

SATURDAY

March 28,
2009

The Advocate

50
Cents

7A OPINION

Saturday, March 28, 2009

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COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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FIRST AMENDMENT

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

OUR OPINION

Pluses and Minuses

Minus: Gov. Ted Strickland's administration failed to deliver real economic opportunity to Licking County this week by refusing to provide stimulus funding for the new Cherry Valley Road interchange. What the governor fails to realize is that poor management of this project by his own Department of Transportation provided the convenient excuse of claiming the project is not shovel ready. If ODOT had used funds provided by Congressman Pat Tiberi for advancing the project a few years ago, it well might have been shovel-ready. While the three projects funded are welcomed, none

have the economic development potential of the Cherry Valley interchange connecting to Thornwood Drive. The governor failed this stimulus test. Now, we all can look forward to a major traffic and jobs clog at the end of our new expressway.