

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*  
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER**



**August 2008**

[WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG](http://WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG)

**HOTLINE 509-585-7682**

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**From the Chair**

A most successful Democratic Picnic is behind us. We had over 200 people attend and more than 14 campaigns were represented, nearly ALL by the candidates themselves. This year we opened the speakers' platform to the seriously contested non-partisan races for judgeships. Some folks disliked the idea, but Democrats vote in these races as well along with Republicans and Independents. So why not give these potential public servants an opportunity to make their case eye ball-to-eye ball with Democrats?

There WILL BE a public event with Christine Gregoire the evening of August 13<sup>th</sup>. Mark it on your calendar and please plan to attend. The Governor was kind enough to support our fundraiser in April, and I personally know that her Campaign is committed to making her more accessible to her supporters in eastern Washington. So please mark your calendars. Time and location will be on our HOTLINE and Website as soon as it's available.

Our State Coordinated Campaign, now integrated with the Obama Campaign for Change, is in full gear. Just recently our Districts' team headed by Steve Lee was

ranked No. 1 of ALL Districts throughout the state for making the most voter contacts! Come by our Headquarters at 1315 George Washington Way, behind Denny's any time and I'm sure Steve can put you to work!

We held our second installment of our Film Festival last Monday. We've been showing the films after the United For Obama meetings on Monday evening, every other week. Because the films typically run past 9:30 on a weeknight, we're considering moving the showings to early Sunday evening, afternoon or another weeknight. Please contact our Hotline/website for the time and details of our next film.

And of course, with all this activity, we haven't even mentioned our upcoming Benton Franklin County Fair participation August 19 thru 23<sup>rd</sup>. When you are contacted by one of our volunteers asking for your help in supporting our Headquarters Office [shifts are 10 to 1 and 1 to 5] our Fair Booth [shifts are 10 to 1, 1 to 4, 4 to 7 and 7 to 10] or for general phone calling, door belling or mailings; PLEASE SAY ... YES. Or better yet, give us a call NOW at **585-7682** or e-mail - [chair@bencodems.org](mailto:chair@bencodems.org) and get your pick of times and dates.

**Party Treasurer Needed**

We are still in need of a Party Treasurer. If you would like to support the organization in this unique way, and are not afraid of numbers and data base work, please consider it. Our Vice President, Regina Speer, has been filling the spot temporarily, but we desperately need a permanent person. For more information contact Regina at 946-5744 or 946-6363.

## Sample Primary Ballot on our Website

If you can get to our website, [www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org) you can access a Sample Primary Ballot; a COPY of Ballot you should receive about the same time as you receive this newsletter. The difference is that OUR SAMPLE is filled out with all the Democratic candidates marked. Please use it as a guide ONLY. We frequently get calls from people this time of year asking how they should vote. This should answer those questions, however, we didn't identify any favorites for the non-partisan races. Where we had TWO Democrats in contention we checked off the candidate who had contacted us in one way or another. For example, Jim McIntire was interested enough in Eastern Washington to attend our Candidate Reception in April. We chose the others in a similar manner. Look for more information, signs, etc. for these candidates either at our Headquarters or on their websites.

If you can't get to the Sample Ballot, here are the Democratic candidates (Side One) **George Fearing**, Christine Gregoire, Brad Owen, Jason Osgood, Jim McIntire, Brian Sonntag, John Ladenburg, Peter Goldmark, (Side Two) Mike Kreidler, **Carol Moser [8<sup>th</sup> LD only]**, **Dante Montoya & Bill Grant [16<sup>th</sup> LD only]**, and your favorite **Democratic Precinct Committee Officer [PCO]**. Write yourself in if you don't find a Dem PCO candidate and contact me for Write-In filing information.

## Candidate Yard Signs & Bumpers Available at our HQ .. NOW!

On a first come first serve basis we have yard signs and literature for many, many of the campaigns in Benton County. Come on by and take your pick. Give us a call and we may even deliver! 585-7682

## George Fearing Campaign Update

Mimi Latta, Deputy Campaign Manager  
George Fearing for Congress '08  
Change Starts NOW!

George has now raised over \$200,000.00 almost exclusively from personal donations. Most of those donations are under \$200.00 so George has called over 1000 Democrats in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as

well as attending summer picnics, house parties, parades, and media interviews. He's working very hard to get his name out before the Primary Election.

Speaking of getting George's name out, we have volunteers coming in nearly every day to help call voters in Central Washington. Some days we only have 1 or 2 volunteers so we can still use more help. If you can donate even an hour or two of time per week, it all helps to defeat Hastings and turn this seat from red to blue. Although George is working very hard, most of the Democrats we call have still never heard of him. Can you help?

If you've been thinking that you need to get a little more exercise, we're going to start walking selected precincts in Benton and Franklin Counties. Steve Lee with the Obama for Change campaign is heading up this part of our Get Out the Vote strategy. We plan to take a group of people to walk each precinct instead of lone walkers. That way, we can finish a precinct in record time and have fun while we're doing it. If you've thought about canvassing, but decided you didn't want to face strangers on your own, maybe this is just the plan for you! We would love to have you join us and strengthen our presence here in the Tri-Cities.

