

# Coalition to Rebuild the Franklin County Republican Party

## BILL TODD FOR CHAIRMAN

### Bill Todd: Rebuild Our Franklin Co. GOP

- **Adopt and promote clear platform of core principles**
- **Recruit & cultivate better candidates & GOP leaders**
- **Reach out to our allies including African Americans, Latinos, Youth, 912 and Tea Party Members, Independents, and especially disaffected Democrats**
- **Replace our broken endorsement process**
- **Demand honesty, integrity, and competence**

2010



### I. The Problem:

The problem facing the Franklin County Republican Party is clear.

Mr. Preisse has not effectively carried out his primary duty as Chairman, i.e. to win more seats for public office than we lose.

Under our Party Rules, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Doug Preisse, has the responsibility to, "... direct and conduct campaign activities....".

The Dispatch article entitled, "Franklin County GOP - Vanishing Species" describes the serious problem we face as a Party. This is not a subjective challenge based on personality; but rather an objective challenge based on performance. [Click to read a copy of this article.](#)

During Preisse's six years in office, the local GOP lost fourteen (14) federal, state, county or city public offices to the

Democrats, and only two seats switched to Republican. [Click to read the document entitled "FCRP Performance Review"](#) details the specifics of our abysmal local election track record under Mr. Preisse over the past six years.

In 2008, Barack Obama carried Franklin County by a vote of 330,000 to 218,000. That was an enormous loss compared to our county's voting pattern in years past.

The Democratic Party in Franklin County has evolved into a sophisticated political operation, the Republican Party under Mr. Preisse has not. The Democrats have developed an advanced funding, voter registration and turnout model, we have not. The proof of that fact of political life is evident in the documents entitled, ["Contribution Trend 2007-2010"](#) and ["Voter Registration Summary 2004-2010."](#) We have not evolved as a political party. We are using a 20 year old playbook. That must change for us to realize the promise of this election cycle.

If we continue to lose Franklin County, it will be very difficult for our candidates to win statewide races. Ask yourself, or better yet, ask Mr. Preisse, what has he done to address this crisis. What is our plan for changing the dire trends reflected in the attached data, how do we change the equation in our favor? Mr. Preisse cannot give us a straight answer.

Mr. Preisse's track record as leader of our Party is a proven fact. His track record, and his lack of a credible plan to change that track record is the ultimate problem we must face and solve, together, as a Party.

Mr. Preisse argues that this year's slate of candidates is somehow proof of his success, but that is nothing more than pure hope on his part. It is not an effective plan for victory.

It is time to say "Enough is Enough!"



## II. The Solution:

We need to hold our leaders to account. We need a new Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Franklin County Republican Party.

Bill Todd has the legal and political training, experience, insight and demeanor to carry out the critical missions expected of the Executive Committee.

The current leadership team of our Party respected his skills so much they asked him, as our candidate for Mayor, to run the City of Columbus. That says a lot.

Bill Todd will bring a collaborative approach to the job and will form coalitions with diverse groups throughout Central Ohio to attract independent voters to the Republican Party. [Click to read the letter Bill recently sent out to the GOP Central Committee describing his plan to rebuild our party.](#)

To grow and strengthen the Republican brand, he will appear publicly and often. He will challenge Democrat officeholders at City Hall whenever circumstances call for it. He did just that on Sunday on WTVN-Radio when he sharply criticized our Mayor's ridiculous decision to ban city workers from traveling to Arizona. Bill Todd will attack the ideas of Democrats whenever they need to be attacked. Mr. Preisse has not effectively taken the fight to our opponents. Mr. Todd will not hesitate to do so, and he will have support from us all when he does. Mr. Todd is very concerned that the current campaign management provided, or not provided by Mr. Preisse, will cause our Party to lose more local seats this November. That is not being pessimistic, or hoping for the worst, it is being honest. That is also the reason we should act now, not wait until after the elections are over.

We are in real jeopardy of losing the Pat McGrath seat on the Court of Appeals to the Democrats because Preisse did not adequately recruit a senior common pleas judge to run for that critical post. If we lose that seat, we lose our majority control over the most important appellate court in the State. That would be a major failure of leadership.

Mr. Preisse failed to recruit, allow screening, or support an endorsement for any Republican candidate to challenge newly appointed Democrat Common Pleas Judge Beatty, the daughter of two well-connected Democrats with deep ties to the Ohio House of Representatives. The obvious question is, "was there a deal made, and, if so, why?"

