### Open Letter to Joe Blystone: You Are Unlikely Qualified to be Ohio's Next Governor

True "Constitutional Conservatives" update their viewpoints on issues on a continuous basis because chosen positions are contingent upon an understanding of the realities of our times.

Good for both Ohio and America!

Beverly A. Goldstein, Ph.D.

Former Republican Nominee for the seat in Ohio Congressional District 11 (OHCD-11)

US House of Representatives 2016, 2018

# Hey Ohio Conservatives: Transgender Bathrooms ARE NOT the key issue of the 2022 Ohio Governor's Race. Change it Up!

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, Bob Frantz, radio host on AM 1420 The Answer, "Always Right, Never Left" program interviewed Ohio Gubernatorial Candidate Joe Blystone. Mr. Frantz asked Mr. Blystone to defend the current allegations against him by his former campaign co-manager with regard to issues including "illegal campaign activity" and "financial under-reporting."

[Always Right: Gubernatorial candidate Joe Blystone live on campaign finance problems and his opponents. 20:33
Feb. 22, 2022 Ohio Voters, pay attention: We spoke with Ohio gubernatorial candidate Joe Blystone on Tuesday about his myriad of campaign finance issues, as well as his flailing campaign. His running mate and his campaign manager both jumped ship, and now he's resorting to making questionable (false) claims about one of his primary opponents in the race to remove the tyrannical Mike DeWine. Must listen for everyone...but especially for those in Camp Blystone right now.]

#### Response:

"Have we had some issues in the campaign? Absolutely.

I'm a farmer. What the heck did I know about running a campaign? So, we learned as we go, you know, and making some decisions good, some decisions bad. But by gosh, we got the fire behind us right now."

So, my concern, Mr. Blystone, is: As a former Republican candidate/nominee myself multiple times, if you didn't know how to manage campaign donations, instead of turning your campaign fiscal decision-making into a crapshoot, why didn't you retain a treasurer who did know how legally to keep track of campaign donations? You admitted to Mr. Frantz on the air that you did not do so.

If you were to be elected as Ohio's next governor, will your decision-making and governing processes also remain <u>a crapshoot</u>? I believe that Ohio's entire consequential future rests on this upcoming 2022 gubernatorial election, so this "crapshoot" methodology is a very scary thought!

The past almost four years of the current administration with regard to key-issue measurable metrics have been a disaster. Lots of us unknowingly voted for it. Now Governor DeWine is asking for a second chance.

OMG!

Mr. Blystone: If you remain in the race, splitting the conservative vote, and thus creating a Mike DeWine primary victory, you will be the most reviled "Constitutional Conservative" Republican in Ohio FOREVER!

Jim Renacci victories in both the Ohio primary and general elections, conversely, will create strong confidence for future revitalization of the Buckeye State.

"Ohio Received a '**D**' Grade [under Governor DeWine] for its Fiscal Health" in 2020. Truth in Accounting (TiA) published its <u>Financial State of the States 2020</u> (September 2020, page 76) report about 18 months ago. "The Taxpayer Burden of every Ohio taxpayer at the time of the report was \$-5,800." The report additionally explains: "Ohio did not have enough money set aside to weather the current pandemic and fluctuations in the

market. According to rough estimates by Truth in Accounting, Ohio is [was] projected to lose \$10 billion in revenue as a result of this crisis." https://www.truthinaccounting.org/news/detail/financial-state-of-the-states-2020

The TiA <u>Financial State of the States 2021</u> report (September 2021, page 76) [under Governor DeWine] showed essentially no grade change, still a "**D**." <a href="https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/FSOS-Booklet-2021.pdf">https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/FSOS-Booklet-2021.pdf</a>

"Ohio's <u>elected officials</u> have repeatedly made financial decisions that left the state with a <u>debt burden of \$20.7</u> <u>billion</u>. That burden came to \$5,400 for every state taxpayer. Ohio's financial problems stem mostly from <u>unfunded retirement obligations</u> that accumulated over the years. The state had only set aside 80 cents for every dollar of promised pension benefits & 49 cents for every dollar of promised retiree health care benefits."

