



The Elly Report

*Ideas, Vision, & Values
in Worcester County*

National Issues

Fair Tax: An Idea Whose Time Has Come

by Jerry Horton

Table of Contents

National Issues	1
Local Perspectives	1
Calendar of Events	1
Candidates Corner	2
Around the County	3
State Committee	3
Legislative Update	4

More articles can be found online.
See the complete list at
worcestercountyrepublicanclub.com

Calendar of Events

April 25, 2005, 6:30pm
Worcester County Republican Club, Mass School of Pharmacy,
Contact Mike Theerman,
(508) 944-2536

April 26, 2005, 6:30pm
Worcester Republican City Committee, Mass School of Pharmacy,
Contact Jerry Horton,
(508) 852-8338

April 30, 2005, 10am-12pm
Lincoln Day Celebration, Womens Republican Club of Worcester County, Featured speaker Rep. George Peterson, Emcee Rep. Lew Evangelidis, The Manor, West Boylston,
Contact Pat Knox, (508) 829-7132

May 11, 2005, 9am-2pm
Legislative Day, Mass Federation of Republican Women, Boston,
Contact Barbara McCoy,
(508) 888-7597

May 11, 2005, 7pm
Greater Worcester Young Republicans Club, Worcester,
Contact Rebecca Dono-Healy,
(508) 869-3477

April brings longer days, melting snow, and daffodils. For millions of Americans it also brings a frenetic paper chase for W2s, receipts, bank statements, and a host of other records. Why? Because federal tax returns are due by April 15th.

Tax accountants are wracking up millions of hours as harried individuals try to understand, then comply with, the federal tax code...54,000 pages with more than 2.8 million words. This annual ritual is an odious example of government gone crazy.

No one really understands our tax code. It is widely regarded as unfair, complex, wasteful, confusing, and costly. Businesses and nonprofit organizations spend more than six billion hours each year complying with the federal tax code. The cost of

this compliance – record keeping, accounting, filing forms, and so on – is estimated at more than \$200 billion each year...that's in addition to the paying the taxes themselves! These heavy compliance costs must be passed on to customers through higher prices, putting American businesses at a disadvantage when competing with overseas companies.

Individuals, too, suffer at the hands of an impenetrable tax code. We all must become part-time accountants or pay someone else to file our returns. We all must assemble and maintain detailed records for years. And we all must spend billions of hours on an ocean of paperwork.

One reform plan before Congress, H.R. 25 and S. 25, also known as the "Fair Tax Act of 2005," calls for

continued on page 2

Local Perspectives

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

by Jim Fraser, Selectman, Town of Leicester

Apparently, the 184th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was getting nostalgic and decided to recreate that scholastic experience of spring, the Science Fair. Instead of the typical child's project of using chicken embryos to create little hatchlings, they decided to let scientists use human embryos. They recently passed a bill, by a veto-proof majority, legalizing the use of human embryonic stem cells for research and therapeutic use. The most controversial point is the harvesting of stem cells using a technique called somatic cell

nuclear transfer or therapeutic cloning. [For a description of the cells types involved in the debate, see worcestercountyrepublicanclub.com/stemcell.]

What is important is to note that not one therapy has been developed to date, anywhere, using embryonic stem cells. Every therapy has used adult stem cells. There is no proof, whatsoever, that embryonic cells are more successful at creating therapeutic platforms than adult stem cells. The theory may be grounded in logic, but the fact is it is a completely

continued on page 2

National Issues: Fair Tax
continued from page 1

replacing the current federal income tax with a national retail sales tax. The main points are:

- Eliminate all individual and corporate federal income taxes;
- Eliminate all federal payroll taxes, including Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, and self-employment taxes;
- Abolish inheritance and capital gains taxes;
- Collect same federal tax revenue through a national retail sales tax levied on newly produced, final goods and services; and
- Repeal the 16th Amendment so an income tax can't be reinstated.

The Fair Tax Plan is revenue neutral. As David Kendall, Professor of Economics at the University of Virginia, points out, if passed and signed into law it would:

- Give workers and retirees 100% of their pension benefits;
- Replace all federal income and payroll taxes with one simple, visible federal retail sales tax;
- Rebate to each household on a monthly basis the federal sales tax paid on basic necessities, thus removing the burden of federal taxes on the poor;
- Collect the national sales tax at the cash register, as 45 states do;
- Eliminate all filing of individual federal tax returns;
- Abolish the IRS and all audits of individual taxpayers; and
- Not tax spending on education, thus making it half as expensive for American families as it is now.

