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## Republicans leading us in wrong direction

Let's take a look at how the Republicans are doing with the job of governing at all levels -- you know, the people's business. Anyone remember that part?

And remember, these are the folks who often mention their high moral standards and like to invoke the religion card. These are just some great examples of their moral clarity:

At the national level, Mr. Bush has yet to find any WMDs in Iraq, or an answer to how we are going to leave Iraq a better place. And after four years and hundreds of millions of dollars, he has yet to find bin Laden, the planner of 9/11. Bush's aides are still testifying before a federal grand jury about leaking classified information.

Government spending is at an all-time high, as is the national debt. I guess they think our kids and grandkids can worry about any future debt repayment.

And my Congressman Bob Ney is somehow involved with a lobbyist for an Indian casino. I guess I missed the big Indian casino here in the 18th District.

But he is giving speeches that say all this is just partisan politics. I'll remember that the next time I'm at a casino.

Do I have to even mention Republicans at the state level? The Republicans have created quite the mess in Ohio with all this pay-to-play stuff, all the golf trips, football tickets and extra benefits they seem to enjoy on a regular basis. But the biggest embarrassment is that Wal-Mart is Ohio's largest employer. Great job, guys!

Locally, the Republican county commissioners are voting for tax hikes. This after one claimed he wasn't the tax man.

City Council Republicans are voting for more government regulation and more taxes, which will close some small

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businesses, which are the backbone of the American economy. Let's hope local Republicans don't start going on golf trips and investing local tax dollars in rare coins.

It's clear that if you want higher taxes, more regulation, graft, corruption and less good-paying jobs, vote Republican.

*Richard Johnson, of Thornville, is a former president of the Licking County Democratic Club and is a member of the Licking County Democratic Party Executive Committee.*

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