#### **THE TRUTH - 2021**

Money Needed to Pay Bills: - \$20.7 billion

Taxpayer Burden<sup>TM:</sup> - \$5,400

Financial Grade: **D** 

Ranking: **26 out of 50** (states)

You need now to outline specifics for voters, your blueprint, describing how your being governor will tackle the fiscal crisis of the State of Ohio as an entity, and how you will do a deep dive and create and implement to the failing pension and retiree plans, and also Ohio's fraud and waste to minimize revenue losses.

How will you use the governor's office <u>forcefully</u> to straighten out what is being shoved down the throats of allage students in Ohio classrooms?

What programs will you initiate to reduce the refugee resettlement crises and illegal invader populations within Ohio? Ohio taxpayers can no longer afford to cover the myriad of billions of dollars being foisted upon us to provide livelihoods for non-English speaking, non-US Constitution-supporting, unemployed individuals living off of our financial backs. Ohio residents have children and grandchildren. They are Ohio's legal residents' greatest priorities, not people who should not be in Ohio in the first place.

If you do not have blueprints to begin to solve at least 15 critical-stage Ohio crises, you should not be running for governor, and you should immediately drop out of the race.

Under a Blystone Administration, how will Ohio improve its Truth in Accounting grade, not by just helping the city of Columbus grow financially, but by empowering residents of Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, East Cleveland and Youngstown (and other poor Ohio communities) with new self-sufficiency skills so they can start earning a living, caring for their families/dependents and contributing to Ohio's future?

Constitutional conservative voters in Ohio actually need to know how the Blystone governor's office will lead the charge to improve the broad-ranging crises faced daily by illiterate and impoverished Ohioans, which crises I will detail below. What are your specific overall plans, and your vision for Ohioans throughout the State to begin their individual journeys to literacy and self-sufficiency? Gubernatorial candidates need to be discussing, planning for and laying out action steps not only about what their passions are, but what they will do to accomplish resuscitating Ohio and individual Ohio residents (Make Ohio Great Again).

Your website (<a href="https://www.blystoneforgovernor.com">https://www.blystoneforgovernor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/The-Blystone-Plan-for-Ohio.pdf</a>) and Plan for Ohio (<a href="https://www.blystoneforgovernor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/The-Blystone-Plan-for-Ohio.pdf">https://www.blystoneforgovernor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/The-Blystone-Plan-for-Ohio.pdf</a>) do not yet appear to have provided this sort of specificity.

Your website informs that you started your agricultural business in 2004 and added a non-profit in 2019. Some of your platform positions, which I agree are solid conservative policies in today's disastrous political climate, are more positions that candidates running for seats in State and Federal legislative Houses and Senates have in their platforms on which they will be able to vote to implement if elected.

What are the actual steps that future Governor Blystone will take to implement your below listed priorities, how will you initiate and ensure their success? Here is the information you have provided so far on your website:

- Restore Health Autonomy and Privacy;
- Protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, create a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment sanctuary state and other steps to uphold state sovereignty (and to provide available and affordable mental health services to remove the stigma, and return gun-carrying rights to fully rehabilitated individuals);
- Bolster Election Integrity through the Ohio Legislature "... support a full forensic audit of Ohio's 2020 General Election;"
- Rein in Big Tech's silencing of free speech;
- Shrink the Tax Burden:
- Manage/Cut State Spending;
- Grow Ohio's Businesses through strategic investments and through a powerhouse of innovation, and by greatly reducing regulations;
- Create a pro-manufacturing environment in Ohio with an enhanced/talented/trained/motivated workforce;
- Protect and Preserve the Sanctity of Life and improve the adoption process;
- Address unfit school curriculum, ensure freedom from indoctrination, racism and state totalitarianism, and expand parent school choice;
- Create a human trafficking task force to reduce Ohioans' contributions to these crimes and the ongoing devastation of young people.

