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Right Flier: Newsletter of the AAUP-WSU Volume 13, Number 1, September 2012

American Association of University Professors-Wright State University

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The Right Flier

AAUP-Wright State University

Volume 13, Number 1

Editors:
Marty Kich
and Linda
Farmer

VOTE!

VOTE!

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Barrack Obama

Higher Education

- Believes that the rising costs of post-secondary education need to be constrained, but recognizes that the decreases in state support for public colleges and universities and in federal aid to students have been major factors in increasing costs to students.
- Has attempted to provide incentives to post-secondary institutions that constrain costs and that institute innovations to pedagogy.
- Has set a goal to increase the numbers of both associate and baccalaureate degrees to prepare graduates to compete in an increasingly fluid and rapidly innovative economy—and to provide funding to support such increases.
- Seeks to increase other post-secondary training to prepare workers for available jobs--and to provide funding to support such increases.
- In response to several Congressional studies very critical of the way in which for-profit colleges and universities have been operating, has supported tighter regulations on how much of the institutions' overall revenues can be derived from federal student aid, on how those institutions recruit students, and on how the institutions' accountability for high administrative compensation and abysmal degree-completion rates and job-placement can be improved.
- Has pledged to increase funding for research in science and technology and to provide incentives for colleges and universities to partner with private industries to drive innovation.

Mitt Romney

Higher Education

- Believes that public universities operate in inherently inefficient ways and that a reduction in the cost of higher education can be achieved by reigning in fixed costs, with the salaries and workloads of tenured faculty warranting special mention.
- Believes that tuition can be capped even while public support for colleges and universities is being reduced.
- Has praised the for-profit model in post-secondary education and would relax regulations governing how for-profit colleges and universities operate. (His chief advisor on higher education is William D. Hansen, a major lobbyist for the for-profit institutions, including the Apollo Group that operates the University of Phoenix.)
- Favors expansion of the competency-based educational models provided by the Western Governors University and for-profit "educational providers" such as Pearson, with remedial courses now offered primarily by community colleges and the general-education courses at the core of most baccalaureate programs ultimately being outsourced to private "providers."
- Favors increased linkages between university research and direct economic applications.
- Has indicated that programs in the humanities and social sciences should be re-evaluated so that their funding reflects their graduates' job placement and subsequent incomes.
- Believes that conflicts of interest created by "social" research sponsored by private corporations and corporate leaders have been greatly over-stated.

- Has instituted a “direct loan” program, having the federal government administer the student loans that it guarantees and eliminating the practice of having those loans administered by private banks.
- Has increased funding for Pell grants and several other programs that provide financial aid to needy students.
- Believes that a system of higher education that, in effect, is unavailable to large segments of the population will reduce socio-economic mobility and economic growth.
- Has repeatedly stated that post-secondary education is clearly not for everyone—that it is a costly mistake to increase access to students who cannot compete successfully for admission to more selective institutions.
- Proposes to eliminate the “direct loan” program introduced by the Obama administration and to re-introduce the practice of having federally guaranteed loans provided through private banks.
- Proposes to tighten the eligibility requirements for Pell grants.
- Would eliminate the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, currently providing needy students with up to \$4,000 per academic year.

Public Employees

- Has asserted general support for the collective-bargaining rights of all workers, in both the private and the public sectors, but has been very guarded in his public support for public employees whose collective-bargaining rights have been attacked at the state level.
- Believes that public employees need to make some concessions on salaries and benefits, in particular to insure the long-term viability of their pensions.
- Provided funding to the states to maintain the services provided by more than a half-million teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees during the worst of the recession.
- Has proposed additional funding to restore lost positions in education and public services.
- Has proposed funding to support the hiring of 100,000 additional math and science teachers.

Public Employees

- Has repeatedly stated that public employees should not have collective-bargaining rights.
- Has repeatedly stated that the impact of cuts in state and local and local funding for teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees has been exaggerated
- Believes that public employment at all levels is far too high and that deeper cuts can be made without creating any critical decline in public services.
- Believes that the excessive salaries, benefits, and pensions of public employees have been one of the major factors in state budget deficits.
- Believes that, wherever possible, services provided by public employees should be shifted to private contractors.
- Favors privatization of economic development offices, prisons, and social service agencies.

