

**State Representative Kevin DeWine
Fairborn, Ohio 45324**

As you know, in April members of the Ohio Republican Party State Central Committee will select a deputy to serve under Chairman Robert Bennett as we enter the pivotal 2007-08 election cycle. I am humbly writing to you today to inform you of my intent to run as a candidate for this position.

Under Chairman Bennett's leadership, we as a party have enjoyed unprecedented and historic success. Our victories in the political and policy arenas are numerous and far-reaching, and the imprint our GOP leaders have made at the local, state and national level has made a real difference for Ohio families. This success is a source of pride for all of us and could not have been achieved without your commitment to our party and the values for which it stands.

Clearly, 2006 was a challenge for Republicans across America. And there is no question much work lies ahead as we approach a critical crossroad in the future of our state and nation. But where some see challenges, I see opportunities.

I'd like to take a moment to tell you about me and my vision for the future of the Ohio Republican Party.

Who I Am and What I've Done

My Family: My wife Kelle and I live in Fairborn, where we are raising four sons: Tyler, Connor, Evan and Jack. They are the joy of our life. My interest in politics was piqued at an early age in Greene County in part as I watched the career of my second cousin, Mike DeWine.

My Legislative Experience: For the past six years, I have served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, where today I am Speaker Pro Tempore, the second highest ranking Republican in the chamber. Serving as an elected official has provided me a wonderful opportunity to give back to my community and the state of Ohio.

I am proud that my legislative track record has earned the recognition and endorsements from groups like Ohio Right to Life, National Rifle Association, Buckeye Firearms Association and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. I am most proud of my Guardian of Small Business Award from the NFIB and the 2006 Watchdog of the Treasury Award from the United Conservatives of Ohio.

However, I also understand the complexities and great responsibilities that come with leadership. I commit to you that, if selected as your chairman, I will not seek other elected office. Rather I will dedicate my time and talent each and every day to the promotion of our shared agenda and to the benefit of our party.

My Campaign Experience: During my tenure in the Ohio House of Representatives, I have helped recruit, train, fund and elect candidates across Ohio. Over the last two years alone, I raised more than \$500,000 for my campaign and helped the Ohio House Republicans raise a record \$8.4 million.

My Leadership on Critical Party Issues: A few years ago, in the face of cries for campaign finance reform amid questionable fundraising tactics by some within our ranks, I led efforts to overhaul the way dollars are raised and spent for political purposes, with more transparency and accountability than ever before.

In 2005, when liberal special interests – under the dubious umbrella of Reform Ohio Now – attempted to hijack our Constitution, I publicly led efforts against Issues 2 through 5. As you know, voters overwhelmingly agreed with us, and resoundingly defeated these proposals.

My Vision for Our Party

As I indicated, our party has enjoyed an unprecedented run of success under Chairman Bennett, a foundation upon which we must build for continued success in the months and years to come.

My vision for our party is one of inclusiveness, unity and teamwork toward our common goals. To that end, I think it's important we come together as Republicans for a frank, open dialogue about the future of our party.

Under Chairman Bennett's leadership, our party is nationally recognized as a leader in voter mobilization and turnout. It is vital we continue building on this program, working with our county parties and the Republican National Committee.

In concert with our grassroots outreach, we must strengthen our connection with voters. We must participate in a two-way dialogue not only in the days leading up to Election Day but every single day, to ensure we are representing the values of Ohioans. If we are to succeed we must accurately reflect their views in our policy agendas and deliver not only a message of hope and promise but the guarantee of a better tomorrow.

I also believe that the party has a duty to closely monitor the other party's words and deeds and to tell Ohioans what they are up to and to help hold them accountable. With the executive branch now in their hands, our party must be vigilant, support our elected officials and leave no shot unanswered.

Much as Ohioans from all walks of life must have confidence that we share in their hopes they must also have faith in our commitment to help them make those dreams a reality. I believe it is critical that those who fund our party have confidence in our operations, with accountability and a plan for victory as our cornerstones.

Make no mistake, no plan can be crafted, no strategy can be implemented and no candidate can be elected if we cannot communicate our message to voters. That takes a strong fundraising apparatus and the confidence of those who financially support our party. Those who support our party's vision for Ohio's future – whether it's \$10 or \$10,000 – must believe not only in our message but in our management.

In this era of term limits, and given some of the losses we as a party suffered in 2006, I believe now more than ever it's important that we are continuously building as a party for Ohio's future. As part of that, I believe we must place a premium on candidate recruitment, training and support. The leaders of tomorrow are the precinct committeemen, the local activists and first-time candidates of today.

And finally, I believe the Ohio Republican Party is not an entity unto itself but rather is a partnership – a partnership with leaders such as yourself, a partnership with our county parties, our grassroots organizers and activists, and our opinion and elected leaders from across Ohio. It is within that partnership that we will find our collective vision for not only our party but Ohio and her future.

In the days to come I will be contacting you personally to have a conversation on this matter and to hear your ideas. In the meantime however, please feel free to contact me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or via e-mail at XX@XXXXX.XXX.

I look forward to talking with you about your vision for our party and her future, and our common goals of a strong Ohio Republican Party and an even brighter tomorrow for Ohio.

Sincerely,

Kevin DeWine