Wealthy residents want and will benefit from certain actions, certainly fewer regulations, greater in-state investment opportunities, and lower taxes, while poor Ohioans crave and immediately require other government undertakings. Ohio's next Governor needs to be a champion for all Ohio residents, and not select favorites as has been the status quo in Columbus for a long time.

There is now unfortunately a completely newly-created needy demographic of Ohioans who require opportunities for pathways forward, those who previously were completely self-sufficient and financially successful, but who have been entirely sacked by Governor DeWine's pandemic business mismanagement edicts.

Governor DeWine just about destroyed all small businesses and self-employed middle-class Ohioans during the Covid-19 pandemic. A Democrat governor could not have produced a better demolition outcome. What is your game plan to restore and improve Ohio's small business climate and those Ohio residents who have had their life savings and businesses devastated?

You told Mr. Frantz you are a farmer. You are now, however, running to serve as Governor of Ohio. So, what exactly is your administrative skill-set regarding running a multi-billion-dollar corporate entity, the State of Ohio?

I searched online for the 2022-2023 Ohio budget bottom line, opened up multiple links, and came to the conclusion that I just cannot find a basic simple answer to this question. In searching further, I came across a relevant article by Greg R. Lawson, The Buckeye Institute (6/25/2019). Mr. Lawson stated that the "...bottom line of Ohio's spending is elusive in the shadow budget, ...with the real [2019-2020] budget, [Ohioans] will see Columbus spend more than \$140 Billion of Ohio Taxpayer money." <a href="https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-columbus-dispatch/20190625/281857235072067">https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-columbus-dispatch/20190625/281857235072067</a>

The article goes on to say that it is common for the legislature and the governor's office to agree to move various huge spending initiatives off of the general revenue fund books which "...allows Columbus to pretend

that state spending remains under the statutory limits." So, the Feds keep printing money, and their Ohio counterparts just keep moving dollars onto and off of various ledgers.

How exactly does being completely fed up with Governor Mike DeWine and nitpicking and misrepresenting Former Congressman Jim Renacci's voting record on 2015-2016 amendments to H.R. 5055 qualify you specifically to govern the State of Ohio for the next four years? Please tell us what you would do differently from Governor DeWine, how and when you would do it, and what improved outcomes Ohio voters might expect from your administration.

I stood very strongly against transgender use of women's bathrooms (in schools, churches/synagogues and public buildings) in Cuyahoga County on September 25, 2018, when the Cuyahoga County Council passed (8-3) a countywide ordinance which "...expanded non-discrimination protection [throughout Cuyahoga County] specifically on the basis of sexual orientation/gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodations." That ordinance additionally created an oversite process to investigate and prosecute non-compliant entities and persons. I opposed this ordinance very publicly, strongly criticizing the Council in three separate tweets, but my position on this hotly contested issue did not qualify me to run for governor of Ohio.

You additionally stated on Mr. Frantz's show that "...we are fighting people who are multi-millionaires...the political world is evil and disgusting, ...grandmas and grandpas are done with the political crowd, ...done with empty promises, ...and we want our country back." We absolutely do want our country back from the evil progressive left and the equally evil RINO buffoons, but real conservatives do not typically have issues with, or call out, wealthy Americans, especially those who have personally created their own wealth through private enterprise. Americans are supposed to make money. We respect such individuals.

Stop claiming that you and your campaign should win because of this 'needle in a haystack' Maloney Amendment that you have chosen to exploit in Jim Renacci's 8-year congressional voting record, which in this case you seem to have misunderstood - the actual focus of the Water and Energy Bill H.R. 5055 was discrimination in employment [and not transgender bathrooms].

States in our country lose seats in the US House of Representatives for one reason only, because their overall state population decreases. As people leave, moving out of a state, they move to and grow the populations of other states because of employment, retirement, moving closer to children and grandchildren, lower taxes, and also because they can no longer stand the chronic financial and political decay in their communities.

Ohio's population currently is ~11,800,000. Although that seems like a huge number of people, Ohio has been proportionally losing residents for greater than two decades. Are you bringing to the table any specific ideas on how to stem "Exodus Ohio" and retain current residents?