Labor Unions

- When the Republican majority in the House of Representatives would not consider nominees for vacant positions on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and tried to convince a GOP member of the board to resign to eliminate a quorum and prevent the NLRB from functioning, made mid-term appointments to the vacant positions.
- Proposed a new rule that, if adopted, would result in quicker and fairer elections by discouraging unnecessary and time-consuming litigation.
- Overruled a 2007 NLRB decision that interfered with voluntary recognition by requiring employers to post “Dana notices” informing workers they could file a decertification petition during a 45- day period following recognition.
- Issued a rule requiring employers to post a notice in their workplaces informing workers of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act.

Economy, Taxes, Healthcare

- Believes in a middle-out economic model, in which the increasing prosperity of the middle-class stimulates economic growth and drives upward mobility for all classes.
- Has proposed the American Jobs Act, additional funding of jobs programs to improve infrastructure—roads and bridges, rail, airports, the electrical grid, and school buildings.
- Interceded in the crisis faced by General Motors and Chrysler during the economic collapse and, when sufficient loans were not made available by private banks, provided federal loans to keep the companies solvent. Prevented the loss of between 850,000 and 1,000,000 jobs in auto manufacturing. Many of those jobs were with parts suppliers, whose failures

Labor Unions

- Wants to insure that workers have a "secret ballot" (Something they already have, of course, but this is coded language for opposing the Employee Free Choice Act).
- Will fight for right-to-work laws.
- Will oppose "card check."
- Will limit the powers of the National Labor Relations Board.
- Will end preference for unionized companies in government contracting.
- Will end project labor agreements.
- Will fight to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act,
- Will prevent unions from being able to spend member dues on political activity without the express approval of each of the individual members.

Economy, Taxes, Healthcare

- Believes in top-down economic model, in which the prosperity of the most affluent inevitably creates increased job opportunities for the middle-class, the working class, and the working-poor.
- Believes that publicly funded “jobs programs” are a waste of taxpayers’ money.
- Has asserted repeatedly that the “bailout” of the auto industry was a mistake and that the federal government should have allowed market forces to run their course. Has insisted that the private loans to General Motors and Chrysler would have ultimately materialized.
- Likewise, has complained that legislation such as Dodd-Frank have insured that banks have remained too large to fail, while

would have been disastrous for Ford and the foreign auto manufacturers with plants in the U.S.

- Has supported Dodd-Frank and other efforts to provide stricter regulation of the major banks and Wall Street investment firms, attempting to discourage reckless profit-seeking and to insure that if they do make disastrous business decisions, the broader economic effects of those decisions are mitigated.
- With major results, has promoted the development of domestic fossil fuel resources, but has limited the exploitation of those resources on environmentally fragile public lands.
- Has made substantial public investments in alternative energy sources, and has defended those investments, pointing out that only three of the thirty-six companies that have received major federal research and development grants have failed (with Solyndra being the most notable of those three failures).
- Has pursued and signed trade agreements with other nations to increase American exports and improve our balance of trade, but has filed complaints against trading partners, most notably China, that have not competed fairly.
- Has proposed tax incentives for companies that keep jobs in the U.S. or that return jobs to the U.S. from overseas.
- Has proposed a 3% to 3.5% increase in the federal taxes paid by those earning \$250,000 or more per year, returning those tax rates to what they were during the Clinton presidency. As a brake on increasing income inequality, would, however, preserve the Bush tax cuts for those earning less than \$250,000 per year.
- Has proposed that the federal deficit be brought under control through a combination of modest tax increases on the most affluent and selective cuts in spending that have minimal economic impact.
- Has proposed cuts in “corporate welfare,” most notably in the multi-billion-dollar

also arguing that regulations of those banks and Wall Street investment houses ought to be reduced to allow them to make loans and investments more freely and thereby stimulate economic growth.

