

# OPINION editor@urbanacitizen.com

## OHIO PERSPECTIVE

### US Sen. campaign funds uneven in Ohio

By JULIE CARR SMYTH  
 AP Statehouse Correspondent  
 COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — U.S. Senate candidate Jennifer Brunner's final fundraising figures for the quarter were weak.

The Democratic secretary of state has raised \$583,000 and spent the better portion of it, leaving her with just \$112,000 in the bank, federal filings show. For good reason, she had not earlier reported the numbers when her rivals were touting their millions.

Brunner has raised only about a quarter of the money of her rival for the Democratic nomination, Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, and less than a tenth of what presumptive Republican nominee Rob Portman has raised.

The three are among candidates vying to replace U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, the veteran Republican retiring next year.

Money isn't everything in politics, but it's an awful lot. David Levinthal, a spokesman for the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which specializes in campaign finance analysis, said good candidates have been known to win without big bank accounts but it's rare.

"In many cases, not all, campaign fundraising can be seen as a proxy for support," he said. "If you're unable to fundraise to a great degree then, in many cases, that shows that a candidate may have a lack of broad-based support for their candidacy."

Brunner has sought to allay such speculation by casting herself as the underdog in two ways. First, she is female — and, she points out, Ohio has never elected a female senator nor a female governor. Second, she is the Democrat who wasn't endorsed by Gov. Ted Strickland, the titular head of the Ohio Democratic Party and the friend and political partner of Fisher.

Fisher and Brunner have raised a combined \$3.1 million, half the \$6.2 million Portman, a former congressman and Bush budget director, has raised without a significant well-known opponent.

Levinthal said Brunner's money woes may not be a signal that she lacks public support. Democratic donors may indeed be waiting to see who prevails in the primary before pouring cash into either campaign, he said.

"Some people will stay agnostic in primaries in terms of their campaign contributions," he said. "Any time you're having a family fight, it's difficult. Do you take sides with Mom or Dad or Cousin Joe? It's not a situation everyone wants to involve themselves in financially."

But even the best campaign cannot survive forever without money, Levinthal said.

"There's a perception element, then there's just the ability-to-function element," he said. "In statewide campaigns and congressional campaigns, candidates often need to raise large sums of money to stay on TV, to buy advertisements, to hire staff, to buy office space. All these things are basic these days to run a competitive campaign."

Brunner has already begun to shed staff as her bank account shrinks.

During the 2008 election cycle, the average winning Senate candidate spent \$8.53 million, the Center for Responsive Politics' analysis showed. The average loser spent \$4.13 million. The least expensive winning campaign cost \$1.98 million.

