

# Benton County Democrats

## May Edition

May 2018 Newsletter



Welcome to the Benton County Democrats Newsletter. If you have suggestions for the newsletter please let us know at [newsletterchair@bencodemds.org](mailto:newsletterchair@bencodemds.org). For more information about Benton County Democrats, visit <http://www.Bencodemds.org>.

### Message from the Chair

Hello Democrats!!

I want you all to know that your leadership has been working hard representing Benton County to prepare for the State Convention in June. I want to thank Jey Castleberry and John Christianson for their work on the State Rules Committee. John and Jay were tasked with fine-tuning the rules of the convention, as well as creating our agenda, setting the standard for a well run State Convention Meeting. I would also like to thank Judi Johannesen and Chuck LoPresti for their diligent work in their platform subcommittees. Judi served on subcommittee 2, that worked on the Agriculture, Economic Justice, Immigration, and Labor portions of the platform. I had the honor of chairing that subcommittee. Chuck served on subcommittee 4 that tackled the Energy & Climate, Foreign Policy, Military, and Transportation planks of the platform. There are also several resolutions that have been submitted that are up for consideration for recommendation. It has been a lot of work, a lot of travel over four weekends, and has required a lot of intense discussion to make sure we do due diligence to the issues and the process in order to have a platform that represents the values of Washington State Democrats. It was humbling to be a part of the process, and inspiring to see the passion and the knowledge that people brought with them in order to make progressive change across all regions of our great state. If you happen to see these committee members out and about, please take the time to thank them for their service in representing Benton County in this important work.

That being said, filing week has passed and we have candidates in every race, every place!! It's time to get plugged in with our #RiseAndOrganize efforts to help get our candidates elected!! Please contact John Harder at [orgchair@bencodemds.org](mailto:orgchair@bencodemds.org) to find out how you can get plugged in to host or canvass in one of our priority precincts. We've got the tools that make it easy, and the people who make it fun!!

In appreciation

Allison Dabler

Washington State Democrat Convention  
Fernando Aguilar

Olgy Diaz, Party Affairs Director sent out the following information on the upcoming State Convention.

Greetings Delegates, Alternates, Convention Committee Members, and Party Leaders,

The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention is in 30 days! We're so excited to see you all in Wenatchee on June 15 and 16! Please see the attached Call to Convention. This document is a one stop shop for all the information you'll need to know about convention schedule, events, rules, and logistics. It contains the official Convention Schedule of Events, General Session Agenda, Convention Rules, and Convention Sign and Flyer Policy. You should also check our convention website for updates, supplemental documents, and rosters in the coming weeks.

To register for the Convention, including the Friday evening Grand Apple Banquet, the 8th Congressional District Candidate Breakfast, and the Saturday General Session lunch please visit the online registration page here. The deadline to register for the Convention is Friday, June 1 at 5:00pm. Delegates or alternates who do not register by that date will still be eligible for credentials, but will not be able to purchase meals.

Lastly, everyone will receive a final Call to Convention by June 5 with proposed charter/bylaws amendments, recommendations from the WSDCC Rules Committee on proposed amendments, a proposed platform from the Platform Committee, and Resolutions up for consideration at the convention.

Thanks for all you do,

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Olgy Diaz | Party Affairs Director | She/Her/Hers  
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Rise and Organize | Become a Riser  
Visit our Webstore | <http://store.wa-democrats.org/>  
Volunteer | <http://www.wa-democrats.org/volunteer>  
Facebook | <https://www.facebook.com/washdems>  
Twitter | <https://twitter.com/washdems>

# Up Close and Personal: Getting to Know Your Fellow Democrats

By Richard Badalamente

## Allison Dabler Part 2



We ended Pt 1 of this interview with Allison Dabler with her about to tell us how she became “woke.” We also promised to tell you what Allison’s favorite foods are, what garden vegetables 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.

A woke person is someone who is thinking for themselves. Someone able to look beyond the provided narrative. And that’s what Allison did in the days leading up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Immediately after Shock and Awe, she researched the connection between the Persian Gulf War — the first Iraq war — President George H.W. Bush, his Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, and events leading to the second Iraq War, George W. Bush and VP Cheney. A confluence of factors, including the no-bid contract awarded to Halliburton, where Cheney had served as Chairman of the Board and CEO, led Allison to conclude that there was an alternative narrative for why Bush and Cheney were so determined to invade Iraq. Allison became what she says the kids call, being “woke.”

Allison, in reexamining her own life experience, became much more aware of the issues of poverty, inequality, and social justice, and ultimately became the person we here in Benton County know as the thoughtful, engaged, activist Progressive we look to to lead our Democratic Central Committee — she was elected Chair in 2017.

Between handling her duties as BCDCC Chair, Co-Chair of the State Platform Committee, working full time — she’s a medical coder — and doing her part to manage her household with two teenagers, Allison leads a very full life. That’s why when I asked her what she did on her leisure time, she laughed, “You mean if I had any.”

“If I had more leisure time, I’d read. I love to read.” *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk, is her favorite book. “I belong to two book clubs. They’re very forgiving. They let me attend and just drink wine.”

Allison manages to “read” the books she enjoys, primarily historical fiction, by listening to audible books while she cooks, does the dishes, or, now that Spring has sprung, tends her roses, and tills her extensive garden. She and her husband, who’s “a great cook,” are “obsessed with” tomatoes and basil — the ingredients for their authentic marinara. When asked what ‘kitchen utensil’ she absolutely couldn’t live without, she said, “My dishwasher.” Not a utensil, I told her. “Okay, my sauté pan... or my blender. I need it to make gazpacho.”

Allison loves Sushi and Mexican food and, illustrating her support of diversity, Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo.

Allison is passionate about a number of political issues, but environmental stewardship tops her list. She understands the long-term impact of what we do to our environment, and realizes the most serious consequences will be felt by future generations. It makes her angry to see the current Administration rolling back protections. "Even the most celebrated of exotic animals are endangered — our kids and grand kids will be so angry with us."

Maybe that's why Allison works so hard now to make a difference — for a better future.

## Organization Committee Update

House Par-taaaay!!!! Yes, coming to a PCO near You!

Small group trainings are being organized to support the Canvass Host program. This program makes precinct canvassing 'practically' a cinch. (OK, there's still some work to be done, but the Canvass Host program is a template that helps Get The Job Done.)

You can be a Canvass Host whether you are a Precinct Committee Officer or not. You will be working with our regional organizer, Maria Beltran, as well as a pool of dedicated volunteers who help make canvasser recruiting phone calls with you.

Srsly, folks. It's warming up in more ways than one, and it's time for Benton County Democrats to be Takin' It To The Streets. Contact [orgchair@bencodem.org](mailto:orgchair@bencodem.org) to find a party near you.

John Harder  
PCO Coordinator

## Campaign Filing News

We're pleased to report that not only do we have Democratic candidates running in every legislative race, we have 32 PCO filings!! Let's hear it for Christine Brown, for 4th CD, Leo Perales for Senator, Shir Regev and Christopher Tracy for 8th LD Positions 1 and 2, and Everett Maroon and Rebecca Francik for 16th LD Positions 1 and 2! [Source: <https://www.facebook.com/bencodem/>]

Zahra Roach from Franklin County has filed to run for county commissioner. The piece in the Tri-City Herald seems to focus on Clint Didier but there is also information on all of the filers! [Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/article211462899.html>]  
There are 32 PCO's filings: [https://www.bentonauditor.com/PCO\\_Filings](https://www.bentonauditor.com/PCO_Filings).

Filing week was May 14 – 18, to see a list of all candidates who have filed:  
<https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/elections/Candidates/WhoFiled?countyCode=be>

## Initiative 1631: Protect Washington Act Cigdem Capan

It seems like the past 3 years of groundwork done by the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy- an unprecedented coalition of labor, faith and environmental groups together with Native tribes- is finally paying off. With over 60,000 signatures gathered in just a little over a month, from all across the state by a volunteer army, the initiative I-1631 (the Protect Washington Act) has momentum, to say the least. This latest attempt to put a price on carbon in the state of WA is an enormous opportunity for a "just transition" to a green economy. Like the Governor's carbon tax, its motto is "price the pollution, invest in solutions". Unlike the previous carbon tax initiative, which was essentially a tax swap, the fee collected on fossil fuels consumed within the state, under this new initiative, would be for the most part used to invest in infrastructure projects aimed at reducing our carbon emissions. Included in the initiative are provisions to direct a well defined portion of that sum for worker transition programs and assistance for low income residents struggling with increased energy prices. This is to address the concerns about environmental justice that the previous initiative was blamed for. In addition, 25% of the fee would be used for forest and water management, to mitigate from the more frequent and more intense droughts and wildfires we are likely going to experience due to climate change. In a nutshell, this initiative will allow us to reach our statutory emission reduction targets that have been set a decade ago through another ballot initiative (the Energy Independence Act). Now is the time to act to ensure clean air and clean energy to all Washingtonians, present and future generation. The only question is if you will add your name on the petition sheets to help us push it to the finish line.

For more information on the initiative see: <https://yeson1631.org>

For a comparison between various carbon pricing proposals in WA, see the Carbon WA analysis:

<http://carbonwa.org/1631-compare-recent-carbon-pricing-proposals-washington-state/>

To sign the petition get in touch with Cigdem Capan before the end of June, capancigdem@gmail.com or 509-578-6220.