Lean more about the Fair Tax Plan at www.fairtax.org. Then call your reps and senators and tell them to support H.R. 25 and S. 1493. Tell them you are tired of the headaches and intrusiveness of federal income taxes. Tell them you want our nation to be competitive again. And tell them you want time to enjoy the daffodils. ER

Local Perspectives: Stem Cell Research
continued from page 1

unproven hypothesis. Even if one wishes to ignore the moral issue of creating an embryo for the sole purpose of facilitating somatic cell nuclear transfer or the fundamental question is a human embryo a human life, one cannot ignore the simple fact that there is no scientific premise for declaring that cures will be unavailable to the public if the embryos aren't created, and subsequently destroyed, for scientific inquiry.

Still, the 184th felt compelled to pursue the metaphysical inquiry of determining when life begins, what constitutes life, should a human embryo be converted into an incubator, and what should be sacrificed for the common good. And they decided they had the technical experience, training, and ethical perspective to deliberate and vote on these subjects within one week's time.

Issues with the Quinn Bill, Education Reform, Civil service, housing, medical assistance, budget

Candidates Corner

Interview with Worcester City Council Candidate Bill McCarthy

Republican candidate for Worcester City Council, William "Bill" McCarthy, is out spreading his campaign message and lobbying for votes. Mr. McCarthy is one of eleven candidates currently running for one of the six at-large city council seats. He will face some of the incumbents in this fall's election. **The Elly Report** sat down with Bill, a Worcester native, to discuss the campaign.

"This year's election is more about taxes and economic development than public safety was in last year's sheriff's race," Bill stated. Six months ago, he placed second in that race and received almost 14,000 votes just in the city of Worcester.

When asked about the issues fac-

The Elly Report

Founded by Harvey Ball, Jr. in 1991

Contributors: Jim Fraser, Jerry Horton, Peter Lukes, Mike Mague, Joe Manzoli, Bill McCarthy, Ken Swift, Shari Worthington

For a complete list of articles, see worcestercountyrepublicanclub.com

To contribute an article contact Shari Worthington, sharilee@telesian.com. To advertise contact Debbie McCarthy, mccarthy75@charter.net

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timing, and managing a turnpike have stumped our legislative bodies for years. But the 184th was able to determine that for about \$70 a year, it's OK to create embryos, then destroy the embryos while strip mining their cells in order to develop an unnecessary cell line to support an unproven therapy. They get first prize at the Science Fair. ER

ing Worcester, he stated, "The city needs some new leaders to focus on developing economic prosperity and dealing with budget problems facing the community. I am a 'problem solver.' That means I will approach the position with a business plan that stresses partnerships and cooperative agreements between the public and private sectors in the city. We have 10 institutions of higher education and we should be working together."

"Further," Mr. McCarthy continued, "we need a more balanced economy in Worcester, one that not only leaves the city less vulnerable to downturns, but also results in an environment which fosters innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship." ER

Around the County

The New Campaign Portal & Phone Banking in Worcester

by Michael Mague

On March 15th, 2005, the Worcester Republican City Committee (WRCC) gave resounding endorsement to a proposed Telephone Outreach Campaign to begin this Spring. The Campaign proposal had earlier been presented to the Executive Committee.

The Campaign was designed in recognition that WRCC needs to revitalize its active membership and to bring City Republican resources to bear on local and state issues and elections. The concept was an outgrowth of a critical analysis of WRCC's limited participation in this

last election cycle. It was also encouraged by a February Republican Party Summit that provided outline and training materials for developing and managing town and city committees. Given that the City of Worcester is about to launch into the municipal elections cycle, the timing of the campaign is critical.

The WRCC was especially grateful to an Executive Committee member who generously offered telephone banking facilities. That offer will assure a regular place of meeting and capacity for up to 10 phone positions. The stated purpose of the campaign is

to assure that phone contact will be made with each and every registered Republican household in Worcester. Election Commission records reflect approximately 12,000 such registrations. The contact is intended to:

- Inform registrant of the WRCC, its purpose, activities, and meeting schedules.
- Encourage active membership in WRCC.
- Determine if election and party records accurately reflect the registrant's party affiliation, address, and phone.
- Assess the registrant's level of political involvement, voting history, and support of Republican candidates and issues.
- Solicit registrant's commitment to future party involvement in any capacity.
- Develop methods to allow continued contact with potential member as a volunteer, contributor, and voter.

It is anticipated that these contacts will generate e-mail address lists to allow continued contact. It should provide opportunity to direct attention to our newly launched Elly Report and to newly designed Worcester County Republican Club web site.