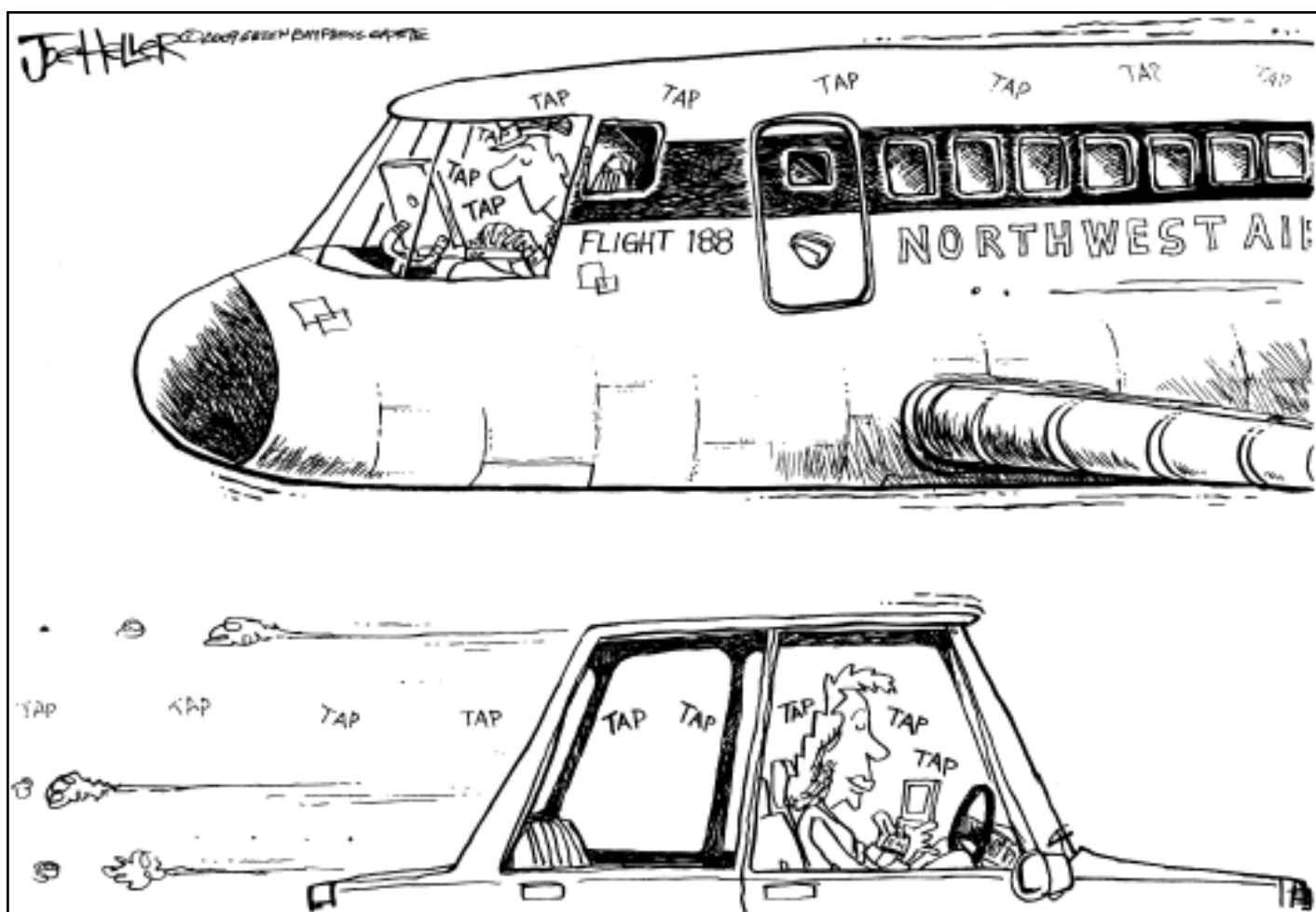
"That says if you didn't spend \$2 million or more, you didn't win," Levinthal said.

And the amounts have been on the rise over the past decade.

During the 1998 election cycle, the average winning campaign cost \$5.22 million, or \$6.8 million in 2008 dollars. The average losing campaign cost \$2.83 million, or \$3.7 million in 2008 dollars. The least expensive winning campaign cost \$1.1 million, or \$1.5 million when adjusted for inflation.

It may be that Brunner, a protege of sitting U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, is taking solace in what happened the last time Ohio elected a senator.

Brown outlasted (some say steamrolled) a popular rival — Iraqi war veteran Paul Hackett of Cincinnati — to grab **See 'Ohio' on Page A-6**



## LETTERS

To the editor,  
 For my daughter's future ...

I would like to personally thank the Champaign County Farm Bureau and EverPower for hosting the bus tour to the Bowling Green Wind Farm Project.

The bus trip was very informative and educational. I had never been up close to an actual turbine until last Wednesday.

The bus parked and the 50 people on the tour disembarked and everyone stopped and listened right under the turbine... it was not silence, but neither was it as loud as my washing machine at home. It is a machine, there is bound to be some sound. Standing next to the turbine, I heard it compared to the sound to the ocean surf — a relaxing rhythm.

Next we all took in the magnitude of the structure itself. It is big, we were told with the propeller in the vertical position, it is 390 feet, only slightly taller than some of the communication towers in Champaign County. The gear box at the top which holds/connects the blades is the size of a small bus. The blades are 134 feet long and are 15 feet across at the widest point.

We could walk up to the actual 15-foot tower base, and it seemed to be about the size of a small silo.

Because this project is a joint venture with the Bowling Green Solid Waste District, we were able to go in the base of the turbine and see the transformer and internal ladder.

I learned that about an acre is disrupted by the turbine itself and once settled, folks can farm or use the land almost right up to the base. Granted, this property is beside the current landfill, there were houses nearby on the main road. We learned the project has great support from the community and there have been no complaints from the neighbors regarding noise or flicker from the turbines.

My perspective is that they are not offending or awkward, but majestic and stately. I am hoping for my daughter's offspring we continue to research and implement new green technology as it becomes available and learn to provide for our own needs.

