigan

### **Ohio Supreme** Court

Melody Stewart Michael P. Donnelly

**Ohio Eighth District Court of** 

**Appeals** Raymond Headen

### Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas

Joseph D Russo \* Ashley Kilbane William T. McGinty Loncherie D. Billinaslev Wanda C. Jones James W. Satola John D. Sutula \* Brian Darling Deborah M. Turner

Cuyahoga **County Court** of Common Pleas, Juvenile **Division Denise Nancy** Rini \*



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### **Choose Democrats Statewide**

Continued from Page 1

If they are not "all in" like US Senate candidate Jim Renacci, they waffle, duck and dissemble like gubernatorial hopeful Mike DeWine.

Truth to tell, after nearly 25 years of near total state control - Republicans have held the Governorship for 21 of those years, control of the House of Representatives for 20, and the State Senate for all 25 — large chunks of which saw DeWine, Jon Husted, and Dave Yost leading the GOP pack, it is time for change. The GOP's major accomplishment has been to advance the dismantling of public education in Ohio by redirecting public dollars into private pockets in the name of school choice, and similarly caving to the other deep-pocketed lobbyists who keep the State Capitol under lock and key.

And it so happens that the Democrats have assembled their best slate from top to bottom in a quarter century. Gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray has an unshakable commitment to fair treatment for the little guy, which these days is most of us. How can you not support a guy who while a part of the Obama administration forced banks and other businesses to return Twelve Billion Dollars improperly extracted from consumers, while the Republican controlled Congress was simultaneously passing a Trillion Dollar tax cut that went mostly to the wealthy? Which, by the way, their leaders now suggest must be paid for by cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

While it is important every year to vote all the way down the ballot, the case for doing so this year is even stronger. After the 2020 census, people we elect this Tuesday will redraw boundaries for Congressional, State Senate and House districts. It's a chance to restore reason and fairness to the process.

On page 2 of this issue you will find a complete list of our endorsements. But there are a few candidates who are especially deserving of your support.

One is **Rob Richardson**, candidate for State Treasurer. He is a young lawyer from Cincinnati with a passion for public service that will bring energy to and innovation to that office. He has spent a lot of time in northeast Ohio during his campaign and is fully worthy of our support.

Another is **Steve Dettel-bach**, candidate for State Attorney General. Appointed by President Obama to be US Attorney for this region, Dettelbach has a strong civil rights record and will stop wasting state resources in support of every challenge initiated by right-wingers to basic liberties and fairness.

It is vital that we have fair and open elections in Ohio, which makes it essential to vote **Kathleen Clyde** as Secretary of State.

Zack Space will be an aggressive State Auditor challenging inappropriate expenditures by public agencies.

Appellate Court Judge Melody Stewart is running for the Ohio Supreme Court. Our state court has been lopsidedly partisan for far too long. Stewart is smart, honest, and principled. She is most worthy of a strong turnout from this region. Voters must not get tired of thinking after three minutes in the voting booth and stopping before they get to the end.

An often overlooked consequence of elections is the people brought into public service to work with elected officials who, when given the chance, fly much higher and further as a result of the experience. Ray Headen became chief counsel to the State Treasurer nearly thirty years ago, an experience that fast-tracked the young man into becoming one of Ohio's best bond counsel, putting him in rooms that too few lawyers of color get to see.

Headen is now running to become an appellate court judge. His education began in Glenville and extended to London School of Economics. He would bring a unique and sorely needed perspective to the bench.

We end with a repeat of our endorsement of **Peter Corrigan** 



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216.672.4301

⊠rta@TheRealDealPress.com

 ${}^{\curvearrowleft}@Real Deal Press$ 

for Cuyahoga County Executive. We heard from quite a few of you after we argued last week that he was the superior choice. Without retreating one iota from our stance that every candidate in a position to support Trump's autocratic agenda must be defeated, we believe the circumstances of county government call for a leader with Corrigan's skill set. We do not perceive that his election would retard efforts to reverse the national direction.

Party labels can mean a lot, but so does character.

Vote like your freedom, your children's education, the freedom of the press, and your health depend on it. And vote FOR Issue 1, to stop the criminalization of poor and sick people of all colors. Your vote matters.

Our full endorsements are on page 2 and can be read on your smart phone in the ballot box here.



### IT'S PAST TIME TO FIGHT FOR **BLACK ECONOMIC PROGRESS**



BY AKUNNA COOK, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE HILL

ith all eyes on Election Day 2018, it would be easy to get swept up in the maelstrom currently dominating our politics. But as we focus on the scoreboard, we also need a plan to address the root problems facing families — especially black families — in America today. Unless we start getting serious about creating policies that advance economic opportunity for black Americans, the downward spiral we've witnessed in work, wages and wealth will only continue for the foreseeable future.

