Republicans Independents Democrats United
Meeting Notes - October 28, 2026

Our **Mission** as Republicans, Independents, and Democrats is to Empower individuals, Educate communities, and Energize a movement for truth, accountability, and integrity in our government. We seek to rise above partisanship to defend the values that strengthen our nation because real change starts when informed voices take united action.

Welcome - Jon Smith and Bev Brubaker

Introduction of Committee of Six

Bev Brubaker and Jon Smith – co-conveners
Janet Crelin – treasurer
Jean Bussell – secretary
Harold Bussell – email coordinator
Kathy Stevens – at-large – Still recuperating from knee surgery

Presentation of the Mission Statement – *Thanks to Becky Daum.*

Follow-up Report from Committee of Six – Jon and Bev

Brief report from Jon since the primary work of the Committee at its last meeting was preparing tonight's agenda!

Treasurer's Report – Janet

Janet reports that the treasury has $350 after payment of rental for the youth center for most of 2027. Thanks for your generous giving. No need to donate tonight!

Report and reflections on the No Kings Rally – All

About forty people attended the rally. Lots of positive "feedback" from passers-by, especially truck drivers! Only a few negatives. Very happy to have done the event! Thanks to everyone who was able to participate.

Campaign Updates – GOTV activities, absentee and early voting, Democrat and Republican headquarters, other. – Jean and others

Jean reported that the campaigns are still looking for people to hold signs/placards at the polling places (except Eaton Community schools which does not allow any political activity besides voting). Signs will include Tim Hornbacker, Amy Acton, and Sherrod Brown. Let Jean know if you have a couple of hours on election day to help with this project. There still are Tim Hornbacker yard signs available it you want to blitz your neighborhood – or anyone else's neighborhood for that matter! Jean reviewed the early voting schedule and reported on the surge in early voting all over Ohio and especially in Preble County as well as the decline in absentee voting. Tim's t-shirts are available tonight, so help yourself to one free not cost or for a donation to RIDU!

Program – "Better Choices for Ohio" – Gene Krebs and Sean Logan

Janet introduced our guests for the evening. Gene (R) is a former state representative from Preble County as well as former Chair of the Ohio Consumers' Council and has been involved with many other political and civic efforts in Ohio. Sean (D) also is a former state representative and county commissioner from Columbiana County in northeastern Ohio (near where the Ohio River is formed on the border). He also has been involved in many political and civic organizations, including serving as Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources under Governor Strickland.

Gene and Sean have worked together on various projects aimed at enhancing the quality of the electoral process in Ohio. Their current work is with Better Choices for Ohio (www.BetterChoicesOhio.org). Better Choices is working to pass Ohio legislation that will change how we select candidates for US Senate, Congress, statewide offices, and the Ohio General Assembly. Better Choices has developed a primary and general election process that seeks to engage voters of all persuasions in the primary and general election processes. Their hope is that the design would help citizens feel better connected to the electoral process to improve the conditions of their lives. Their hope is that the new process would help dissipate the anger and frustration that has become so prominent in our lives over the past decade or more.

The proposal provides essentially open primaries where candidates of all parties as well as candidates who declare no party would run in the same ballot. In other words, there would be no specific ballot for Republicans or Democrats or Independents or any other designation. All candidates would be on the same ballot. The top three vote getting candidates would move on to general election regardless of party affiliation.

In the general election, the three candidates would be subject to three different combinations for voters to decide from. For example, Candidate A, Candidate B and C would run as follows:

A vs B
B vs C
A vs C

Voters would choose their preferred candidates in each of the three pairings and the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner.

This proposal (in much greater detail) currently is under consideration in the Ohio Senate as Substitute Senate Bill 395 (Sub SB 395). It has been considered in committee and may be voted on after the election. It also will be introduced in the Ohio House after the election. There is genuine interest in both chambers, but the election likely will be the motivating factor to move it forward or not.

FYI, the design is called "consensus choice" or "voter nominated primary."

Gene and Sean expressed sincere appreciation for the opportunity to present this plan. RIDU is the first "grassroots" organization they have presented to, and they truly appreciated our questions and suggestions for improving the presentation to make the process more understandable. Gene and Sean would like RIDU's endorsement of the plan, but no action was taken. There will be more discussion at the November meeting.

Other Announcements/Updates – See dates for future meetings and election watch!

The Preble County Council on Aging is holding a honk-in to support its levy renewal. It is scheduled for Friday October 30 from 4-6PM at the intersection of Main and Barron in Eaton. Signs will be available. You do not have to stay the entire two hours to participate! Just show up!

Open Discussion – All – *None!*

Final Remarks and Adjourn – Jon Smith and Bev Brubaker

Thanks for attending! We'll see you again on November 11 at 1:00PM at the Youth Center!

Take care of yourself!

TURN OVER FOR IMPORTANT DATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Future RIDU meetings schedule – all at the Eaton Youth Center:

- November 11 at 1 PM – Election Results Discussion
  - (Second Wednesday, not fourth because of the Thanksgiving holiday; not third because the Youth Center was previously booked, so we will celebrate Veterans Day together!)

    December 16 at 7 PM (third Wednesday, not fourth because of holiday) – Celebrating our Second Year together

- 2027 dates will be announced soon!

Other dates of interest:

October 6, 2026 – Early Voting Starts
In-person Absentee Voting at Junction Village, 532n North Barron Street, Eaton
November 2, 2026 – NO EARLY VOTING
November 3, 2026 – ELECTION DAY!!! Polls open 6:30pm- 7:30pm. Absentee ballots must be received by 7:30pm.

Also, November 3, 2026: Election Night Watch Party for Tim Hornbacker Supporters: 7:30PN – 11:00PM at the Eaton Country Club, 100 Morton Drive off West Main Street in Eaton; Appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks complimentary; cash bar. Hope you can join us!

Follow the news at **WEBSITE: RIDUnited.org**
Facebook at **RID United**
Instagram at **rid_united**
TikTok at **@rid.united**
Join the Email list at RIDUnited@yahoo.com

Interesting Data on PC Voter Registration – This data will be included on RIDU agendas.
Democrats: 1112 (620 households) – 4%
Independents: 18,600 – 67%
Republicans: about 8000 – 29%
Total: about 28,000

For Your Convenience, contact information for our state and federal representatives:

State Representative **Rodney Creech – District 40**. *77 South High Street. 12th Floor Columbus, OH 43215. Phone. (614) 466-2960.*

State Senator Stephen A. Huffman – District 5. State Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor 040. Columbus OH 43215. (614)466-6247

U. S. Congressman Warren Davidson – District 8. 2113 Rayburn HOB. Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6205.

U. S. Senator Bernie Moreno - 2113 Rayburn HOB. Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6205.

U. S. Senator John Husted - 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202)224-3353