Lastly, let us know what you think about the advertisements we are running on local radio. We think they make our point, but we're always open to new ideas.

Come get involved. You'll feel so good about your day if you change even one vote!

## "The Age of Impeachment" by David E. Kyvig

Alma Cahn

I recommend this book wholeheartedly. Though it is 400 pages long and the print is exceedingly small, it is worth the effort and time. Written by an eminent historian, it clearly informs the character and context of 'American Constitutional Culture since 1960'. Having just watched on TV part of the House Judiciary Committee's hearing on Executive Power and the Bush Administration (7-25-08) I feel that I am living the last chapter before I am even halfway through the book. This is about things we all should know; make it a best

seller.

## Death and Life!

Laurel Piippo, Precinct 195

Volunteer speakers supporting Initiative 2000: Death with Dignity include Democrats Ginger and Jim Vetrano, Kennewick. They were in Seattle on July 20 being trained from one to six PM. If your club needs a speaker, call them at 735-4248. If you're REALLY desperate, call me at 943-3415.

We need to follow up with letters to the editor, talks at club meetings, and donations.

Over 10,000 volunteers like many of you and me gathered 170,000 of the 320,000 signatures submitted on the Capitol steps in Olympia to put Initiative 1000 on the November ballot. Over 220,000 were needed. The top 50 volunteers gathered over 64,000 signatures, with only 4 people getting 1000. I was #29 with 972 signatures. Dang! I left on vacation before hitting 1,000.

Having told everyone how to Die with Dignity (NOT assisted suicide) I will now raise the dead for your delight and entertainment on Thursday, October 16 from 6-8 PM. You may have heard: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT IS COMING TO TOWN and will tell you the story of her remarkable life as the most significant woman of the 20th century, which of course includes much inside information about her life with the great Democratic President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

If you see me coming at Democrats Drinking Liberally (Shilo Inn every Tuesday a 7 PM) or any place else around town, please have your check blank ready for your evening with Eleanor at the Clarion Hotel, George Washington Way, Richland, 6 to 8 PM on Thursday, October 16. Tickets are \$25 each and include a glass of wine, a snack, and a Sweet Surprise. Tickets are available at The Octopus near Democratic Party Headquarters on Jadwin in Uptown Richland, Naturally Gloria, (5215 W. Clearwater, Kennewick), or Lucky Flowers, 4525 N. Road 68, Pasco.

## Primary Vote Critical August 19<sup>th</sup>

Benton County Democrats have a lot riding on the Primary turnout for August 19<sup>th</sup>. Our Coordinated Campaign is doing a super job to turn people out for this event. And the campaigns themselves are doing as much as possible to get the attention of voters that there ARE serious Democratic candidates in these parts. Radio spots and soon to be TV ads will be on the air for **local candidates**, and one of the reason is to encourage you to vote in the Primary August 19<sup>th</sup>!

For a variety of reasons this election cycle has caught the attention of the State Party and Olympia Party leadership as well. They've encouraged and supported East side candidates in the past, but this time it's different in my opinion. This time we have the right candidates, at the right time, and the right teams in place, to make it happen. And an important indicator of this belief is the kind of Democratic turnout we can deliver in the Primary.

Amid the confusion over the Presidential Primary in February, the earlier date of the upcoming Primary and the lack of Democratic candidates in some of the races, there's the possibility that our supporters may ignore the Primary and overlook its importance.

The future of our major campaigns in Benton County may very well depend on the turnout. A good turnout of Democratic supporters [that is greater than 50% of the vote] will tell both ourselves AND the state and national party organizations that there IS change taking place in Eastern Washington and that our candidates deserve their increased attention and support. When we can declare we're no longer out-voted 2 to 1 by our Republican counterparts it will truly be a GREAT DAY for Benton County.

**I know YOU'RE going to VOTE in the PRIMARY. Now get your friends, associates, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, store clerks and family members to do the same! !**



# August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>*Drinking Liberally , 7pm Shilo/O'Callahans</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4 United for Obama, HQ 7pm</b>	<b>5 * Executive Board Mtg (check HOTLINE for time &amp; place</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Tri-City Democrats – 7 pm,Unitarian Church, Pasco</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11 United for Obama, HQ 7pm</b>	<b>12*</b>	<b>13 Gregoire Rally (check HOTLINE for time &amp; place</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16 County Fair Parade!</b>
<b>17 Fair Booth Assembly</b>	<b>18 United for Obama, HQ 7pm</b>	<b>19* PRIMARY – VOTE !!!!! County Fair</b>	<b>20 County Fair Booth</b>	<b>21 County Fair Booth</b>	<b>22 County Fair Booth</b>	<b>23 County Fair Booth</b>
<b>24 Fair Booth Removal</b>	<b>25 United for Obama, HQ 7pm</b>	<b>26*</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

- **Drinking Liberally - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!**
- **Benton County Democratic Party Headquarters is located at 1315 George Washington Way, Richland behind Denny's**