In the past 20 years, Ohio has lost 4 congressional seats, one seat following the 2000 census, two seats after to 2010 census, and one more seat now after to 2020 census – that's 4 large votes on every important federal-level issue from the State of Ohio in the US House of Representatives.

This loss of congressional seats greatly reduces Ohio's voice in Congress on a myriad of national and foreign matters, and requires the fewer remaining sitting Ohio US House Reps to cover physically more miles to serve their districts. Personally, campaigning during 2016, 2017 and 2018, in 32 Ohio cities, villages and townships, I can attest to the travel challenges to communicate with and serve all people and communities in a congressional district effectively. For the past decade, OHCD-11 has covered communities within 2 counties only, but most Ohio US Congressional Reps now cover >5 Ohio counties.

#### Per Wikipedia:

In 2016, there were ~706,000 residents in OHCD-11 in which district I ran twice for the Congressional seat. The cities of Akron, Cleveland and East Cleveland are all in 2012-2022 OHCD-11, in which cities a large number of residents are very poor.

In 2019, there remained only 684,617 residents in OHCD-11. In just this one-of-16 congressional districts, Ohio lost 21,000 people in 3 years. In 2020 the overall poverty rate for this district was 22.7%, and 33% of children under 18 years were living in poverty (censusreporter.org, 2020). Renter-occupied housing was at 51%.

In 2016, OHCD-11 was ranked as the 15<sup>th</sup> poorest CD out of 435 congressional districts nationally. On Laverne Jones Gore's 2020 OHCD-11 campaign website, she reported that OHCD-11 had now become the 2<sup>nd</sup> poorest district in the entire country.

Where is Cuyahoga County's leadership, where is Ohio General Assembly's leadership, where is Ohio Gubernatorial leadership, and on what utopian planet has former Congresswoman Marcia Louise Fudge been anchored for all her time in office? Each and every elected official who has ignored these impoverished constituents has failed in their duty.

As the next Ohio governor, what are you going to do to fix this?

Because poor people are unable to afford to move, OHCD-11 just keeps getting poorer. "It's harder than ever for the poor to simply pick up and move." [Why the Poor Get Trapped in Depressed Areas, <u>The New Republic</u>, 03/18/2016, David Dayen] <a href="https://newrepublic.com/article/131743/poor-get-trapped-depressed-areas">https://newrepublic.com/article/131743/poor-get-trapped-depressed-areas</a>

I certainly agree with Mr. Dayen. Try renting a U-Haul without a credit card. No Chance! Try buying bulk packing supplies at Costco or Sam's Club without a membership. Nope! Poor people are essentially staying put, except for those who are provided taxpayer-funded bus tickets to be driven to out-of-state cities.

"Woke" written and spoken terminology surrounding poverty misdirects our eyes and mental space off of the actual crisis: We say: 'Poor cities, poor communities, and poor neighborhoods; poor children, poor schools and/or poorly performing schools.'

We need to start applying "person-first language" to poverty terms. Addressing poverty is actually all about incentivizing <u>adult persons</u> to become <u>self-sufficient</u>.

POOR ADULTS live in cities, communities, and neighborhoods, and because these poor adult people live where they do, these areas are unable to continue functioning in a thriving manner. Areas look awful because there are little to no resources to maintain them, they can be unhealthy and unsafe places to live and visit, so it SUCKS for poor people to live where they do. I spent three years visiting, meeting in, and looking at such neighborhoods, and I developed a series of strategies and potential program initiatives to deconstruct over a period of time the considerable catastrophe created in Northeast Ohio six decades ago by LBJ's 'The Great Society.'

Mr. Blystone, what are your strategies and potential program initiatives to reduce chronic poverty in Ohio?