The numbers are compelling. Despite the recent rhetoric about black economic conditions being at historic highs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that third-quarter median weekly earnings for black Americans was just \$686 compared to their white, full-time counterparts who were paid \$915. This systemic undervaluing of black workers is only the latest data point in a wide array of statistics that show black communities across the country are struggling to access the kinds of opportunities they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

It's no wonder that a poll released by the Black Economic Alliance this month shows 62 percent of African-American voters believe economic conditions for their community are poor and nearly half say things are getting worse. Our survey of registered voters in Florida, Georgia,

Nevada, Ohio, and Tennessee found that more than half of African-American voters — 56 percent - are following news and information about politics very closely this midterm election. The stakes are too high, and the statistics are too jarring, for black economic progress to not be a part of the dialogue leading up to the 2018 midterms and beyond.

Institutionalized inequities have hamstrung black communities for centuries - and we're still seeing the downstream effects of the policies that created these inequities in the first place. Black Americans haven't had the ability to access either high-paying jobs or the means of developing long-lasting wealth. Only 6.8 percent of tech jobs — the jobs that are fueling the 21st century economy — are filled by black Americans. The wage gap has increased from 20 percent to 30 percent in the past 30 years.

Homeownership among black families, one of the key means by which families create and maintain wealth, has remained stagnant for the past 50 years. The average black family holds less than 10 percent of the wealth of the average white family. Without these key ingredients, black Americans won't be able to play their part in the economy - and the economy as a whole will suffer as a result. Meanwhile, addressing these issues would reap broad benefits, because when black Americans thrive, America thrives.

The only way to turn things around is for our elected leaders to commit to proactive policy measures designed to address the problems facing the black community. And the best way to achieve those commitments is by demanding that the candidates seeking higher office in our states, and on Capitol Hill, make black economic progress part of the public discussion. That's what the Black Economic Alliance set out to do this election season by supporting several federal and statewide candidates - and what we will continue to do in 2019 and 2020 as we work with our champions to reshape the many policies that should be informed by the needs of black Americans nationwide.

We can start by rethinking our nation's education and workforce development programs. In the 21st century, every single school in America needs to prepare its students for work in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields not just schools in high-income communities - starting from an early age. States need to invest in the development of their workforces by supporting vocational schools and apprenticeship programs that give students, black and white, the opportunity to develop skills in a hands-on setting. We can't let student loans continue to be as onerous of a burden to black families as they currently are.

Education reform is a key starting point for tackling the obstacles that have held black Americans back, but it's not enough. Black families need access to the tools that help build long-lasting wealth, whether that is owning homes, starting businesses, or holding high-paying jobs. Down-payment assistance programs and support for fair-housing regulations ensure that black families can start to build wealth through homeownership.

Increased funding for government programs that support black- and minority-owned businesses, whether through direct contracting or incubation, will help translate these entrepreneurs' dreams into reality while promoting overall economic growth. Infrastructure projects that connect black communities to centers of economic activity and affordable housing units near commercial areas will ensure that no American can be zoned out of economic opportunity.

And supporting black economic progress isn't just good policy; it's good politics, too. Black voters are more eager to vote in this election cycle than we've seen in recent memory, with fully 62 percent of black Americans believing that it is more important for them to vote in this cycle than last. And those voters are particularly interested in candidates who will champion an economic agenda focused on their communities. With black Americans living in swing districts and states in large proportions, the black vote is likely to determine outcomes in the House of Representatives and in key gubernatorial races across the country.

At the end of the day, the laws that our representatives put on the books matter. They translate into real-life impacts for families across the country. America needs legislators who understand how to craft policies that promote opportunity for black communities, so we can create true economic progress for all Americans.

Akunna Cook is an attorney and the executive director of the Black Economic Alliance, a nonpartisan group dedicated to advancing a black economic agenda in Congress and the states. Before practicing law, she served for almost 10 years as a career diplomat with the Department of State.

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### 100 Black Men honor area leaders, spotlight young mentees at annual gala







(top) Gala attendees rocked the beat laid down by Lo-Key Entertainment after the program. (bottom-left) WOIO/19 anchor Harry Boomer, M.C. for the evening, with Caden Johnson, part of the Mount Elementary Talented Tenth program sponsored by the local 100 Black Men. (bottom-right)Health and Wellness honoree Karen Cooper, flanked by Franklin Martin, Terry Maynard and Gary Carrington.

The civic group 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland recognized several leading Clevelanders recently at its 17th annual scholarship and awards gala. The event was held Oct. 20 at the Marriott at Key Center downtown.

Honored were Channel 19 news anchor Romona Robinson for mentorship; Dr. Greg C. Hutchings Jr., former superintendent of Shaker Schools [education]; LaRese Purnell, managing partner of CLE Consulting [economic empowerment]; and Karen Cooper, DO, of Cleveland Clinic [health and wellness]. Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams was honored with the Trailblazer Award.

The Cleveland chapter is one of nearly 100 locals of the national organization that boasts more than 10,000 members internationally serving more than 100,000 youth participants annually through a variety of programs. Their civic thrust was illustrated at the gala through scholarships awarded to two Ginn Academy students — Brandon Pugh and Tyson Pugh, who has been simultaneously enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College the past three years — and young adult guest speakers Morton Brand, Jahad Fruits, and Chelsea Meadows.

Gary Carrington heads the local chapter. Franklin Martin was gala chair. Lee V. Fields of Lakewood Federal Savings & David M. Reynolds of Key Bank served as honorary co-chairs.

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