- Believes that increased and less regulated domestic energy production, in particular on public lands, and the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will provide major increases in private-sector employment.
- Has criticized the public investments in alternative energy as ill-conceived and wasteful, citing the bankruptcy of firms such as Solyndra and claiming that such failures have been the norm.
- Has given lip service to cuts in the subsidies paid to energy and agricultural conglomerates, but always couches those statements in observations about other equally or more substantial examples of wasteful spending—suggesting that cutting the corporate subsidies will not be a priority for him
- Has spoken a great deal about the need for a tougher stance against countries with unfair trade policies, but in his private sector experience, created a model on how to exploit the details of trade and tax policies to maximize profits for investors. In his early years at Bain, had some notable successes (such as with Staples) in rescuing struggling companies while still producing profits for his investors. But in his later years at Bain, those “rescues” became very few and far between, supporting the charge that he engaged in “vulture capitalism.” Most companies in which Bain invested over those years were leveraged for great profits at the cost of overloading them with unsupportable debt, and most failed within several years of Bain’s selling off its interests.
- Has opposed linking tax incentives to corporate employment practices, insisting that the marketplace will compel corporations to make the “right choices” because those choices will ultimately create the most sustained and sustainable profits.

subsidies being provided to major energy and agricultural conglomerates.

- Has proposed selective, targeted cuts to defense spending, arguing that it is neither rational nor feasible for the U.S. to be spending as much on defense as the nations with the next seventeen largest militaries, combined. Has pointed out that the spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has been budgetarily separated from other defense spending, so that domestic reinvestments of the savings achieved from the de-escalation of those wars is not tantamount to a decrease in any other defense spending. Has not pointed out that the massive expenditures on defense do not include some equally massive expenditures on “homeland security” over the last decade.
- Has pointed to the Affordable Care Act—“Obamacare”—as his major domestic policy achievement. Has asserted that unchecked increases in health-care costs have become the major impediment to sustained economic growth. Reducing the number of people without health-care coverage will reduce the costs of the treatment of the uninsured—both in the sense of passing less of those costs onto those who are insured and in the sense that the greater availability of health coverage will encourage more preventative care. Has provided substantial tax incentives to businesses and individuals to encourage their purchase of coverage from private insurers or their participation in new health-insurance pools—that is, providing incentives for people to comply with the “individual mandate,” meaning that they assume personal responsibility for their coverage within a system that insures that 85% of their premiums must be expended on health care or the insurer will owe the group a rebate. Has reduced the strain on Medicaid—and the states—by mandating that no one can be denied health-care coverage because of pre-existing conditions or because of some arbitrary cap on benefits.
- Has insisted that any increase in taxes on the most affluent (whether defined as the top 1%, 2%, 3%, 5% or 10%) will cause an economic downturn. Intends, essentially, to move toward a “flat income tax,” with caps placed on deductions that most economists have concluded will inevitably decrease the proportion of incomes paid as taxes by the most affluent and increase the proportion of income paid as taxes by everyone else.
- Believes that the federal deficit is the greatest impediment to American economic growth, but proposes to reduce that deficit entirely through cuts to domestic programs, ignoring the manifold evidence that cuts in such programs inevitably involve cuts in discretionary spending and in public employment and act as a major drag on economic growth.
- Not only opposes any cuts in defense spending, but is proposing huge increases in defense spending. Given that we are now supplying 75% of the weapons sold worldwide, this stance may, indeed, be economically sound—if one ignores that it violates all of the principles ostensibly underlying his other economic positions.
- Has expressed vociferous opposition to “Obamacare,” claiming that even though it is based largely on the “Romneycare” legislation that he sponsored as governor of Massachusetts, he would allow the individual states to decide whether or not to adopt such a healthcare program. Has proposed few firm alternatives to “Obamacare,” except for allowing insurance companies to sell policies across state lines—ignoring that most insurance regulation is enforced at the state level and so there are very limited mechanisms for preventing or addressing abuses by out-of-state insurers. Has lately expressed firm support for popular features of the legislation, most notably the access to insurance by those with pre-existing conditions—as long as they maintain close to continuous insurance coverage. Anyone who has already been denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition is still out of luck.

