



Citizens for Common Sense

a non-profit organization
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Newsletter May 2007

Primary Elections

We need to continue on the path of limiting the terms of the aristocratic politicians who are squandering our money, politicians who do not listen to us. Politicians that continue to be arrogant and think we are too stupid to know what is in our best interest.

The primary election is the time that we send the message, enough! The time is now, the date is May 15th. It is your time to speak out. Please do not miss the opportunity and bring a friend.

The Court is in Session.

Again the Supreme Court in Pennsylvania has refused to do the right thing.

As was the case with the pay raise legislation when the Supreme Court ruled the legislation was unlawful, even though they refused to relinquish the raise they had received as a result of this flawed legislation, they again have rendered a decision that makes one question their priorities.

Residents in Philadelphia have requested and received unanimous support from city council to place a referendum on the primary ballot so the residents in the city could have a say, a vote, in determining the location of casinos in the city. As of now only the state's gaming commission has the right to select location of casinos. Like they know our neighborhoods and our quality of life, like they care about our children, like they care about our property values. The court in its' infinite wisdom has issued a preliminary injunction forbidding the city from placing the referendum on the May ballot. They have taken away the rights of the citizens of Philadelphia.

"All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper."- Article I, Section 2, Pennsylvania Constitution

If the courts will not heed the will of the people then it is the obligation of the people to remove these justices from the bench. We will exercise that right on May 15th.

Radio Show Update

Just a reminder, The John DiPrimio Show on WNWR, 1540 AM, needs sponsors to stay on the air.

Please join **Specialty Floors, TR Insulation, Jon Fox, and LaPorta Brothers Roofing** in keeping the truth alive.

If you miss the show which airs on Mondays you can listen to it by going to www.citizensforcommonsense.net where the archive of the show can be accessed.

The creation of the The John DiPrimio was necessary because WBCB and WNPV have ended their relationship with Citizens for Common Sense, and CCS needs to get the word out.

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Listen to The John DiPrimio Show on 1540 WNWR Mondays to 1 to 2 PM.

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Do As I Say Not As I do

Governor Corzine's recent accident further illustrated the arrogance of our politicians. Again, just as in the past, an elected official has chosen to ignore the law.

Corzine was not wearing a seat belt and neither was the rear seat passenger wearing one, illegal in most states, definitely in New Jersey. Furthermore, he, and or the driver, may have been engaged in activities such as, cell phone use, text messaging, faxing that may have distracted the operator of the vehicle. Running an office out of a car and conducting business may have been a contributing factor to the accident, again illegal in New Jersey. Although Corzine was not the driver could these activities have distracted the driver? You decide.

As was the case when Gov. Rendell was caught doing 100 MPH on the PA turnpike, Corzine's car was speeding, another law broken. When will the citations be issued? Again the "do as I say not as I do" rule is in play.

All of this, no seat belt, distractions, speeding, leads to the speculation that Corzine's injuries, and the accident may be his fault. One thing is sure; the taxpayer will pick up the bill.

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Record Profits

The oil companies have been recording record earnings for some time. Now, it seems, the insurance industry is giving them a run for the money.

Property and casualty insurance companies are reporting record profits, in some cases six to eight times previous earnings. In spite of devastating losses from Katrina, Rita, a series of hurricanes in Florida, along with losses sustained from storm and wild fire damage across the nation the insurers are very well healed.

The insurance companies' profits are what remain after overhead and claims are paid. Recent events, losses mentioned above, have allowed the insurance industry to raise our premiums, while claiming that the losses were depleting their reserves the insurance companies petitioned the insurance commissions for premium increases to handle future claims. We have all seen those increases. Therefore, one must conclude that the increases in their profits are a result of their not paying the claims that they professed were depleting their earnings.

If they are not covering the claims from the widely publicized hurricane damage in Louisiana and Mississippi what chance do you have of getting your claim settled? Let the hearings begin!

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Feeling the Blues

Blue Cross of Phila. is proposing a merger with Highmark Blue Cross located in western PA. This will create a health care insurer that will rank 3rd largest in the nation.

A behemoth of this magnitude will undoubtedly place further pressure on the medical profession. If this is allowed to take place look for more hospitals to close, more doctors will leave the profession, and we the rate payers will be forced to accept higher premiums and or reduced coverage.