That's not the first time we have failed to challenge an incumbent Democrat judge. Two years ago, Mr. Preisse asked an endorsed Republican candidate for common pleas judge to withdraw from the race to challenge Judge Tim Horton. Again the question is, "was there a deal made, and, if so, why?"

One of our Republican endorsed candidates in an important Ohio House District race is currently distributing campaign literature which does not even mention the word, "Republican". Have we become so ashamed of our Party that we don't even call ourselves Republicans anymore? That defeatist philosophy must change, and it will change when Bill Todd is elected as our team leader.

Bill Todd has many positive ideas to share with you about his plans to energize our Party. He will start announcing those plans at the Organizational Meeting.

A short bullet list of several actions he will take immediately include:

1. Broaden the base, and reinvigorate the city wards by providing clear direction and support to the Central Committee Members. You will be a major part of the Solution and Bill will ask you to truly represent your ward. Voters in all sections of the County will be approached and made to feel welcomed in the Party again.
2. Recruit, equip, train, mentor and support our candidates for immediate battles and develop 10-year campaign plan.
3. Become more sensitive in supporting qualified women and men, African Americans and young people. As a Party, we are woefully deficient in making ethnic, racial, and gender diversity a mainstay of our organization.
4. Develop a first class communication system linking the party members to each other and to the leadership, linking the party to the community and linking the party to the press. In short, develop and surpass the sophisticated campaign tools the Democrats are already using. In short, he will reach out to every single member of our Party, and he will reach out to Independents and disaffected Democrats, too.

Before you make up your mind, come to the Organizational Meeting on May 26th. It's going to be a great evening. Keep an open mind. Look at the facts and ask yourself, what is best for our Party?

### **III. Protest to Inappropriate Campaign Actions By Preisse Team:**

The following actions by the Preisse-led campaign team in this election were not appropriate. These actions should not be condoned in future leadership campaigns:

a. The unauthorized use of official Party letterhead and the Party's e-mail distribution system by the Preisse campaign team, and presumably its use of staff and other resources of the Franklin County Republican Party to issue an e-mail letter on May 20, 2010 to Central Committee members promoting the Preisse-led team. That mailing should have been sent on private letterhead via private e-mail by campaign volunteers or by the candidates themselves, not by Party staff being paid with Party funds.

b. Mr. Preisse had a clear conflict of interest when he appointed a Screening Committee to issue an endorsement in this election. It is clearly not appropriate for the person who is seeking an endorsement to be the person who selects the members of the screening committee to issue the endorsement. In law, that practice is called self-dealing and it is widely condemned because it undermines the integrity and reliability of the screening process. If Mr. Preisse does not understand that basic principle of law and common sense, he should.

At the Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, May 26th, the Coalition will ask legal counsel for the Party to provide a legal opinion in regard to these Protests.

We will not seek any sanctions, only a legal opinion which either supports or criticizes the campaign actions noted above. The Members of the Central Committee are entitled to that legal opinion and may utilize it as they see fit.

### **IV. Endorsement of Brad Sinnott for Central Committee Chairman:**

Although we take issue with at least two of the campaign actions taken by the Preisse-led campaign team noted above, we have listened carefully to a number of senior members of the Party and elected public officials.

We understand and share their concern that a complete change in both leadership positions of the Party at the same time could be perceived as disruptive to some local campaigns. We do not believe any changes in leadership of the local Party will affect any statewide races in any manner.

Nevertheless, we have agreed to the constructive suggestion to maintain some continuity within Party leadership while we pursue the fundamental change in leadership philosophy and direction that is essential to our winning elections this year, and beyond.

The Coalition to Rebuild the Franklin County Republican Party, and Bill Todd, jointly announce their unconditional endorsement in support of Brad Sinnott to remain as Chairman of Franklin County Central Committee. We believe Brad will provide a high level of institutional memory and constructive intra-party relationships which will be most helpful to the Party as it moves forward. We are confident that Bill Todd and Brad Sinnott will work well together as the senior managers of our Party.

Assuming things proceed as planned, Mr. Todd will ask his supporters on the Central Committee to join in the unanimous approval of Mr. Sinnott's reappointment to the position of Chairman of the Central Committee at the Organizational Meeting. A Todd-Sinnott team would promote the best attributes of the party and would function seamlessly the day after this election is decided.

**The time to Rebuild the Party is now.**

**ELECT BILL TODD AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE !**