

Benton County Democrats

Cinco de Mayo - Pride Festival

April 2018 Newsletter



Welcome to the Benton County Democrats Newsletter. If you have suggestions please let us know at [Newsletter Chair](#). As well, if you have an event you think should be covered please submit it via [suggestions](#). For more information about Benton County Democrats, visit <http://www.Bencodems.org>

Message from the Chair

The single most effective thing you can do to impact your local community is to file for Precinct Committee Officer (PCO). Precinct Committee Officer work and education is my personal passion, and how I got started in this life of civil service. PCOs are the grassroots GOTV effort and are proven to affect real change. Our state has put an incredible amount of attention to creating all sorts of tools to help us in this effort to help maximize outreach, as well as ease. PCOs also are the voting body of our local executive board, including State Committee People who are the voting body for the state executive board. If you'd like to have greater impact on GOTV efforts and your local and state representation, please file for PCO!! Filing week is May 14th-18th. To find your precinct and learn more, please click on the link below.

<https://www.fileforpco.com/#who>

Christine Brown for Congress

Christine Brown spoke to the 8th Legislative District and Benton County Democrats at their meetings on the 18th of April. Christine, who is running as a Democrat to replace Republican incumbent, Dan Newhouse, for Washington's 4th Congressional District, talked about why she is running, and described her top issues. She urged members to visit her website,

<https://www.christinebrowncongress.com/>, and read her positions on all the issues. Christine ended by asking for the 8th LDDCC and BCDCC endorsements. Moves to endorse were passed unanimously, after which the respective chairs strongly encouraged members to help get out the vote.

Highlighted Events

Cinco de Mayo

4, 5 May, Downtown Pasco

<https://www.facebook.com/events/210612196190487/?ti=cl>

Christine Brown Filing Celebration

14 May, East End of Columbia Park
Time TBD

<https://christinebrowncongress.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristineBrownForCongress/>

Washington State Election Filing

14 - 18 May

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/candidates/Online-Candidate-Filing.aspx>

Tri-City Pride Festival

22 May - June 2

<https://www.facebook.com/events/229679520924354/>

Norm Miller Democratic Leadership Dinner

5:30 pm 31 May Shilo Inn Richland

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1659845767440108/>

PCO Notes

John Harder

39,000 voters. How many volunteers does it take to reach 39,000 voters?

Let me put the question another way: Can Benton County muster 400 people to canvass 9 times between now and Election Day? (40 people to be Canvass Host leaders with 9 people per leader to canvass our precincts. One "Listening Canvass" which is underway; one "Persuasion Canvass" beginning after May; one "Get Out The Vote Canvass" in October. Three iterations of each.) The Canvass Host program, which is up & running can handle it.

Can the Democrats of Benton County respond to this Call To Action?

If you are ready to **Act**, please email orgchair@bencodem.org to become part of this important work.

Election Filing Month

May is filing month. BencoDems would like to have candidates in each race in the upcoming election. If you are considering running for office in 2018 or if you want to be elected as a Precinct Committee Officer, you'll need to file with the Washington State Secretary of State's office during the week of May 14-18. Contact the elections committee at Elections@bencodem.org for suggestions, advice and to coordinate with other potential candidates. To file, visit the Washington State Secretary of State website at: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/candidates/Online-Candidate-Filing.aspx>

Cinco De Mayo Events

Carly Coburn and Jeffery Robinson

Want to help build bridges? Want to strengthen your local Democratic Party? Come join us for Cinco De Mayo!

When you need to be there:

6pm-8pm for the Parade on May 4th

10am-5pm on May 5th and 6th

We as Democrats are committed to promoting diversity and acceptance. We ask you to join us at this event as part of that mission. Cinco de Mayo is an unprecedented opportunity to make one of the most marginalized communities in our country feel heard and respected. We are looking for volunteers to help us man the parade float on May 4th and to staff the Democratic Party Booth on May 5th and 6th. For further information please contact Carly Coburn

(<https://www.facebook.com/carly.coburn.9>) or Jeffrey Robinson

(<https://www.facebook.com/jeffrey.sellers1>).

Further participation details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/176943529627812/>

Pasco Cinco de Mayo details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/210612196190487/?ti=cl>

Up Close and Personal: Getting to Know Your Fellow Democrats

By Richard Badalamente

This new feature of the newsletter will be a personal story about a member of our democratic community in Benton County. It would be based on an interview of the person. This is not a "my political agenda" kind of story. It's a who I am and when and why I got involved in politics story, plus a why I hate cats kind of story. I asked Allison Dabler if she'd be willing to be our first victim and she said yes.

Allison Dabler, Part 1

I walked into the restaurant a few minutes late and stood by the desk looking around. "You looking for a girl?" The Maître'D said from behind the desk. Seeing my incredulous expression, he quickly added, "A woman. She's there." And he pointed to a table halfway back where Allison Dabler sat. She saw me and waved.

I was there to interview Allison for a new feature we're adding to the Benton County Dems Newsletter, called "Up Close and Personal." The feature will provide what we hope will be interesting insights into the people who step up to serve our party in various capacities. Allison, the Chair of the Benton County Democratic Central Committee (BCDCC) is our first victim.

"I wanted to meet here so I could get something to eat while we talk," Allison told me, as I slid into the booth across from her. As I would learn, Allison has become expert at multitasking in her ultra-busy life. She's also a devotee of tacos, and thus here we were at Fiesta Restaurant, where she tells me about being raised by a single mother in Northwest Suburban Chicago as the restaurant wait staff played 'Happy Birthday' to a nearby table.

Allison moved to the Tri-Cities 11 years ago when her husband landed a job at Hanford. It was an interesting coincidence for Allison. She attended high school at Chicago's John Hersey High School, where Hersey's seminal book describing the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima was required reading.

Allison met and married her husband in Cincinnati, where she lived during her early Twenties. I asked her what world event she thought to be most impactful for her during those formative years. Pausing just a second, she said, "The easy answer is Nine-Eleven, but the truest answer is 'Shock and Awe,' because after Nine-Eleven I was still a Republican."

Allison went on to tell me about coming from a household in which her father was a Vietnam Veteran exposed to Agent Orange, and his father before him was a double-Purple Heart recipient in WWII. As a young adult Allison identified as a Republican, who first and foremost, supported the troops. But when the Bush Administration began making the case for attacking Iraq, culminating in "Shock and Awe," she was puzzled. Her uncle had been stationed on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border fighting terrorists. What did Iraq have to do with it?

She began doing her own research, which led to her becoming, "woke."

In Part 2 of this brief biography you'll learn what being 'woke' meant to Allison and what it means generally, you'll learn what Allison's other favorite foods are besides Tacos, what garden herbs she's "obsessed with," and what kitchen utensils she absolutely can't live without. You'll also learn what political issue is "personal" to her. Be sure to read our next edition of the newsletter.

What has Dan Newhouse (R-WA4) done for me lately?

By Richard Badalamente

This is a recurring column in the newsletter. In it we'll introduce examples of legislation sponsored/co-sponsored, or otherwise supported by Mr. Newhouse that might make one question just who our representative thinks he's representing.

Rep. Dan Newhouse is showing up in the news more and more as the mid-term elections draw near. He held a "job fair" Saturday, the 21st, at the Red Lion Hanford House. It happened to be across the street from The Celebration of Science event at John Dam Plaza, so an intrepid member of one of our science groups walk across the street to invite him over to visit the exhibits and chat. Unfortunately, he wasn't there. His aide said he'd been there, but like Schrodinger's cat, the act of looking in on him had caused him to disappear.

Newhouse is using "wedge issues" (dam breaching, and Grizzly reintroduction) in an attempt to distract 4th CD voters from his record on undermining healthcare, abandoning DACA, and cutting taxes for the corporations and the wealthy, thereby ballooning the deficit by upwards of \$1.5 trillion. Republican voters, who thought they were the party of fiscal responsibility, are up in arms (an unfortunate metaphor, perhaps), and so Dan made a point of not voting for the \$1.3 trillion spending bill that avoided a government shutdown, keeping the wheels spinning through September. The bill passed 256 to 167, in spite of Dan's courageous stand.

Later, Dan did join other Republican House members in passing a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA), which some called stupid, others called duplicitous, and about which The American Conservative said, "There is no low to which the GOP will not stoop as it continues to insult the intelligence of its voter base." Well, scientists tell us that the lowest known natural point on Earth is the Mariana Trench at 11,034 meters. I trust science, so the next time we're looking for Dan, we'd better send a robot submersible.

Tri-City Pride Festival

Carly Coburn



Tri-Cities Pride Festival's third annual Pride Week is coming up May 27th to June 2nd! Our theme for this year is Glowing With Pride, and we can't be more excited to celebrate with all of you!

On May 9th, a couple weeks before pride, there will be a fundraiser at MOD Pizza in Richland! 20% of food and drink proceeds will be donated towards Tri-Cities Pride Festival! For your purchase to be counted in the fundraiser, you must present MOD Pizza with a digital or printed copy of the fundraiser flyer.

We will be kicking off our week of hosted events on May 30th with our ALL AGES drag show in downtown Pasco at Out And About! This year cover is FREE! Doors open at 6pm with the all ages show beginning at 8pm followed by Drag Queen story time. There will be a second 18+ show at 10pm. Table reservations for groups of 4+ can be made through Tatiana Rexia on Facebook. All ages drag shows are well loved and we encourage you to bring out the little ones to introduce them to some fierce Queens and Kings!

