

We Demand A vote

Comments from Dan Regenold at CPAC, Washington D.C. 02-08-08

What do you do when your Government Doesn't Listen to you? What I hope you'll do is fight back.

Greetings from Hamilton County Ohio, home of Cincinnati where I live and own a Picture Frame Manufacturing company... Home of where many think the Presidential contest was decided the last two elections... Home of where as George Will once said... that Republicans act like Democrats... also home of the WeDemandCoalition... an amazing group of engaged leaders that decided to fight a battle last year....

I woke up on May 30, 2007 to discovered that the Hamilton County Commissioners had just passed an \$800 million sales tax increase without voter approval—after voters had rejected only a \$200 million tax increase just six month's prior to build a new jail.

I and several others became outraged. We had never had a sales tax increase before that had not been approved by the voters.

When personal liberties are on the line citizens must take action to petition a government that doesn't listen and I hope you will....

In our battle against the Hamilton County Commissioners we were able to create one of the first ever internet dependent interactive websites—WeDemandAVote.com that allowed citizens to get involved in the process and actually download and circulate their own petitions. Over 650 individuals people printed petitions and got involved. Moms...pops...people from every walk of life that were mad. We created an incredible coalition of diverse groups—people that don't ever work together—the NAACP, Green Party, COAST, Hamilton County Business Owners, Unite Cincinnati PAC, Cincinnati Progressive Action and the Libertarian Party. Together in 45 days, really 30 days we got 56,000 signatures and then fought the action all the way to defeat with our successor organization WeDemandABetterPlan by 56% of the voters in November 2007.

What is telling to a group like this at CPAC and what is discouraging is that during the petition drive we were fought at every level by a Republican Party that used to rule the county and protect us against over-reaching government but has somehow forgot about what being a Conservative means. Sound familiar? It's extra hard when you have to work against your own...to fight increased taxes and bad government...from the Republican Party.

But through it all we learned once again that the voters are wise... We were outspent \$950,000 to \$6,600 but the voters knew this was a bad plan and they spoke loudly on Election Day... all we had to do was tell them.....

Lessons to be learned are: 1) An Average Joe can do it, I did, you can. 2) Coalitions are the politics of 2000's Create amazing Coalitions to help you win 3) There are a lot of groups out there to help you... 1) Sam Adams Alliance, 2) American's for Prosperity, 3) In some case the Institute for Justice and 4) US— Call us if you need advice or help....

If you live in an area that has an issue where politics has gone wrong—FIGHT IT—you can win--we did!

