

## **Press Conference on Opposition to Jail Tax, October 2, 2007**

### **Cincinnati Progressive Action Statement made by Dan La Botz**

Dan La Botz teaches history at the University of Cincinnati and is a member of Cincinnati Progressive Action.

We in Cincinnati Progressive Action, a local, activist human rights organization, oppose the building of a larger jail with tax money raised from those least able to pay.

- We live in a city and a county both of which have declining populations, so we do not need more jail space when we have fewer people living in our county.
- We have today enough jail beds if we stop jailing people with drug and alcohol addictions, the mentally ill, and the homeless.
- We need more services for those with such problems in our communities, not in the jail.
- We have enough jail beds today if we properly administer the jail, by opening a night court and releasing on bond those who are awaiting trial.
- We do not believe that more police and jails are the fundamental tools for dealing with the issue of crime; rather we believe that the county's resources should go toward education, health care, social programs for families, creating good jobs with living wages.
- We fear that an expanded jail will become an excuse to incarcerate more people, particularly more young, African American men.
- We in Cincinnati Progressive Action believe in the concept of rehabilitation and restorative justice and believe that such an approach will lead to less recidivism and reduce the jail population.

- Opposition to the jail also stems from our opposition to the increasing use of the police domestically and the military internationally in order to deal with problems that should be dealt with by creating a more justice America and a more just world.

We in Cincinnati Progressive Action therefore urge the citizens of Hamilton County to vote No on Issue 27 and to refuse to build an unnecessary larger jail by taxing those least able to pay.

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