In 2018, I fought alongside many determined local East Cleveland residents for the almost impossible task of getting dismantled and removed the poison-producing ARCO 2014-initiated recycling dump at 1705 Noble Road. ARCO created it, and left the state an enormously expensive crisis to remove. Channel19.com claimed the Ohio EPA ultimately spent \$8.8 million to clear it. <a href="https://www.cleveland19.com/story/37607929/ohio-epa-completes-east-cleveland-dump-cleanup">https://www.cleveland19.com/story/37607929/ohio-epa-completes-east-cleveland-dump-cleanup</a> It took a very long time even to get the state's attention to begin to address the dump crisis in the first place, during which five-year time-frame a lot of local East Cleveland residents became permanently ill and injured during ARCO's dumping operation. The dump was producing chronic poison run-offs following every rain and every snowmelt.

How will you as governor take immediate action to address such neighborhood public health crises in the future?







[The photos of sitting water for days at a time at the corner of Nobel Road and Euclid Avenue are still in my mobile.]

#### So, when formerly poor people are no longer poor, they hightail it out of such places at every opportunity.

For the most part, POOR ADULTS in Ohio inner cities are poor because they are functionally **ILLITERATE**, in that they cannot read well enough to complete today's job training programs, so they cannot financially support themselves, their families, or communities. They generally cannot even qualify to take the jobs created by enterprise zones right in their neighborhoods because they cannot READ. Neighborhoods, schools, and children are not inherently poor. They are all victims of POOR ADULTS who cannot read. **The six-decade lie:** "it will be fixed with the next generation by solving illiteracy in the public schools" has turned out to be one of the greatest falsehoods of our lifetime. But this well-aspired utopian construct is still continually pushed, so we remain doomed and frozen by a myopic narrative that will never get adult illiteracy solved/improved.

Enterprise zones frequently fail to accomplish what they are touted to achieve by elected officials. This didn't make sense at first, but having been taken on a one-on-one tour of a significantly blighted Cleveland neighborhood, right in the middle of Nowheresville was a large well-known baking factory with lots of nice middle-class cars parked in the lot. I asked my tour guide, a resident of an adjacent neighborhood who owns a tiny newspaper business, what was going on? He told me that the plant was relocated there through an enterprise zone designation. I asked how many local residents from the nearby streets work at this factory. He said: ZERO. The few locals who applied did not qualify for any positions, so none were hired. I learned from that experience that enterprise zones offer tax breaks to business owners who relocate in those areas, but the workers they hire typically travel into the area for the available jobs. The businesses do benefit the city tax base, but local residents are not benefitting, none are moving up the literacy, job training and job retention ladder. This step-up program has not yet been implemented.

As governor, Mr. Blystone what will you do to implement such programs?

Mr. Blystone, do you have any knowledge of these types of crises? Do you know how to develop a 5-7-year process to begin to attack this primary catastrophe at its root and improve literacy/job training/job retention outcomes? This is one of the most basic and pressing issues that must have Ohio's governor's interest and immediate attention. Will it have yours?

Governor Kasich was not interested in addressing this; After I met with his staffer, no one responded to discuss further.

I took a different tack with Governor DeWine's office. I mailed a packet of material about two and a half years ago asking for a staffer to read, brief the governor on the issues, and to arrange for him to come into the city with me to meet some important local folks. I called to follow up to see who had the material and with whom I could meet to discuss the crisis. No response here either. In addition, my husband Michael had a private discussion in 2018 at Mt. Zion Church in Oakwood Village, with candidate for governor Mike DeWine, to suggest that as governor he should commit to roll literacy training into his job training initiative in order for inner-city residents to become qualified for employment. This did not happen.

As governor, will you make this happen?

It's fun to do the cool things when you are the governor, but Ohio needs to see that a lot of uncool things get addressed. Solutions to what I am describing will take a lot of smart caring individuals (not virtue-signaling "woke" souls), great understandings of how cities interact with counties and the state, how counties and the state interact with the federal government (especially HUD), and how job training programs can be permanently restructured, consolidated and properly funded in the future.

There is a successful model to increase adult literacy right in the City of Cleveland, and it remains essentially unknown and ignored. In 2019, when I was no longer a candidate for office, I returned to its main facility to attend a couple meetings when the Ohio General Assembly was moving to eliminate funding for this agency's satellite east-side office location. This was a clear indication to me that the Ohio General Assembly had no interest in adult illiteracy/literacy training at that time.

