

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

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From the Chair

It IS election time. And we have no partisan positions on the ballot, but lots of non-partisan races. And we have candidates willing to call themselves Democrats running, but for non-partisan positions. So what else is new? It seems every election cycle we get surprised on the closing day of filing that a Democrat has decided to declare their Democratic affiliation and run for office. Maybe it's not quite that bad. But if you look at our record over the past years, it's not far from the truth. And surprise of surprises, Jim McCabe, a no bones about it, local Democrat rose to be that candidate in the race for Position 3 in the Richland City Council race. Admittedly under unusual circumstances, Jim saw an opportunity, that arguably may have been crafted by his opponent to obfuscate a public vote and he took it. Not a newcomer to the local political scene and NOW that Jim has a public profile, win or lose, we hope to see more of him.

In this election cycle there ARE NO PARTISAN races. But already I'm getting queries regarding who's going to run against our Republican County Commissioners, other County officials and our State Legislators who are up for re-election. At this point, I wish I had a

dozen or so candidates in the queue who are not only recognized Democrats in the area, but also recognized and respected public servants just chopping at the bit to take on one of these incumbents. Sadly, that's not the case, with ONE EXCEPTION.

Attorney George Fearing has declared his intention to run against Doc Hastings and he's been quite busy over these past few months talking to audiences throughout the 4th District. He and Team Fearing are getting ready, strengthening their campaign legs looking for support throughout the District to mount a successful challenge in the coming year.

What about the other races? The reason I bring it up here, is that if YOU or you KNOW of a fellow Democrat who is interested in public service at the State, County or really ANY public service position, NOW is the time to let us know. Now is the time to find out what it really takes to run a successful campaign. Even if a candidate chooses to 'go it alone' in a non-partisan race, there's a wealth of knowledge among our supporters that are more than willing to help.

At the local level, the notion that candidates are chosen by the local party 'king-maker' couldn't be further from the truth. A more realistic scenario is that candidates are recruited by the party. But in truth, that's not the way it's done either. No one can be convinced to run for public office. They have to want to run, to be of service to the public, to make a difference. And the sooner one arrives at the decision, the better.

I realize that to be perceived as a Democrat in this area may not in and of itself, be a 'vote magnet'. But we believe this perception if it exists at all, can and will change. On the federal landscape I just wonder how often our Republican friends have had to 'hold their nose' to vote a party ticket. Even among our state

representatives the odor of ethics problems has permeated the air.

As a party, we have to offer potential candidates a number of things to encourage their decision. We have to 1) provide an environment of realistic encouragement, 2) provide resources to support candidates and their campaigns, and 3) provide the contacts within the party and political structure in general, to foster dialog regarding political office, public service and the reality of becoming a servant of the people.

So join me as we move into this presidential year with hope and optimism that this will be a good year for ALL levels of government.

Enough Already

The volume of mail and phone calls is coming close to reaching critical mass. If you've ever contributed to a 'cause', political party or candidate within the last 5 years you've been marked. I'm constantly reminded that I'm on a number of 'lists' and I have the snail mail and e-mail to prove it. If not for caller ID I'd be wearing my phone. So between the holidays and politics it seems to be a non-stop onslaught. Enough already!

But seriously, we do NOT share our mailing, membership or phone list with anyone without the approval of our Executive Board. So please blame us if all 7? Presidential candidates find it necessary to inform you of the progress of their campaigns.

If by chance you want to be removed from our mailing list or blast e-mail account, just let us know through our HOTLINE 585-7682 or drop us a card on PO Box 636, Richland 99336. We don't intend to clutter your inbox with unwelcome information.

Caucuses - Saturday, February 9th

In conjunction with the 8th Legislative District we're planning for the upcoming February caucuses. We've identified the sites and are in the process of selecting locations. We're also looking at our financial plan to determine to what extent we can fund these and follow-on activities. These activities include the Legislative District Caucus April 5th where our state delegates will be selected, and the County Convention

April 19th, where we'll finalize our local Party Platform and Resolutions that we'll be forwarding to the State party.

Our Treasury currently could be described as quite modest if you'd consider our bounding cost figures for these activities. Glynn Stevens our Fundraising Chair will be working with his committee this month to develop a plan to meet these obligations. Look for meeting time of his committee on the HOTLINE or the website calendar.