As of this writing, committee members are putting the finishing touches on developing phone lists, script materials, and methods to record results of contact. Measurement criteria have been developed to assess success.

The Massachusetts Republican Party has been especially helpful in their support and encouraged use of the portal system. Access to the portal has been approved by our State Committee people. Additional portal training has been obtained and new features are being put to work.

Anyone wishing to volunteer is most welcome. Contact Jerry Horton at (508) 852-8338 for more details. ER

State Committee

Organizing Our Towns & the Governor's Race

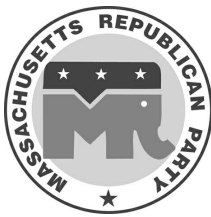
by Peter Lukes, Esquire, 1st Worcester District

I would like to be the first to congratulate Shari Worthington for being elected to the 2nd Worcester district State Committeewoman seat. Congratulations also to Marge Clifford who ran a spirited campaign and has been an active Republican for so many years. I look forward to continued work with both to build our party in the future!

In the 1st Worcester District, State Committeewoman Rebecca Dono Healy and I are continuing to work on several different party building efforts. After the last redistricting, we inherited three towns that were without Republican town committees. I have been laying the groundwork for new town committees in Northborough and Paxton. Hopefully both of those towns will file paperwork soon to set up their town committee. Berlin will then be the only town or ward in the district that will be without a Republican Town

Committee, and we are determined to have full organization of the 1st Worcester district by end of summer.

On a different note, the question of whether Mitt Romney will be on the ballot in 2006 continues to linger with Republicans and the general public alike. Until any official announcement is made, we realize that the Governor gets the support of the Republican Party. However, in the event that Mitt Romney does not run again, please know that there are several excellent Republican candidates ready to step up. The Republican Party will have some extremely strong candidates who have expressed "quiet" interest if Mitt Romney chooses not to run. My advice, "keep your powder dry" and don't commit to any potential candidates just yet. Don't get nervous! There will be plenty of time and several good candidates if we need them. ER



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The Elly Report—Ideas, Vision, & Values in Worcester County

PASS IT ALONG!

Legislative Update

Proposed Legislation Supports Wounded Soldiers

Joe Manzoli

Shrewsbury resident Ken Swift (USMC) is on another mission. This time it's lobbying Congress to help prevent our wounded soldiers from having their pay cut immediately when they are evacuated from the combat zone for medical treatment. As Vice Chairman of the Korean War Memorial Committee of Central Massachusetts and Past Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association of Central Mass, Ken knows it is important that our country be absolutely committed to taking care of our war heroes, especially if they are wounded.

In August 2004, Ken and his associates met with Lance Corporal James Crosby, USMC, at a VA hospital in Massachusetts. LCpl. Crosby was wounded by enemy fire while riding on the back of a US military vehicle in Iraq. A piece of shrapnel pierced his side and penetrated his intestines and spine. He has undergone 14 surgeries so far, but remains paralyzed from the waist down.

Unfortunately, as standard operating procedure, LCpl. Crosby's monthly pay was immediately reduced from about \$2500 to \$1300 when he was transported out of the combat zone in Iraq. He lost his Combat Zone Tax Exclusion, Imminent Danger Pay, and Hardship Duty Pay. Since he has not been offi-

cially discharged from the Marine Corps, he is not yet entitled to Veteran benefits.

So the Korean War Memorial Committee in Massachusetts is heading up a national effort to build bipartisan support for new legislation, the "Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation Act."

This bill is important because it will help retain current service men and women as well as recruit new soldiers. It sends a message that our country is committed to our troops.

So call your state senators and representatives and encourage them to support the bill, H.R. 5296. It's important. ER



Shrewsbury resident Ken Swift (USMC) with Purple Heart recipient, Lance Corporal James Crosby, USMC.

The Elly Report

Welcome

Shari Worthington

Welcome to the **The Elly Report**, the newsletter covering political news and views from around Worcester County. Originally founded in 1991 by the late Harvey Ball, Jr., each issue provides a local look at the major issues affecting our area, from taxes to social security to the military, and more. When you're done with this issue, please pass it along!

The Elly Report works hand in hand with the new, expanded web site of the WCRC. You can read more detailed articles, as well as updates from the town and ward committees at **WorcesterCountyRepublicanClub.com**.

If your committee has yet to submit information, or if you are a Republican candidate running for office, call Shari Worthington at (508) 755-5242 or e-mail sharilee@telesian.com. ER

The Elly Report Needs You

Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Donors and advertisers help keep themselves and others in our county informed on the issues. Please send your donation to The Elly Report to:

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 Committee
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