The next Ohio governor must have a great understanding of how the various branches of local, regional, state, and federal governments operate, and how they can continuously intersect and interact to implement solutions to adult illiteracy.

## I believe that Former Congressman Jim Renacci has the knowledge and experience to accomplish these goals.

Mr. Renacci's 39-year career as a CPA, three years as an auditor, and the multiple businesses he created which have thrived, gives confidence that he will understand the billion-dollar "obviously not so clear" budget(s) of the State of Ohio, and be able to use his financial skills to identify waste and fraud and efficiently reduce it.

At the city level, Mr. Renacci has served as Planning Commissioner of the City of Wadsworth, on Wadsworth's City Council, on its planning commission and zoning board, President of Council, and as Mayor. In the US Congress for eight years, Congressman Renacci served on various committees, learned about a tremendous number of subjects, and has cast votes on a myriad of bills. He was previously a volunteer firefighter and has volunteered at his church. This is a strong skill-set that will make a difference when Jim Renacci is Governor.

Mr. Renacci has impressed me as a no-nonsense organized executive. Prior to becoming a political candidate/nominee, I was a local chapter co-leader of a national organization that has very defined and limited missions. Our co-leader team requested and was granted an in-person meeting with Congressman Renacci in his Wadsworth office to ask him to co-sponsor (sign onto) a US House Bill on an important national security issue. Some of the already signed-on US House member co-sponsors were US Reps with whom Mr. Renacci had a relationship. After generously listening to our rather lengthy briefing, which included a succinct handout, he indicated he would review the material, check with colleagues and would give us a "yes" or "no" answer in an hour. So, he gave us two hours, a one-hour meeting followed by an hour to reread the material and make phone calls.

One hour later we received a phone call from his office that Congressman Renacci would co-sponsor, and he followed through immediately. The bill was reintroduced in the next congressional session, and Mr. Renacci co-sponsored again, even though we had not as yet re-contacted him. He judged our character, the quality of our presentation, the seriousness of our ask, and the reason we requested his co-sponsorship. Mr. Renacci showed us great respect in processing our request.

### Adult Illiteracy Ensures Generational Chronic Poverty. <u>Chronic Poverty is Society's Economic Cancer.</u>

Kofi Atta Annan, diplomat from Ghana, became the 7<sup>th</sup> United Nations Secretary General, 1997-2006. He holds a Master's Degree in Management from the MIT Sloan School of Management. His published take on literacy is just outstanding. Annan Quotation, GoodReads (online), March 2, 2021. <a href="https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/113611-literacy-is-a-bridge-from-misery-to-hope-it-is">https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/113611-literacy-is-a-bridge-from-misery-to-hope-it-is</a>

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right.... Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential."

Mr. Blystone, it is not likely that you have had direct personal experiences confronting the horrific personal problems being faced by residents throughout Ohio. I learned quite a bit about all this misery myself during intense on-site visits to affected communities for three years during my two congressional campaigns. The statistics which my campaign volunteers and I compiled in 2018 reflect what our poorest Ohioans are and have been facing.

- Cleveland is the 4<sup>th</sup> poorest city in the US.
- Residents of Cleveland live in the 4<sup>th</sup> poorest city in OH.
- Residents of Cleveland demonstrate 66% adult illiteracy. (CWRU study)
- East Cleveland is the poorest city in OH.
- Residents of East Cleveland demonstrate 83% adult illiteracy. (CWRU study)
- District has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest hunger rate in the US (234,000 people rely daily on foodbanks to live).
- District has the highest infant death rate in the US.
- District has the highest foreclosure rate in OH.
- In the District, over 1/4 of residents, and 1/3 of children, live below the poverty level:
  - Unemployment is way above the national average
  - o Public schools are failing to educate Ohio children
  - o Daily opioid overdoses are common and constant
  - Crime overall is up
  - Neighborhood safety has been greatly degraded
  - Teen pregnancy is up
  - Felon re-entry programs need to be strengthened and expanded to reduce recidivism and reincarceration
  - Aging-out of foster care services/programs is dumping these young adults into immediate poverty, and is absolutely failing 18-year old Ohioans.