In the meantime, we've included an envelope for any contribution you'd wish to forward at this time. We thank you in advance.

Don't forget to VOTE!

You can mail your ballot as long as it's stamped by Tuesday November 6th. But better yet, ALL the Auditor's offices will have mail box-line DROP BOXES open until 8 pm on Tuesday, November 6th.

And remember:

Kathleen White,
Position 3, Kennewick School District

Jim Dukelow, Position 4, Richland School District

Sheila Sullivan, Position 6, Richland City Council

Jim McCabe,
[WRITE-IN] Position 3, Richland Council

These are declared Democrats running for non-partisan positions. There may very well be other Democrats in these races, but only those above have chosen to declare. Please consider these candidates when you vote.

Jim McCabe

by
Kendall Miller

You are probably aware by now that Richland Mayor Rob Welch is resigning his post on the city council at the end of the year. The effect of his announcement at this time is to allow the majority of the council to select one of its own cronies to replace him. The city council should not be run like an exclusive country

club that selects its own membership. [note - This message reflects the opinion of its author and not necessarily that of the Benton County Central Committee or its elected officers or editor]

As of Oct. 16 there is a write-in candidate for Rob Welch's seat. Jim McCabe is a lifelong city resident who has been active in issues affecting the quality of life in his own neighborhood and a personal friend of mine. He is similar to Sheila Sullivan in that he believes the quality of life in the city is as important, if not more so, than heated economic development. Jim would add further balance to a council in which Sheila is often the lone dissenting voice.

But more than your write-in vote I need you to tell as many people about Jim's campaign as you can. A write-in effort needs a high level of awareness among the voters. But even more immediately I need you to write a letter to the editor of the Tri-City Herald endorsing Jim as a write-in candidate for Rob's open seat. I am hoping that a flood of letters will force the Herald to give Jim some much-needed press this late in the election cycle.

Thanks so much.

Response from Jim McCabe (Oct. 17)

Thanks Kendall, All, it's official. Well, as official as a write in candidate can get. Without my name on the Ballot and the benefit of months of campaigning, it's going to be a matter of getting my name out there in short order.

On the bright side, I am meeting with Michelle Dupler in about 45 min for an interview. With this, some serious doorbelling, and a few letters to the editor, I feel some good numbers can be put up in this race.

Kendall has me pegged pretty well. I am a huge advocate for the City of Richland. I grew up here and this is my home. My son goes to school here (we have great schools) and frankly, we are all very lucky to live in such a great place with great city services, great parks and a beautiful river. But we are also growing. And with growth comes far-reaching decisions about

development, city services and the environment. These decisions should be made with a great deal of care.

I'm getting an estimate on some doorbelling materials, some signs, and a couple banners. With such short notice, this campaign will be anything but expensive. But (and in true politico style) if you wish to contribute I would appreciate it.

Jim McCabe
1636 Howell Ave.
Richland, WA 99354

Upcoming Events

Tri City Democrats

**Friday, Nov 2, Richland Labor Temple – 6 pm
Potluck, 7 pm Program**

Executive Board

Moved from Tuesday to Thurs Nov 15th RCC

Central Committeem Meeting

**Wednesday, Nov 21 Mid Columbia Library,
Dayton St. Branch at Keewaydin Park**

Finance Committee

Monday, Nov 19th RPL Conf.

Organization Committee

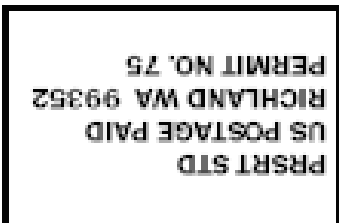
Monday, Nov 26th RPL Conf



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		* Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7 pm		1	2 Tri-City Democrats, 6 pm Richland Labor Temple	3
4	5	6 *	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 *	14	15 Executive Board Mtg 6:30 RCC	16	17
18	19 Finance Comm Budget/Fundraising Mtg 6:30, RPL	20 *	21 Central Committee Mtg 7 pm MCLD	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26 Organization Comm Mtg 6:30, RPL	27*	28	29	30	

* **Drinking Liberally - EVERY Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!**
RPL --- Richland Public Library RCC -- Richland Community Center MCLU -Mid-Columbia Library 16th & Union
MCLD --Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kennewick in Keewaydin Park



Return Service Requested
 Benton County Democratic Party
 P.O. Box 636
 Richland, WA 99352