



THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

FEBRUARY 2010

www.bencodems.org

HOTLINE 546-8115

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From The Chair

Last week I received a call from an old high school friend feinting sorrow while reflecting on a week that included Sen. Kennedy's seat to be occupied by a Republican and the Supreme Court ruling that eliminated limits on Corporate spending to promote favored candidates for public office outside campaign donation limits. It didn't really bother me because living in Benton County has well prepared me for such chiding. But it does get tiresome as some make sport of badmouthing governmental programs while Federal spending ranging from Hanford to farm subsidies to healthcare to other federal safety nets create a cash flow that not only buoys up our economy but has kept the recession experienced by much of the nation, some distance away from the County.

In some respects, our area has it both ways, many go to bed damning and cussing federal spending, taxes, bureaucracy and parroting the latest idiotic thing the government has done, while benefiting from the

federal payments that flow in through tax receipts, paychecks, benefit checks, etc.

It's certainly not that government is problem-free or that all governmental programs are necessary; far from it. But it is a prevailing mind-set of many that government is bad and the root of all evil. And those that express an interest or commitment to public service in government as a means to make life better for its citizens are viewed as being wrong headed. Then we wonder why people rank those that choose public service as a vocation/career so low; why it's so hard to get folks to raise their hand to enter public service as a means to foster the common good rather than their own special, self-serving interests.

Senator Murray has at last count, no less than six GOP challengers that generally subscribe to the 'government is bad' mantra and only tolerate a Federal prescription for national defense, personal protection and the encouragement of 'free markets', with regulation and leadership left to the private sector.

Doc Hastings currently has only one challenger, Jay Clough a Democrat from Kennewick. None of our State Representatives appear to have any challengers to date, nor does our County commissioners nor other open County positions with one exception, incumbent Democrat Andy Miller who will be running for County Prosecutor again.

The closing for in-person Filings for Public Office is June 11. If you or someone you know is interested in public service through elected office that share our Democratic values, please contact us.

State Dems Central Committee Meeting Jan 30th

By the time you read this, your State Committee Representatives from Benton County and the 8th Legislative District will have participated in the January State Committee Meeting to be held at Seattle's Convention Center Jan 29th -30th. They may return with the sanctioned nomination of Kennewick's Jay Clough to run against Doc Hastings this November.

Likewise the Resolutions that they voted on will be available on our web site as soon as they're received. A draft of the tentative Resolutions that will be presented to the General Assembly are currently on our web site. There's a link on our home page. You can always contact your State Committee Representatives through their e-mails listed on 1st page of this Newsletter.

Tri City Democrats

The Tri-City Democrats will be selecting new officers this coming February 12th at the Richland Labor Hall. This will be the meeting where the political predictions of 2009 will be read and the new predictions for 2010 placed in the vault. The current Chair, Ginny McIntyre will not be running for the office due to other commitments so the field is wide open. They're also losing their Benton County Representative Margaret Munro who's is moving to San Clemente, CA in a few days.

Each month the organization presents a Potluck and a Program on a topic of local/regional interest; not always about politics but always interesting. Please consider supporting this community outreach organization. All positions are available; Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Benton County Representative and Franklin County Representative. Please call for more information . 492-4111 or 628-2871

15% OFF Any Order \$10 or more for Democrats
with this Coupon [expires 2/28/10]

- >>> **Gourmet Soul** <<<

We Love To Feed Ya !!!

Gourmet Soul is a place where you can go to get great tasting food at reasonable prices. Our menu is down home soul food with a twist. Come hungry! Located in Richland, Guyer & Williams, South of the Uptown Shopping Center. So if you have a big crowd coming for dinner call ahead so you can experience the difference and taste the quality of Gourmet Soul. Phone us at 371 9649

See Menu at

<http://gourmetsoul.food.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>

Advertising in *The Democratic Reporter*

Beginning with this issue we will be trying to help defray the cost of our mailings with local advertising. Please look for the ad(s) and help support the businesses that choose to support your local Democratic Party.