I know there is resistance to change, no matter what that change is, but unless you have stood, looked and listened, you have not given the turbines a fair chance.

I will not personally gain financially from this project, but I know if we can harness what is provided naturally and abundantly... why not? My daughter and the next generation will benefit immensely.

**Becky Anway Cable**

To the editor,

As many of you know, the Lions Club of Woodstock is restoring the Universalist Church in Woodstock, a huge undertaking by so few.

Years ago there was a beautiful chandelier hanging in the sanctuary. It's long gone, but if there is a thread of hope of the return or learning the whereabouts of the chandelier, we will pursue it.

Why it was taken down, we don't know. It may have been stolen, may be in a box in storage, may be destroyed or maybe being used by somebody. Can anybody shed some light on our mystery?

We guarantee no restitution will take place, we would just like some information about this.

Our restoration is progressing. Hopefully we will have a new roof this month.

The ceiling has been knocked down and some timbers replaced. In the process, we discovered a novel way to lower the chandelier for repair.

Our restoration will include providing for the return or maybe a replacement of the chandelier. We need help.

If you have any information, contact John Westfall at 937-747-3742.

**John Westfall  
 North Lewisburg**

To the editor,

I would like to acknowledge a ministry here in Urbana that has been helping those in need.

It is the Warehouse. I was able to go and see first hand how they can help people.

My daughter was in need of a couch and on the third week of each month the Warehouse is open for business for those who have a need. My daughter was in class to better her education so I went for her. They take your name down and have you go back to the warehouse and they call your name to pick out the item you need. They also offer free clothing, a food box for shut-ins and for those in need and if funds are available they help with other needs.

So, after I experienced this I know where my clothing that I out-grow and extra monies I might have and food that I might have extra in my food pantry and any furniture that might still have some wear will go.

I say to all those who can support this ministry to if you are able to help please do so.

Thanks for helping those in need.

**Linda Dean and Erica Dean  
 Urbana**

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
 Today is Wednesday, Oct. 28, the 301st day of 2009. There are 64 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
 On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

**On this date:**  
 In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1776, the Battle of White Plains was fought during the Revolutionary War, resulting in a limited British victory.

In 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

In 1918, the Republic of Czechoslovakia proclaimed its independence.

In 1919, Congress enacted the Volstead Act, which provided for enforcement of Prohibition, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

In 1940, Italy invaded Greece during World War II.

In 1958, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Venice, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was elected pope; he took the name John XXIII.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broadcast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

Ten years ago: Five Republican presidential hopefuls debated such issues as abortion, health care and taxes in their second meeting in less than a week; once again, front-runner George W. Bush was absent from the gathering in New Hampshire. The House passed, 218-211, the last spending bill of the year, which President Bill Clinton said he would veto.

Five years ago: Insurgents executed 11 Iraqi soldiers and declared on an Islamic militant Web site that Iraqi fighters would avenge "the blood" of women and children killed in U.S. strikes on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah. Boston Red Sox fans turned out by the tens of thousands near historic Fenway Park to celebrate their World Series champion team, the city's first since 1918.

One year ago: Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was sentenced to four months in jail for his part in a sex-and-text scandal. (Kilpatrick ended up serving 99 days.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Jazz singer

Cleo Laine is 82. Actress Joan Plowright is 80. Musician-songwriter Charlie Daniels is 73. Actress Jane Alexander is 70. Singer Curtis Lee is 68. Actor Dennis Franz is 65. Pop singer Wayne Fontana is 64. Actress Telma Hopkins is 61. Olympic track and field gold medalist Bruce Jenner is 60. Actress Annie Potts is 57. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 54. The president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is 53. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 52. Country/gospel singer-musician Ron Hemby (The Buffalo Club) is 51. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 51. Actor Mark Derwin is 49. Actress Daphne Zuniga is 47. Actress Lauren Holly is 46. Actress Jami Gertz is 44. Actor Chris Bauer is 43. "Tonight Show" sidekick Andy Richter is 43. Actress Julia Roberts is 42. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 41. Actor Jeremy Davies is 40. Singer Ben Harper is 40. Country singer Brad Paisley is 37. Retired NFL player Terrell Davis is 37. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 35. Singer Justin Guarini ("American Idol") is 31. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 30. Rock musician Dave Tiro (Plain White T's) is 30.

**Thought for Today:** "Truth is not introduced into the individual from without, but was within him all the time." — Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

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