What makes all of the above crises inherently complicated to unpack is that the city of "Cleveland Earned a 'B' Grade for Fiscal Health" from Truth in Accounting. According to the 2022 report, "Cleveland had more than enough money to pay its bills even during the pandemic. The audit identified a +\$29/per taxpayer surplus." (<u>Financial State of the Cities 2022</u>, Jan 2022, pages 52-53). So, Cleveland itself seems to be on solid financial ground, while its residents are and have been barely hanging on and screaming for unreceived meaningful lifechanging assistance. <a href="https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/Financial-State-of-the-Cities-2022.pdf">https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/Financial-State-of-the-Cities-2022.pdf</a>

Ohio's next governor needs to take the leadership mantle here and begin the process of identifying solutions through securing skilled and committed staff to implement revised programs with completely corrected funding models.

David Robb defined "What Is A Conservative, And Why Would Anyone Be One?" (Conservative Daily News, 2/3/2022). Being a conservative means that you accept an underlying foundational rationale that incorporates "...a collective memory of what works and what doesn't [or didn't] when it comes to ensuring future provisions." Repeating behaviors that have consistently produced bad results [i.e. Progressivism/Socialism/Communism/Stupidism] eventually destroy societies. In every single attempt to move forward, there is at least one and possibly a few finite action choices that work, and an infinite number of actions, if taken, don't/won't work, and which end up being harmful and destructive. Conservatives believe that "...objective reality exists independent of our thoughts and feelings." <a href="https://www.conservativedailynews.com/2022/02/what-is-a-conservative-and-why-would-anyone-be-one/">https://www.conservativedailynews.com/2022/02/what-is-a-conservative-and-why-would-anyone-be-one/</a>

I recently received a forwarded email questioning Mr. Renacci's commitment to conservative values based on information from 2015/2016, which concerned me because not every candidate completely understands all the critical issues from the conservative perspective all at the same time. As candidates, we evolve and take on new perspectives which we did not necessarily agree with or understand at some time in the past. This is because we now have acquired more information, including observable failed outcomes. And more importantly, we seek to face the truth about the root causes of bad results, from which to understand, internalize, and advocate for new positions that will lead instead to successful outcomes. [Sometimes I think back to positions which I held on various issues decades ago and wonder what was wrong with me, what could I have been thinking back then. But that was then, and this is now! I accepted the challenges and risks of learning more information, and I became a conservative. And so has former Congressman Jim Renacci.]

Those of us who are serious about our intentions as candidates/elected officials to seek "the greater good," study a lot of material, meet with a lot of people, ask a lot of insightful questions, and include individuals whom we respect and trust to help us construct our platforms, positions and create our narratives.

Very recently Michael and I had dinner and a two-hour meeting with John and Diane Stover. John is President of Ohio Value Voters (OVV), and Diane is OVV's Program Director of the Protect Ohio Children Coalition. We discussed Mr. Renacci and other Ohio candidates in great depth. The Ohio Value Voters board interviewed Mr. Renacci recently for several hours. They were satisfied with his answers and his current positions on our issues on which he was questioned, and Jim Renacci received the endorsement of the OVV Board. I trust that Ohio Value Voters asked all the questions that I would have wanted to ask, and more.

So, there now exists both a revisited email from a reputable conservative Ohioan from 2015/16 and the quite recent face-to-face 2022 OVV candidate interview. I myself have decided to rely on the latter 100%. Mr. Renacci has looked at a lot of unsuccessful/bad outcomes, as did I as a candidate, and he has firmed up and altered positions on issues that he may not have studied sufficiently in-depth 6 years ago. My take on David Robb's article is that any individual claiming to be a conservative who does not incorporate new reliable information when it could lead to improvement, and does not diagnose unsuccessful outcomes with the expressed intent to create improved future outcomes, cannot claim to be a conservative. I believe that Mr. Renacci has done just that.

