

Thomas Paine: “In America THE LAW IS KING. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other.”

Thomas Paine’s words seem prophetic in the way Ohio government operates. The disconnect between Ohio political leadership and the folks of Ohio is clear-cut and graphic. The Senate President said as much when he stated, “We kind of do what we want.” The Ohio Constitution is the peoples’ protection against political tyrants. But the lopsided legislature and the complicit statewide elected officials seem to have no respect for the Ohio Constitution—the supreme law in Ohio.

The 135th General Assembly overturned Article VI, section 4 (State Board of Education) by stuffing the overturn into the state budget bill (HB33). This legislature created the universal voucher scheme, which clearly flies in the face of state responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state.

The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State; but, no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this State. (Article IV, section 2)

This General Assembly, as well as previous general assemblies, since 1997, has refused to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools.

Why all the above? “We kind of do what we want.”

Thomas Paine warned the nation of such tyrants.