

# The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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## Education ballot

For Governor

**Ted Strickland**

For Lieutenant Governor

**Lee Fisher**

For Attorney General

**Marc Dann**

For Auditor of State

**Barbara Sykes**

For Secretary of State

**Jennifer Brunner**

For Treasurer of State

**Richard Cordray**

For United States Senator

**Sherrod Brown**

For Representative to Congress 12th District

**Robert Shamansky**

For Representative to Congress 15th District

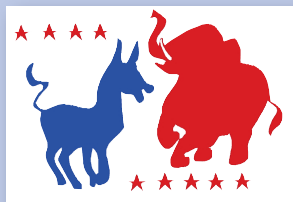
**Mary Jo Kilroy**

For Ohio Supreme Court

**William O'Neill**

For Ohio Supreme Court

**Ben Espy**



Judge of the Court of Appeals

10th District, Full Term Commencing 2/9/07

**Gary Tyack**

10th District, Full Term Commencing 2/10/07

**Peggy Bryant**

State Senator

15th District

**Ray Miller**

State Representative

19th District

**Marian Harris**

24th District

**Ted Celeste**

20th District

**Beverly Campbell**

25th District

**Dan Stewart**

21st District

**Dean C. Hernandez**

26th District

**Tracy Heard**

22nd District

**Jim Hughes**

27th District

**Joyce Beatty**

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas

**Guy Reese**

Full Term Commencing 1/3/2007

**David E. Cain**

Full Term Commencing 1/4/2007

**John P. Bessey**

Full Term Commencing 1/6/2007

**Charles A. Schneider**

Full Term Commencing 1/7/2007

**Stephen L. McIntosh**

Full Term Commencing 1/8/2007

**Tim Horton**

Unexpired Term Ending 7/1/2009

**Pat Sheeran**

Unexpired Term Ending 1/3/2011

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas—Domestic Division

**Elizabeth Gill**

Full Term Commencing 1/1/2007

**Jim Mason**

Full Term Commencing 1/2/2007

**Carole Squire**

Full Term Commencing 1/15/2007

County Commissioner

**Marilyn Brown**

State Issues

**YES on Issue #2:** To support the constitutional amendment to raise the minimum wage.

**NO on Issue #4:** To oppose the Smoke Less Ohio constitutional amendment.

**YES on Issue #5:** To support the Smoke Free Workplace law to restrict smoking in places of employment and most places open to the public.

Local Issues

**For #7** Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) sales tax

**For #9** Canal Winchester Local SD Levy

**For #10** Groveport-Madison Local SD Levy

**For #11** Reynoldsburg City SD Bond Issue & Levy

**For #12** South-Western City SD School Income Tax

**For #14** Worthington City SD Bond Issue

## GOTV, get out the vote

What do scientists, police officers, members of the clergy, judges and the President of the United States have in common? According to a recently released Harris poll, they are all examples of professions that the American public believes are not as trustworthy as teachers. As a teacher, the trust of our stakeholders is essential for everything we must accomplish. The faith of the community in which we teach and the faith of the families of our students are the catalysts that reinforce each effort educators make everyday to help our students achieve their full potential.

The American public places their unyielding faith in teachers for one simple and undeniable reason—the fact that we are constant advocates for the best interests of our students. We strive to make every opportunity and resource within our power and our reach available to our students. When the needs of our students are not being met, we work together as a team with other teachers, our students' families and the community-at-large to make sure our students get the resources and opportunities they both require and deserve.

The trust of our students and the families of Columbus Public Schools has been earned by our hard work and unending dedication to the principle that with great public schools available for every child, no child will be left behind. We, as educators, must remember the weighty fact that as we step into the voting booth, we represent the best interests of our students and their families.

In this critical moment before the election, please take the time to review the candidates and issues your colleagues in the Columbus Education Association have placed their trust to help our students succeed. The votes we cast in this election will shape the lives of our students in ways that will not be fully realized until years from now.

## United Way touches lives in central Ohio

At United Way of Central Ohio, success is measured by the lives that are changed, not the number of services funded. Thanks to you, United Way makes a real difference in people's lives. Thank you for helping to do what matters. Thanks to individual contributors like you who want to make a real difference, the 2005 central Ohio campaign raised \$52, 800,000.

Without you, there would be no United Way. That's why United Way works hard to earn your trust every day, not just during annual campaigns. Benchmark measurements and proven practices ensure that United Way is making a difference. Performance standards are set for the programs and services to measure the impact of each dollar contributed.

We would like to remind our Senior Faculty Representatives that the deadline for submitting United Way contribution envelopes is approaching. Please finalize that effort and bring the completed envelopes to the CEA office.

*We do what works, we do what matters.*



## Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant

When educators band together to garner resources for children, they get results. On Oct. 23, Columbus Public Schools received the news that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) was receiving a \$20.3 million Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings visited Southmoor Middle School to present a check to ODE representatives.

The Columbus Public Schools and the Columbus Education Association helped prepare the application along with educators from Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo school districts. CPS will receive a portion of the funds to support a \$12.5 million expansion of the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP).

TAP is now in place at Easthaven ES, Parkmoor ES, Champion MS and South HSUA. TAP will be launched at five middle schools—Southmoor, Starling, Medina, Eastmoor and Clinton.

