

By Kathy Wray Coleman, Associate Publisher, Editor, Cleveland Urban News. Com and The Kathy Wray Coleman Online News Blog.Com, and Cleveland Urban News.Com Marketing Director and Copy Editor Marc Churchill

CLEVELAND, Ohio- Cleveland Urban News.Com nabbed an interview with actor, songwriter and nine-time Grammy award winning pop and R and B singer John Legend (pictured), a native of Springfield, Oh. who was campaigning in his home state for the upcoming November 6 presidential election for President Barack Obama (pictured), America's first Black president. (Editor's note: Read the one-on-one interview below this brief synopsis).

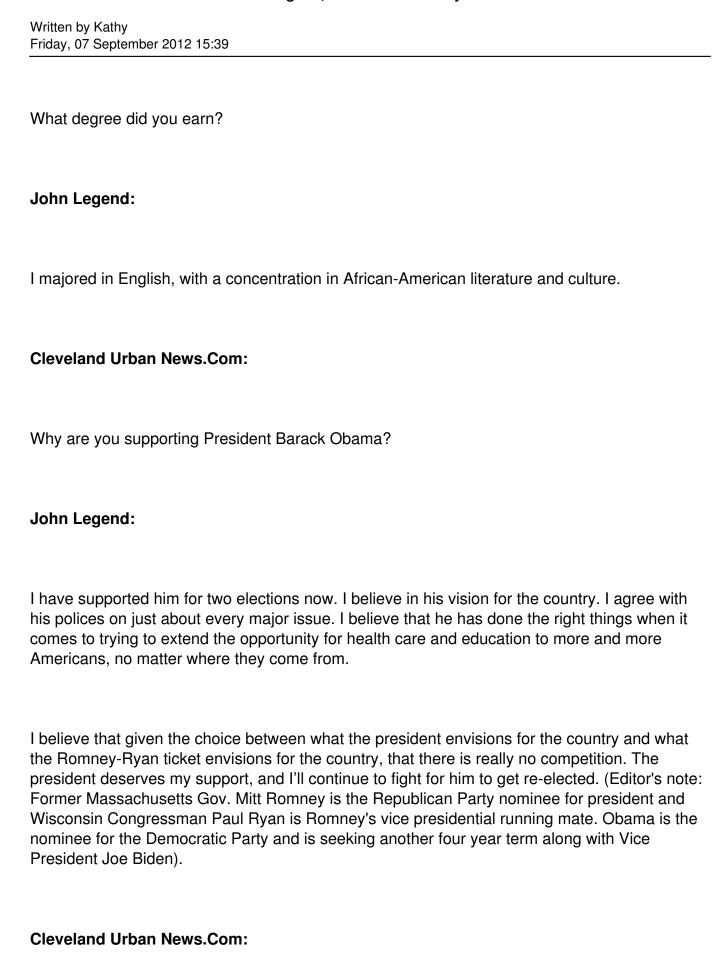
Legend, 33, talks music, politics, Republican pushed voter suppression state laws in Ohio and elsewhere, gay marriage, reproductive rights, the necessity of the Black vote, and his upcoming marriage to model Chrissy Teigen.

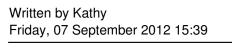
I went there-Springfield North High School.

Cleveland Urban News.Com:

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So you're an Ohioan?
John Legend:
Absolutely, born and raised
Cleveland Urban News.Com:
So Springfield is 30 miles east of Dayton?
John Legend:
Yes, it's about 25 to 30 miles east of Dayton.
Cleveland Urban News.Com:
You attended college at the University of Pennsylvania?
John Legend:
Yes, I graduated from there back in 1999.
Cleveland Urban News.Com:





So you support the president's policies? How do you feel about his personal view on supporting gay marriage?

John Legend:

I support it wholeheartedly. I was glad that President Obama publicly showed his support. I have very good friends who want to get married. They have every right to get married as far as I'm concerned. If you believe in equal rights, then you can't choose which people you like enough to give equal rights to.

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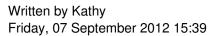
Is there anything you like about Mitt Romney?

John Legend:

I like Massachusetts Mitt Romney. He seemed like a decent guy. He extended health care to an entire state in a plan that was a model for Obamacare, and I think that was a good idea. Unfortunately, the Massachusetts Mitt Romney decided he wanted to kill himself (chuckles). Thus, a new Mitt Romney emerged.

Cleveland Urban News.Com:

Would you say that Mr. Romney's choice of Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan as a [vice presidential] running mate is a suggestion that he is insensitive to diversity and is taking our country back to the 1960s when White men ruled?



I don't think he is insensitive to diversity, but he is insensitive to the needs of the poor and the working class. I think that his policies are following the theory of trickle down economics, when trickle down economics has been proven not to work. It's the idea that if you give rich people as much of a tax cut as you can, then the money will magically trickle down to the rest of the country.

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Is it a better vision for the music and entertainment industry?

John Legend:

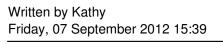
I don't really think about it in those terms. I'll be fine regardless. I think it will impact so many people, if you think about health care for instance. Right now, under Obamacare, as the law rolls out, so many more poor people will have access to affordable health care then have been able to in the past decade. But if Mitt Romney becomes president, he has promised to repeal that. The Romney-Ryan team and their policies on women's reproductive rights are vastly different than the president. They want to get into your bedroom and decide if you have access to birth control. Their economic policy is vastly different from the Obama policies.