Sherrod Brown

- Has been rated the most progressive member of the U.S. Senate.
- Supports the expansion of federal grants to college and university students, the direct administration of federally insured student loans (instead of contracting with private banks to administer the loans), and innovative ways of expanding access to post-secondary education.
- Supports greater oversight and regulation of for-profit post-secondary education.
- Is very supportive of collective bargaining, for both private-sector and public-sector workers. Was one of the few national politicians who spoke out against Senate Bill 5, denouncing it as an unfair attack on public employees and describing it as a politically motivated measure disguised as fiscally required emergency legislation. Opposes right-to-work legislation as an attempt to undermine democratically selected unions.
- Supported the “auto bailout.” Has focused on other legislation supportive of manufacturing: has supported the creation of the thirty business incubators currently operating in Ohio; has supported efforts to match workforce training to regional economic needs and opportunities; has supported funding for maintaining and improving our infrastructure; has vigorously supported the strict enforcement of trade agreements to insure that American firms are not competing at any disadvantage internationally; and has been a very vocal proponent of expanding American exports.
- While supporting continued fossil-fuel production in Ohio, has taken a leading role in providing support for the development of “green” industries in Ohio, especially those related to solar and wind energy.
- Has supported the Affordable Care Act as both a fiscally necessary and ethically sound legislation. Has pledged to protect Medicare and Social Security in both the

Josh Mandel

- Has devoted two-thirds of the “issues” section of his campaign webpage to the reduction of federal spending, pledging to vote consistently to balance the federal budget by reducing spending and reducing borrowing. Supports a balanced budget amendment that would immediately force the federal government to reduce outlays to the level of revenues. Has offered no details on what programs would be slashed to achieve these economies, but has been adamant in opposing any increases in taxes, targeted or not.
- Likewise, has tabulated the increases in federal spending, federal borrowing, and federal deficits since Sherrod Brown was first elected to Congress in 1992, and without referencing any of the votes that Brown has taken, has, in effect, attributed all of that “waste” to Brown.
- Advocates a “flat income tax,” which would mean that everyone would pay the same percentage of their income in federal tax. Has argued that because such a tax system would be “simpler,” it would also be “fairer.” (Most economists would argue the opposite—that such a tax is regressive, impacting low-income taxpayers much more than high-income taxpayers.)
- Likewise, has argued that because regulations on business are “complicated,” most of them should be eliminated and the “free-enterprise system” should be allowed to regulate naturally the decisions that businesses make.
- Opposed the “auto bailout.” Has focused on those workers in the auto industry whose jobs were not saved by the bailout—in particular, non-unionized workers.
- Has asserted that oil and gas exploration should be encouraged for the sake of “energy independence.” Has vowed to protect air and water quality while also saying that companies need to be freed from costly and environmental oversight.

near and the long term.

- Has sponsored legislation that supports family-owned farms and increased access to electronic and other new technologies in rural areas. In 2008, was named the legislator of the year by the National Corn Growers Association for his work on the ACRE program.

- Opposes unions. Supports “right to work” and other measures that would make unions ineffective. Believes that public-sector unions should be prohibited by law, and supported Senate Bill 5.

Sharen Neuhardt

- Supports increased access to quality education, from early childhood education to higher education.
- Advocates reform of “no child left behind,” arguing that its assessment measures are too inflexible to be effective.
- Will support innovative pedagogy in math, sciences, and technology, and will work to improve and expand vocational education for those high school students not choosing to pursue post-secondary educations.
- Has stressed the need to make college a more affordable option for a larger number of students, expanding existing grant programs and insuring that student loans are offered at the lowest rates available.
- Supports collective bargaining for workers in both the private and the public sectors. Opposed Senate Bill 5.
- Supports the revitalization of U.S. manufacturing through an emphasis on new technologies and industries, in particular “green” industries. Advocates the revision of trade agreements to insure that U.S. companies can compete fairly and increase exports. Supports additional investments in improved infrastructure and additional tax credits for research and development aimed at generating innovations from small businesses.
- Supports sustaining Social Security and Medicare in their current forms. Likewise, supports the Affordable Care Act, but believes that ongoing adjustments can be made to some of its provisions.

