



# The Democratic Clarion

*"The voice of the new majority"*

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## The Challenging year Ahead

By William A. Anthony Jr., Franklin County Democratic Chair

With the new year, Franklin County Democrats can look back with pride on our accomplishments. Through hard work and the recruiting of great candidates, we have experienced tremendous success in recent years.

At the county level, John O'Grady, Marilyn Brown and Paula Brooks control the county commissioners office, Judge Eric Brown was elected to the Probate Court and Judges Gary Tyack and John Connor sit on the Court of Appeals. Lori Tyack is clerk of the Municipal Court, Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy is clerk of the Common Pleas Court and Dr. Jan Gorniak is coroner.

We've won a majority - seven out of nine - of the seats in the county's Ohio House delegation, despite districts that were gerrymandered by Republicans. Similarly, Mary Jo Kilroy won a seat in the U.S. House in the GOP-gerrymandered 15th Congressional District.

Through the leadership of Mayor Mike Coleman and Council President Mike Mentel, we've retained control of City Hall. Three Franklin County Democrats - Attorney General Rich Cordray, Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and Treasurer Kevin Boyce - hold statewide offices.

And of course, we gave President Obama a healthy majority in the 2008 presidential race. (Year ahead continued on page 2)



William A. Anthony Jr., FCDP Chairman

## Three generations of politics

Getting out the Democratic vote in Franklin County is a family affair.

For three generations, Erika Jones and her relatives have headed up efforts to get Democrats to the polls on election day. In the 1960s and 1970s, it was her great-uncle, Albert Hawkins. In the 1970s and 1980s, it was her mother, Danni Palmore. Jones took up the challenge in the 1990s.

"It's in our blood," Jones, 39, said with a laugh.

She began her career in grass-roots politics in 1982. A seventh-grader at Franklin Alternative High School at the time, Jones was a volunteer for the successful gubernatorial campaign of Richard F. Celeste.

"I licked stamps, answered phones and I was even in a campaign commercial playing with kids in Franklin Park," she recalled. "And after he won, we served as ushers at his inaugural. We dressed up in our Sunday best. It was really neat."

During those early years, she made friendships that have lasted a lifetime. "It's like an extended family now," Jones said. "We've been united by the issues, by people doing the right thing."

**"It's in our blood."**

GOTV Director Erika Jones

Jones and her husband, Mark, have three sons, Elyas, 14; Redd, 11, and Jackson, 4. Jones heads the Columbus Office of Homeless and Social Service Advocacy.

But for a week before every election, Jones takes vacation time from her City Hall job to concentrate on getting out the vote.

"Our job is to get out our base," Jones said. The effort begins days before an election with campaigning at churches and in neighborhoods. It entails walking door-to-door with candidates, dropping off campaign literature at houses and apartments, working phone banks, running radio and TV ads and shuttling voters from their homes to the polls on election day (Generations continued on page 2).

## Get Involved at the Grassroots Level!

By Zach Manifold

Executive Director, Franklin County Democratic Party

Here's a message to any Democrat who wants to get involved in politics at the grass-roots level: You couldn't have picked a better year.

In 2010, we will have 37 election contests in Franklin County, and grass-roots activists will be at the heart of each and every victory.

We have all sorts of volunteer opportunities. Those with writing ability can help with Internet blogs and newspaper letters to the editors. If you like outdoors work, you can volunteer to assist in parades, festivals, fairs and door-to-door canvassing. If indoors work is more to your liking, we always need help with mailings and phone banks. You can sponsor events with your friends and neighbors in your own homes.

Besides helping elect great candidates, grass-roots volunteering has other side benefits. You will meet fellow activists, people like yourselves who believe in the Democratic Party and our commitment to improving the lives of everyday people and their families. And chances are you'll meet the candidates up close and personal.

Of course, the biggest races this year will be for U.S. Senate, governor and lieutenant governor. But there will be many other campaigns.

At the statewide level, two Franklin Countians - Attorney General Richard Cordray and Treasurer Kevin Boyce - will be running to retain their offices. Also up this year are secretary of state, state auditor and three seats on the Ohio Supreme Court (Grassroots continued on page 2).

## UNION LEADER LAUDS DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The futures of the middle class, labor unions and the Democratic Party are joined at the hip, the leader of the Ohio AFL-CIO told a group of Democratic activists and business people recently in Columbus.

"Our values as a party and as a labor movement are fundamentally the same about the importance of sustaining a strong middle class," Joseph P. Rugola said in a fiery speech at the Third Friday luncheon in the Florentine Restaurant on W. Broad St.

Economic policies of the Democratic Party and organized labor helped build America's huge middle class during the 20th century with decent wages and opportunities for better lives, Rugola declared.

In contrast, the middle class has suffered during Republican rein, he added. Under President George W. Bush and his GOP predecessors, America "has experienced a great redistribution of wealth upward," he said.

And the vast middle class has been the victim of this economic upheaval, he added. "They (Republican office-holders) have wrecked the lives of millions of people."

Right-wing Republican politicians at the national and state levels favor the super-wealthy and Wall Street bankers to the detriment of working people, Rugola said. "We Democrats have to stop being timid about delivering our message."

Rugola, who also serves as executive director of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, acknowledged that labor leaders and Democratic office-holders will sometimes differ on some policies.

But those differences are minor compared to the chasm that exists between Republican elected officials and working people, he added.

"I unapologetically and unequivocally say the trade union movement is inextricably linked to the Democratic Party," Rugola said (Union leader continued on page 2).



Joseph P. Rugola, leader of the Ohio AFL-CIO spoke at a recent third Friday luncheon at the Florentine Restaurant.