Cleveland Urban News.Com:

Do you support a woman's right to choose abortion?

John Legend:

Absolutely!



Cleveland Urban News.Com:

Ohio is so very pivotal in the upcoming election. Are you going to throw any free concerts for the president?

John Legend:

I am going to do as much as I can. I'm fully aware of the importance of Ohio and how much we need to get the Black vote.

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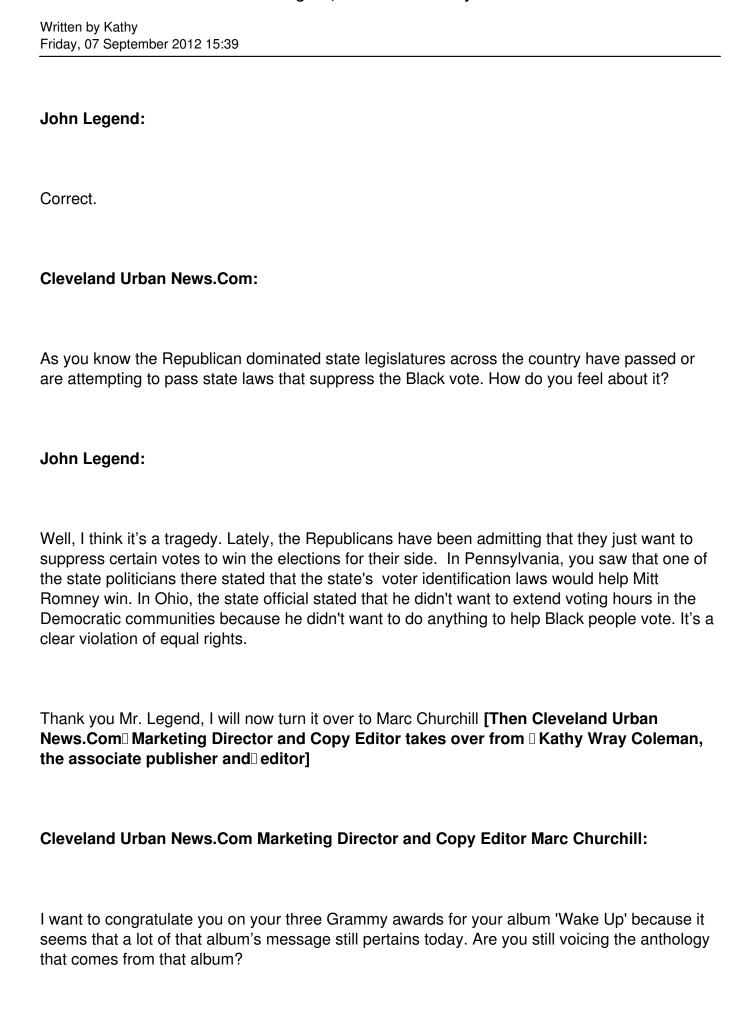
Why do you think Mitt Romney has raised \$186 million in comparison to President Obama's \$126 million? Thirty-three millionaires have given him over \$250 thousand a piece, while data show further that the president has only gotten some \$250 thousand from three millionaires. Why do you think this election is so close?

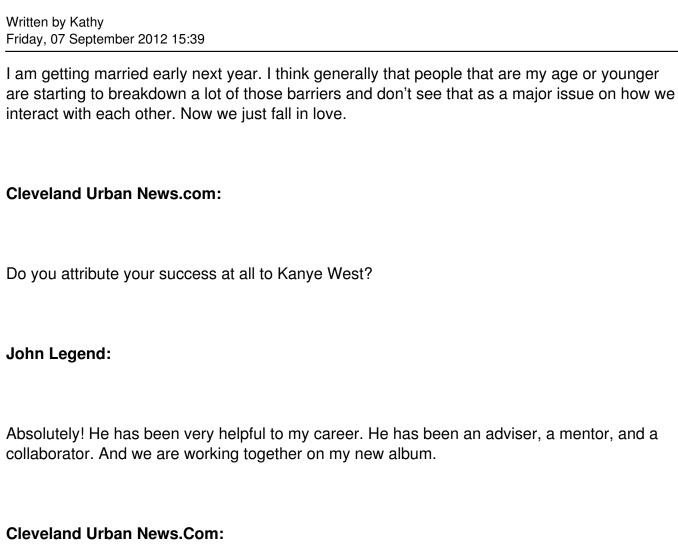
John Legend:

They are donating based on what fulfills their interests. They know that if Mitt Romney is elected, he is going to cut their taxes even further. So it's a good investment because the average millionaire will get a \$250 thousand tax cut.

Cleveland Urban News.Com:

They'll get their money back?





Have you been out to dinner with Kanye and Kim Kardashian?

John Legend:

Alright, we're done now. Thank you very much Ms. Coleman.

Cleveland Urban News.Com:

Okay (laughs), and thank you.

A one-on-one interview with John Legend, nine- time Grammy award winner and Ohio native who talks Ok

Bye-bye.

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