Our second event of the week will be our Gay Skate G.L.O.W. Party on Friday, June 1st! Join us at the Richland Rollarena Skating center for a G.L.O.W.ing night of fun! We encourage you to dress in your favorite light up pride gear and glow sticks and come celebrate with us! Skating is from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and it's only \$5 for skate rentals.

And last, but absolutely not least, on June 2nd we'll be having our Pride Festival! It is planned to take place in downtown Pasco this year! Join us from 3pm to 7pm to celebrate Pride in the Tri-Cities! There will be performers to keep you entertained and food to keep stomachs filled while you check out the vendor and exhibitor booths. The Democrats will be there representing again this year! If you, or anyone you know might be interested in being a vendor/exhibitor or a sponsor for Pride you can contact Carly Coburn, Jay Chavez, you can reach out to the Tri-Cities Pride Festival Facebook page (or Instagram), or you can email us at tricitiepride@gmail.com and we can answer any questions you have or get a form to you.

We can't wait to see you at Pride!

Donations towards the cost of the festivities can be made at

<https://www.gofundme.com/tcpride>.



Faith Over Fear Event

Mike Stipe

Presentations by Aneelah Afzal, Attorney and Terry Kylo, Lutheran pastor

The focus of the April 25, 2018 event was the extent of the Islamophobia industry which spends \$30 million annually to make American afraid of Muslims. Many examples were described of how this group uses social media and Youtube to distribute fraudulent materials to turn Americans against each other.

The large crowd first read the First Amendment together to focus all of us on the core issues that have become so twisted in the Trump era. Aneelah gave a short history of Islam and the Prophet, including describing the many references to Jesus and Mary in the Koran, describing how Muslims revere them and embrace many Christian principles and values.

Terry described the far reach of this radical Islamophobia network. His message seemed focused on what we each can do, starting with getting to know Muslims in our community by visiting their mosques, directly interacting with Muslims and getting to know them personally. A comparison was made between Germany's actions during the 1930's and the growth of Islamophobia in the US today. The presenters answered audience questions during a lengthy question and answer session after the presentation.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Meetings

BCDCC E-Board Meeting

When: Monday, May 7th 6:30 PM

Where: Round Table Pizza – George Washington Way

BCDCC General Meeting and 8th LD General Meeting and Tri-City Democrats Meeting

Canceled in May due to the [Norm Miller Democratic Leadership Dinner](#).

Ongoing Weekly Events

- Living and Drinking Liberally in the Tri-Cities
Tuesday - Dinner at 6:15, Main Group at 7:00.
Isla Bonita Mexican Dining, 1524 Jadwin Ave.,
Richland WA
- Protest Tuesday at John Dam Plaza
- Postcard-writing Sundays at Ethos Bakery
<https://www.facebook.com/tricitiespostcards/>



Richland City Council

<https://www.ci.richland.wa.us/government/agendas-and-minutes>

Kennewick City Council – Calendar of Events

<https://www.go2kennewick.com/calendar.aspx?CID=23,14,27,26&showPastEvents=false>

Friendly Links

Benton County Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/bencodems/
Franklin County Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/FranklinCountyWADems/
Tri-City Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/TriCityDems
Tri-Cities Young Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/youngdemstc/
4 th Congressional District Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/TurnThe4thBlue/
8 th Legislative District Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/8thLDWADems/
16 th Legislative District Democrats	https://www.facebook.com/WADems16LD/
CD4 Public Calendar	https://tinyurl.com/WA04Calendar
PFLAG Benton Franklin	https://www.facebook.com/BFPFLAG/
Citizens' Climate Council	https://tinyurl.com/FB-CCC-TC
Indivisible WA-4CD	https://tinyurl.com/FB-WA04-Indivisible
Love Not Hate – Tri-Cities	https://tinyurl.com/FB-LNH-TC
Our Revolution – Tri City Progressive	https://www.facebook.com/TriCityWAProgressives/
Working Families Party	https://tinyurl.com/FB-WFP
Tri-City Free Thinkers	https://www.facebook.com/TCFreethinkers http://www.tricityfreethinkers.org/

Please share this newsletter

First off, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Every reader helps us to inform, organize, and motivate Democrats across the county. The past ten years have shown the importance of local politics; success of our local party is key to making a real difference here in Benton County.

To do that better we need your help. Our readership is currently small; in busy digital lives a publication like this one struggles to rise above the constant spam, tweets, and Facebook postings.

With that in mind we're asking you to forward the newsletter link and sign up to ten others who share your beliefs but may not have heard of it. Every new reader who uses the resources here to organize, who is energized by proof that there are others like them working for the cause, who is informed by the information on liberal causes and strengthened in their beliefs, every one of them brings us one step closer to turning Benton County blue.