Mike Turner

- Has nothing on the issues pages of his campaign website related to education.
- Opposes collective bargaining, especially for public-sector workers. Supported Senate Bill 5, and supports “right to work” legislation in Ohio and elsewhere.
- Did not support the ‘auto bailout.’ Like Mandel, has focused on the jobs that were not saved by the “bailout,” especially among non-unionized workers.
- Supports the enforcement of the “fair trade” clauses in our trade agreements.
- Supports continued and additional funding for research and development projects undertaken at the Wright-Paterson Air Force Base.
- Adamantly opposes the Affordable Care Act, but just as adamantly vows to protect Social Security in its current form—that is, to oppose any privatization of it. Touts his support of legislation that has added prescription-drug coverage and other benefits to Medicare, but does not indicate whether he will support GOP proposals to “transform” Medicare.
- Does not indicate whether he would support deep cuts in domestic programs to reduce the federal deficit, but does focus broadly on needed reductions in “wasteful” spending
- Supports the development of alternative energy sources. But also supports accelerated exploitation of America’s fossil fuel resources, including opening restricted public lands to drilling and mining.



When elections are fair,
THE PEOPLE WIN.

Vote YES on 2.

Voters First's proposal will create an Independent Citizens Commission. Politicians, lobbyists and political insiders are prohibited from serving on the commission. The Commission's work will be open and it will be accountable to the public. The Commission will empower voters to choose their politicians instead of politicians picking their voters.

- **Citizens, Not Politicians.** Instead of the current procedures (in which politicians draw district boundaries that unfairly favor their own party and/or protect incumbents), a 12-member Citizens Commission will create the districts. Any member of the public can submit a plan for consideration.
- **Openness and Transparency.** All meetings, records, communications and draft plans of the Commission must be open to the public. No more backroom deals.
- **Balance and Impartiality.** The Citizens Commission will include equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents, and the approval of at least seven of the twelve members of the commission will be required for the adoption of any plan. This will ensure that the final plan fairly represents all Ohioans, not just those currently in power.
- **Community Representation.** Districts will be created that are geographically compact, and which minimize the division of counties, townships, municipalities and wards between different districts.
- **Accountability & Competitive Districts.** Politically balanced districts will be created, rather than "safe districts" which make it difficult or impossible for voters to hold elected officials accountable.
- **Fairness.** To the greatest extent possible, the share of districts leaning toward a party will reflect the political preferences of the voters of Ohio.



When elections are fair,
THE PEOPLE WIN.

Vote YES on 2.

Sample Letter to an Editor

I am writing to encourage your readers to vote “Yes” on Issue 2.

Issue 2 is the proposal to amend the Ohio Constitution to provide for the non-partisan drawing of legislative districts.

There are a number of common-sense reasons for supporting this legislation:

1. As much as possible, it will take the politics out of redistricting. The decisions will be made by a panel of citizens equally divided between the major parties and representing as many constituencies as possible among Ohio voters.
2. As much as possible, districts will be drawn along county lines or along natural boundaries, eliminating districts that resemble ink blots and reducing the confusion that such districts create for voters.
3. As much as possible, the districts will be politically competitive, insuring that if one party achieves a strong majority in either or both houses of the legislature, that political power will reflect the strength of the party’s ideas, rather than simply its ability to shape districts to maintain its own political advantage.
4. Because districts are redefined every ten years, the party that happens to achieve a majority in a census year has the power to largely determine election results for the next decade. Because House members at the federal and state level stand for re-election every two years, it is simply undemocratic for one election to largely determine the results of the next five elections.
5. Lastly, competitive elections are the best way to encourage greater voter turnout, and both parties should agree that higher participation in our democratic process makes both our state and our nation much stronger.

Vote “Yes” on Issue 2 to insure that your vote and every vote truly matters.

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A “toolkit” on Issue 2 is available at the website of the Ohio Conference of AAUP

<http://www.ocaaup.org/gov-relations/sb5.aspx>.

It includes:

Voters First Website
Highlights of the Amendment
Full Text of the Amendment
Frequently Asked Questions
Legal Scholars Defend Judges Role in Issue 2
How Commission Members are Chosen & Eligibility Requirements

Printable Vote Yes on Issue 2 Image
Printable "Scrub Off" Flyer
"This Year It's Yes on 2" Bumper Sticker
Talking Points for Letters to the Editor
Sample Letter to the Editor
Printable Literature Piece

This year it's

 **YES** ON
ISSUE **2**

VOTE NOV. 6

PAID FOR BY WE ARE OHIO, MICHAEL WEINMAN, TREASURER, 545 E. TOWN STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215

www.WeAreOHIO.com

This year it's

 **YES** ON
ISSUE **2**

VOTE NOV. 6

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