## 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 Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA4) that might make one question just who our representative thinks he's representing.*

### The 2018 Farm Bill

The Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R.2) — the 'Farm Bill' — is the primary legal framework for agricultural policy. It is set approximately every 5 years. The Farm Bill has been one area of policy-making that over the years has enjoyed some degree of bipartisanship. The 2018 Farm Bill however, was passed on a party-line vote in the Republican majority House Agricultural Committee. It was debated in the House throughout May. The bill did not pass.



This massive bill impacts all the commodities we produce, everything we eat, everything we export, the nutrition of our people (80% of funding goes to nutrition programs - SNAP), the sustainability of our farms and forests, and the quality of our air and water.

Nutrition assistance is very important in our district. As of 2016, there were 42,978 SNAP households in the 4th Congressional District, and 42,403 in the 5th, for a total of 85,381 households participating in Eastern Washington.

House Ag Committee ranking member Collin Peterson (D-MN7) wrote to the Committee Chairman, Mike Conway (R-TX11) criticizing the "nontransparent" way the bill was written, and its "flawed" approach to SNAP.

The House bill makes work requirements more stringent for SNAP recipients, imposing on states a bureaucratic, costly "employment and training mandate." This provision is a further attempt by Republicans to cut "welfare." As it stands, the vast majority of SNAP recipients already work.

The bill as drafted disproportionately hurts rural Americans, who are more dependent on SNAP than their urban counterparts. The 4th CD is predominantly rural. Median income is \$37,764 (~150% of the Federal Poverty Level). The average SNAP recipient received about \$126 a month in 2017.

Rep. Dan Newhouse has praised the Ag Committee's work to make the SNAP provisions "more efficient."



## Cinco de Mayo Carly Coburn



The Democrats showed up and proudly represented during the Cinco de Mayo parade and festival! The Benton County Vice-Chair, Peter Gerhard-Roberts, was the designer and builder of our accessible float! We had Dems walking, riding, waving, and throwing candy; fun was had by all! We encountered a primarily friendly crowd that was greeted by cries of: "Dont forget to vote!". We collected email sign ups for the Benton, Franklin, Tri-City, and TC Young Democrats and registered several people to vote during the festival. The organizers and volunteers for

the Democrat contingency, as well as the organizers and volunteers for Cinco de Mayo as a whole, did an amazing job!



## Move to Amend Carl Baker

The Green Party of the Tri-Cities hosted Greg Coleridge, Outreach Director of the Move to Amend group (<https://movetoamend.org>) at the Richland Public Library on May 3. He presented the group's proposal for a 28th amendment to the United States Constitution, which is meant to address the injustices brought about by Corporate personhood and unlimited campaign spending as allowed under the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. The proposed amendment is:

Section 1. [Artificial Entities Such as Corporations Do Not Have Constitutional Rights]

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

## Section 2. [Money is Not Free Speech]

Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

The full text: <https://movetoamend.org/wethepeopleamendment> has links that clarify many of the clauses.

## Initiative 1600: Single Payer Healthcare

Carl Baker

I1600 is an initiative to institute a single-payer Healthcare system in Washington state. It's built on the existing Medicaid system, but corrects the flaws in that system by funding it fully via payroll taxes and a 1% income tax on high earners. Most citizens will save money under this plan. Cost savings can be calculated at

[https://wholewashington.nationbuilder.com/ww\\_savings\\_estimator](https://wholewashington.nationbuilder.com/ww_savings_estimator).

Visit <https://www.wholewashington.org> for more information.

Presentation charts from the April Tri-City Democrats meeting discussing this topic are at: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1e5UKuoBk33Ngw5cSzoC8U-o-t-Ji2Ks4eRM8aqMy1h8/edit?usp=drivesdk>



## Upcoming Events

### Community Celebration of Faiths & Cultures

When: Saturday June 24, 1pm – 4pm

Where: The Fingernail @ Howard Amon Park in Richland

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1705348049773258/>

### ReZist with Roy Zimmerman

When: Thursday June 7, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Where: Community Unitarian Universalist Church; 2819 W Sylvester St., Pasco

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/154263625269868/>

### Evening with Ijeoma Olou: A Talk About Race

When: Saturday June 30, 6pm – 9pm

Where: Gjerde Center at Columbia Basin College

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/232977760587990/>

Disclaimer: This will be a conversation around race with mature content and strong language, recommended for high-school age and older.

## Monthly Meetings

### BCDCC E-Board Meeting

When: Monday, June 4th 6:30 PM

Where: Round Table Pizza – George Washington Way

### BCDCC General Meeting

When: June 20th 7 PM

### 8th LD General Meeting

When: June 20th 6 PM

Where: Richland Public Library 955 Northgate Drive Richland

### Tri-City Democrats

Meeting June 8th 6pm at UA Local Union 598 Plumbers and Steamfitters Hall 1328 N Road 28, Pasco, Washington

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/171194410384513/>

## 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.