County Convention 2010

In the coming weeks we'll be planning our Benton County Democratic Party Convention. We haven't selected a date yet but it will likely be in April. It will be combined with the 8th Legislative District [LD] Caucus where delegates will be selected to the State Convention to be held in Vancouver, WA on June 26th. It will be at this meeting that the Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention will be elected and the County Platform will be presented, discussed and approved.

Those supporters that reside in the 16th LD of Benton Co. will either be elected to Delegate positions proportioned to represent our piece of the 16th OR may they participate in the 16th LD Caucus [tentatively set for April 10th] which will likely be held in Walla Walla. Options are presently in review and will be finalized well in advance of the caucuses.

Jay Clough Is Chosen Candidate

Candidate Jay Clough got a taste of how hard work can pay off when PCOs from the 4th Congressional District voted to choose Jay as the preferred Democratic nominee at their January 23rd meeting in Ellensburg. Jay's campaign had phoned every PCO in the county to generate a good turnout at the meeting, chaired by former 4th CD candidate George Fearing. We both attended, and we heard the two Democratic candidates, Lewis Picton and Jay Clough. Many of Mr. Picton's ideas were appealing, but Jay's prior work introducing himself around the district likely played a role in his easily winning the vote. The Washington State Democrats will likely support the nominees endorsed by each Congressional District during their meeting on January 30.

The 4th District Democratic Committee is open to any Democrat living in the 4th CD, and those interested may join by paying dues of \$15 (\$25 per couple). Dues-paying members become voting members. PCO's are automatically voting members. Anyone interested can contact us or call George Fearing at 378-5415. The group is also launching a website at <http://wa4thcddems.wordpress.com/>.

Other business to be brought up at the WA State Central Committee meeting includes a discussion on whether we should allow non-partisan candidates the use of our online voter file. Up to now, the use of the database has only been granted to Democratic candidates. However, there are known Democrats who run for non-partisan office and that's why the discussion has come up. At the last BCDCC meeting, we voted that the use of the database should be granted for non-partisan office as long it goes through the county or legislative district Chair. This retains the power to grant usage to the local party where candidates are more often known.

The President in his State of the Union Address plans to improve the lot of middle class families with tax cuts and credits. As of this writing, the speech is tomorrow night so we can only wait and see what the details are. Let's hope that Mr. Obama remains stalwart on the subject of health care reform as well as cracking down on some of the bank

practices that nearly caused another Great Depression.

John & Mimi Latta

Benton County State Committeeman & Woman

HOTLINE 546-8115

Web Site www.bencodems.org

Editor's Notes

Expect a new and exciting newsletter format coming in March! Unless you really like this one ...

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Fri, Jan 29, 10		WA State Dem Central Committee Meeting –Seattle	
Sat, Jan 30, 10		WA State Dem Central Committee Meeting – Seattle	
Tue, Feb 2, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's 50 Comstock	
Fri, Feb 5, 10		Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)	
Tue, Feb 9, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's 50 Comstock	
Thu, Feb 11, 10	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Executive Board Mtg - Skype-Based Conference Call	
Fri, Feb 12, 10	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Tri City Democrats, Richland Labor Temple,	
Tue, Feb 16, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's 50 Comstock	
Wed, Feb 17, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Democratic Central Committee Meeting - LibRPL 955 Northgate Dr.	
Fri, Feb 19, 10		Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)	
Tue, Feb 23, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Libe 50 Comstock	Richland
	8pm – 9pm	Last Day for Newsletter Submissions	
Thu, Feb 25, 10	10am – 11:30am	Newsletter assembly and mailing @ Shilo Inn - 50 Comstock St.	
Tue, Mar 2, 10	7pm – 8:30pm	Drinking Liberally - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's 50 Comstock	
Fri, Mar 5, 10		Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)	
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