No good will come from this merger. We at CCS urge you to call and write your state Senators, Congressman, and to call Senators Specter (215-597-7200) and Casey (1-866-802-283). This must not be allowed!

Supporter Writes a Book

One of our supporters has written a book. Titled **Revenge at High Tor**, author Charles Seitz presents an economic, corporate, and political solution to all our present day problems.

Check it out on Amazon.com or contact Charles at chseitz@voicenet.com

IRS Audits

Since 2000 the IRS has nearly tripled audits on the middle class, and if you are a small business owner and file a schedule C the odds triple again. Tax filers spend \$265 Billion annually to voluntarily, ha, comply with the filing of our taxes.

As with previous Presidential elections you can bet that the issue of taxes will be paraded past the voters, and just as in the past the issue will disappear faster than an ice cube in August after the election.

A 3x5 index card should be all that is needed to file a personal tax return and if that individual with an average level of intelligence cannot fill it out then it is too complicated. Furthermore, taxing ones income is regressive and presents an impossible task when trying to catch those with underground incomes i.e. prostitutes, drug dealers, illegal immigrants, businesses with cash transactions, etc. To have a truly fair tax, tax the individual when that person spends the money. Stop the game of hide and seek, stop the game of exemptions and credits. Collect the tax at the cash register not on pay day.

This plan would reduce the IRS by more than half, think of the savings. This plan would stop the obscene expenditure of \$265 Billion annually to file tax returns. This plan would more fairly and equitably tax the rich, since they spend more they will pay more in taxes. This plan would garner taxes from those who earn income under the radar screen when they spend it. Think of the benefits. Check out www.fairtax.org.

If we could only stop the wasteful spending by our politicians maybe all taxes on individuals would become a thing of the past.

Missing Guns

Fox 29 has reported that 31 Philadelphia police service pistols are missing, presumed stolen. Some were actually reported stolen from the inside of police cruisers. Please explain how *that* happens. How about some accountability placed upon the police officers who were neglectful, and if they cannot secure their weapons then maybe they should not be allowed to carry one.

Whose responsibility is it if any of these lost or stolen pistols are used in the commission of a crime?

Police Commissioner Johnson is pushing for more gun control when he should be lobbying for better cops.

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Personal notes.....by John DiPrimio

Since the elections in November and the seating of the new congress in January the talk in Washington has been focused on the Iraq war, in particular a departure date, and funding, rightfully so.

Whether you support the war or are against it the conversation is an important one. But as luck would have it and as an indication of how easily we are distracted, recent events have silenced the conversation.

First it was the distraction surrounding Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, next came the national obsession over Anna Nicole Smith's death and subsequent identification of her child's father, boy I'm glad that's settled. Then Imus regurgitated a vile comment and the nation was captivated by the word Ho, as if it isn't heard tens of thousands of times a day on radio stations and i-pods everywhere. Now a gunman reeks havoc on a college campus killing many innocent, defenseless students and faculty. This I am sure will create a lengthy, but misplaced, discussion on gun laws.

With the exception of the massacre on the campus of Virginia Tech the events mentioned above, while important, and maybe titillating, do not warrant the incessant saturation of the media overshadowing all other important issues. Stay focused, keep your eyes on the ball or it may disappear.

Thank you!

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The People's Voice

**"Liberty cannot be preserved without general
knowledge among the people."**

John Adams

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Thank you for your continued support.

Help is needed: \$25.00____, \$50.00____, \$100.00____, Other_____.

Remember, we are all volunteers, no one is paid. There are no mandatory dues to belong to CCS, we depend completely on your generosity, and we thank you for caring enough to support our efforts.

Your participation is needed as well. You and only you can write and call the politicians regarding the issues we address. You and only you are needed to write letters to the editors of the newspapers, and you and only you are needed to call in to the talk radio stations to bring light to the issues of importance to us all.

Give us feedback: let us know how you like what we are doing.

John DiPrimio is available as a guest speaker for groups and organizations.

To increase our impact we need to increase our membership, so please pass this newsletter along to others, and make copies: let others know about Citizens for Common Sense.