#### Mr. Blystone the 2022 election to seat our next Ohio governor is not about transgender bathrooms.

Mr. Renacci does not support transgender bathrooms. I have previously attended three-years-worth of campaign events in Summit and Cuyahoga Counties, many of which Mr. Renacci also attended, and I can assure you I never ran into him in a bathroom. And the most recent in-depth conversation between us was probably on Euclid Avenue at the RNC Cleveland Convention in 2016.

I described above my personal 2018 public challenge to the Cuyahoga County Council regarding their genderaccess ordinance which fails to protect young girls in school bathrooms. Again, it's the "**SCHOOLS**," because that is the one specific place that parents cannot accompany their children into bathrooms; parents can accompany them in religious institutions and in public buildings.

Throughout my three long campaign years, my Democrat opponent, the September-2015-Iran-Deal supporting OHCD-11 harmful Congresswoman Marcia Louise Fudge never commented publicly on me personally or on my campaign research and/or plans/strategies/intended tactics. In 2016, I made over 360 different campaign appearances, of which Progressive Marcia was present ONLY ONCE.

But in October 2018, she finally had something to say after I strongly criticized the Cuyahoga County Council over its "gender protection" vote: "Fudge, a Warrensville Democrat, called the [Goldstein] statement 'ill-informed, racist and homophobic,' and said she would not dignify it with a response." https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2018/09/congressional\_candidate\_blames.html

From that time up until election day 2018, every radio and print interview that I took in District-11 was no longer interested in any of the crises my campaign researched and highlighted, identifying so many community problems which required/and obviously still do require emergency attention. A false personal accusation by

my opponent resulted in successfully taking the focus of the congressional campaign from all vital issues and refocused it on a false LGBTQ narrative.

Similarly, Mr. Blystone, you have raised in your campaign a false accusation against Mr. Renacci relative to an LGBTQ issue which seems intended to distract our conservative voter base from your own lack of competence to perform the duties of the governor of the State of Ohio. Your discussion of transgender bathrooms, a subject which seems to have completely consumed you, needs to stop immediately. This frivolous decoy is belittling the governor's race and is wasting every Ohioan's time.

Character assassination belongs to Democrats; it should not be practiced by "Constitutional Conservatives."

When wealthy [successful] self-made individuals from the private sector who possess the requisite talents and skills to fulfill political office, who do not have anything to gain financially from serving us in government, and who step up for the greater good of our lives, our communities, for Ohio and America, I believe that G-d has put his hand on their shoulders and asks us not to miss the chance. Ohioans are faced with this opportunity right now.

Do you have a blueprint action plan for Ohio's future that specifically addresses all key pressing crises available for voters to read? Can you explain clearly and precisely to Ohio voters why your specific personal expertise, strategies, and planned tactics to run the State of Ohio are better than Mr. Renacci's?

In my opinion, the issue of restoring gun rights to individuals who have or have had mental health issues, is important, as are all 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment issues. However, the plethora of financially failing Ohioans and Ohio neighborhoods, noted above, resulting from chronic illiteracy which causes chronic poverty, requires the immediate attention of our next governor. There is nothing in The Blystone Plan for Ohio that addresses this.

Your stated policy goals are much too limited to govern Ohio at this time. Because you do not appear to possess the necessary administrative knowledge base to address the issues that I have raised, and you have not yet formulated clear-cut program plans to implement life-changing steps for all needy Ohioans, time has run out and you should immediately drop out of the primary election governor's race.

If you personally create a conservative/Republican primary vote split, because you refuse to exit this race, you will be ensuring a DeWine victory in the primary and you will be supporting at least four more years of suffering. This means that the disasters in our businesses, schools, nursing homes, and hospitals, the chronic poverty and its associated outcomes, and the recently devastated Ohio MARKETPLACE of formerly self-employed residents will continue. This is untenable.

As I stated at the beginning of this open letter: If you are so egotistical that you cause this electoral disaster, you will be the most reviled "Constitutional Conservative" Republican in Ohio FOREVER.