The TAP reform model, designed with assistance from the Milken Family Foundation, is based on sound research and is intended to attract, retain and motivate talented teachers.

Visit [www.talentedteachers.org/tap.taf](http://www.talentedteachers.org/tap.taf) for more information on the program.

## Keeping our eyes on the charter facts

A much-discussed recent report by the Fordham Foundation is affirming that Ohio's charter schools need work.

Its study, *Turning the Corner to Quality*, done at the request of Ohio government and education leaders by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, National Association of Charter School Authorizers and National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (all organizations that are highly supportive of charter schools) has issued 17 recommendations. Among them are closing low-performing charter schools and holding school-sponsoring agencies more accountable.

The study, however, suggests that the schools could succeed, if only governing legislation weren't so restrictive. It claims Ohio's charter schools are getting better but suggests that obstacles toward greater success lie as much with the legislature as with school administrators. Fordham recommends that if these schools improve their accountability, the state should relax some of its rules, including caps on growth and providing more funding.

We at CEA agree change is needed, but at what price must we continue to focus on this alternative education system when traditional public schools themselves offer more?

CEA is clear on two points: Charter schools fall far short of keeping their educational promises. And charter schools are consuming tax dollars that could be going to traditional schools to aid in their continued improvement.

OEA recently studied the picture. It looked at charter schools legislation, impact on the Ohio 8 urban districts and charter-school state ratings. Its general findings:

- ◆ The state's charter pilot program expanded without adequate research.
- ◆ Most charter schools are mired in a state of academic emergency, showing particularly poor ratings in science and math.
- ◆ Charter schools are eating more and more of the state education budget, including \$487 million for the 2005–2006 year.

The OEA survey supported the *good news* about non-charter public schools, information Fordham doesn't include, for instance:

- ◆ Traditional schools outperform charters on 64 percent of proficiency tests.
- ◆ The achievement gap is closing faster in traditional schools.

- ◆ Parents are beginning to get the message. Charter school enrollment appears to have peaked in Ohio and has declined slightly.

The bottom line? Let's stay focused. Charter schools are a worthy experiment but have been led astray by inexperienced teachers, over-reaching administrators, overly-eager legislators and educational companies whose goals are profit over educational value. As the election draws near, keep your eyes on the system we already have. A recent edition of *The Voice* noted that test scores in Columbus are improving, and we are well on our way to addressing student disciplinary issues. Columbus (and Ohio), we can do it better.

## Face on the calendar

CEA President Rhonda Johnson will appear in the 2007 *Women You Should Know* calendar published by the networking and support organization, Women for Economic Leadership and Development (WELD).

The calendar is designed to showcase women who are making a big difference in central Ohio. These accomplished women are both role models and leaders in Ohio's business and professional communities.

Johnson's achievements are important in many significant ways. As a teacher at the Northwest Career Center, she influenced hundreds of young lives, along with them those of young women looking toward establishing themselves in business careers. As an Association leader, she is a conduit for communication and change.

Johnson has been involved in numerous community and national activities. She served on the Board of the Consumers Council of Ohio, as Associate Chair of the United Way Campaign and the Board of Trustees of United Way. She is a member of the Ohio 8, the Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN) and the Holmes Partnership.

The community is invited to the WELD reception honoring all the *Women You Should Know*, 6–8 p.m., Nov. 8, at the Rebecca Ibel Gallery, 2 Miranova Place. Tickets are \$35 each for non-WELD members. Visit [www.weldoh.org](http://www.weldoh.org) to register and get directions.

## Know the contract

Suppose your principal rations your paper and gives you two reams for the month. Where in the *Master Agreement* would you look? Article 206 deals with Teaching Environment and New Buildings. Specifically, 206.09(C) states "A workroom available for use of teachers containing the equipment and supplies necessary for the preparation of instructional materials."

No teacher needs to buy paper to copy materials for their class. Call CEA or download, complete and submit a *Data Collection Form* found on the CEA website.

**Correction:** Natalie James was omitted as one of our Performance Advancement System (PAS) awardees in the Oct. 30 issue of *The Voice*. Please excuse our error.

## Special notes

- Applications for the **Ingram Grant for Teachers** must be received by **4:30 p.m., Nov. 17. Send one original (unstapled) and one copy (stapled)**. Avoid attachments unless absolutely necessary. Send through school mail or deliver to: **John Farley, Development Office, Columbus Education Center**. Do not fax your application. Call 365-8733 if you have questions.
- Travel with CEA to the **Eastern Caribbean at spring break** and to **Greece and Turkey just after the end of the school year**. Check the details at [www.ceaoio.org](http://www.ceaoio.org) or call CEA for an information packet.
- **Blue Jacket Tickets are available** from the CEA office for the following dates: **Nov. 10**, Edmonton (4); **Nov. 20**, Nashville (4); **Nov. 22**, St. Louis (2). Call the CEA office at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.
- **The Center for Teaching History with Technology** offers a number of web resources. These include lesson plans, class projects, articles and workshops that are all designed to help find new ways to teach history. Visit their site at [www.thwt.org/resources.html](http://www.thwt.org/resources.html).