



THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats



October 2011

www.bencodems.org

HOTLINE 987-5829

2011/12 Officers

Chair	Regina Speer	chair@bencodems.org 946 5744
Vice Chair	Vacant	vicechair@bencodems.org
Treasurer	Malakay Betor	treasurer@bencodems.org
Secretary	Ben Judkins	secretary@bencodems.org 374 0120
Editor	Ed Rykiel	newsletter@bencodems.org 627-1113
SCW	Virginia McIntyre	scw@bencodems.org 628 2871
SCM	Brad Taylor	scm@bencodems.org 375 0732

FROM THE CHAIR

Autumn has arrived in the Mid-Columbia basin. With the changing of the seasons, it is time for Democrats in the area to consider their role in the 2012 elections. For too long Democrats have watched as one Republican after another is elected to office. As a Democrat, have you ever asked what you can do to remedy the situation? Are you resigned to being a perpetual minority or are you willing to step up and challenge the status quo?

As of this writing, no Democratic candidates for office have announced their plans to run in Benton county. Without candidates, Democrats are relegated to having little to no voice in the political affairs of the county or the state legislature. Is this acceptable?

If running for office is not something to which you aspire, then what is your role to be? Are you willing to walk a precinct or make phone calls? Are you available to help with events? Are you willing to do some of the little things that help elect candidates. Washington state has no shortage of Democratic candidates running for statewide office. They all can use your help. This is going to be a very difficult year for Democrats in the

state. Senator Cantwell faces re-election. Representative Jay Inslee is attempting to become governor. Jay Clough is running to unseat the incumbent in the 4th congressional district. And President Barack Obama is steering into difficult election year winds.

The local party needs your help, too. An infusion of new faces, new ideas, and more money would help the winds of change in Benton county. It would be nice if some of the old hands would return to the fray in addition.

Now is the moment for you to assess your role. Before the cold of winter settles in, sit down on your deck or patio, look into Democratic soul, and find your part. Will you be Hamlet, dark and brooding, or will you be the next Barack Obama, full of hope and change. Choose the latter and, in time, Benton county will have a Democrat in local office and a Democratic party making a difference.

Regina Speer, Chair BCDCC

SUMMER EVENTS 2011

The local party has had a very successful summer event schedule. In August, Representative Jay Inslee held his first local fundraiser at the home Josie and Nik Wannaruche. The Inslee campaign was very pleased with the attendance and the contributions received. Representative Inslee presented a spirited speech, exhorting the attendees to get behind him and prevent the current Washington Attorney General from taking the state backwards. His message that we need to get more jobs and better training of the workforce was well received. The chair and the Inslee campaign wish to thank Malakay Betor, Michele Levenite, Ginny McIntyre, Jim Dillman, and Chuck LoPresti for their assistance at this event.

In late August, the Benton and Franklin county Democrats held forth at the Benton-Franklin county fair. As usual, volunteers were reluctant to staff the booth, owing to previous difficulties with fair attendees. However, 2011 proved to be a little different. Many volunteers were greeted with "glad to see you or we are happy you are here." It just may be the seeds of change have finally reached the Tri-Cities. Things were a little different at the booth, too. The party decided to use a different set up and more visuals to entice the eye. Posters of candidates, Constitution copies, and position papers were made available. No, the party did not make money, but an impression was made. Thanks to all who generously made time to staff the booth. Particular thanks go to Brock Ruby, Ben Judkins, Mimi Latta, and Zack Hopko, who all took multiple shifts to have the booth continuously staffed. Also thanks to Zack Hopko for producing the "What the heck has Obama done" handout and Malakay Betor for the pens and Constitution copies.

We closed the summer event schedule with the 3rd annual shrimp boil. 117 Democrats officially attended, and a few others rested on the grass. This was the largest number of attendees in the short history of the event. Glynn Stevens returned by popular demand to preside over the boil. Bob Ferguson, candidate for Washington state attorney general, and Kathleen Drew, possible secretary of state candidate, attended to meet and greet the local party members. Both were well received and indicated a willingness to return next year when the campaign season is in high gear. This event is growing and is rapidly becoming a go-to event for Democrats. Thanks to all who helped-Malakay Betor, Ginny McIntyre, Kendall Miller, Heid Hill, Mimi Latta, Leona Hassing, Margaret Munro, Dyanna Forsythe, Mildred Walton, Chuck LoPresti, Lora Rathbone, Michele Levenite, Alan Hopko, Ralph Crowl, Scott Hill (who just happened to be visiting and was pressed immediately into helping), and Glynn Stevens, the master of the boil.

Without the help of these dedicated volunteers, none of the events would be possible. They deserve the thanks of every party member, whether you attend an event or not.

NOVEMBER 12 FUNDRAISER

The Christian Right is neither right nor Christian. Join the Fourth Congressional District Democrats, in its first ever gala fundraising banquet, in exploring this subject

with Frank Schaeffer, former insider and son of the philosopher of the Christian Right. Schaeffer is the internationally acclaimed author of *Crazy for God: How I Grew Up As One of the Elect, Helped Found the Religious Right and Lived to Take All (or Almost All) of It Back*, and *Sex, Mom, and God*. Michelle Bachman, Tim LaHaye and Randall Terry credit Frank's father Francis Schaeffer for forming their political views. Frank, who frequently appears on programs such as Rachel Maddow, is a distinguished critic of his father's theocratic and dominionist views.

The Fourth Congressional District fundraising banquet will be held on November 12, at Pioneer Hall, State Fair Park in Yakima WA. The address is 1301 South Fair Ave. Yakima. Doors open at 5:30 pm with a no-host bar and cocktails. A gourmet buffet dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$100 per person with a special discount for two individuals at \$150 combined.

Tickets can be bought at the FCDDC website or contact your chair.

CANDIDATE SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for candidates for the 8th Legislative District Chair position due to removal of Steve Lee as Chair. Members of the committee are John Latta, Malakay Betor and Mimi Latta or interested parties can contact Nancy Beitel. *Please contact one of the committee at our website to express your interest in the position.*

WA STATE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING - SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH

There was much discussion about proposed plans for redistricting in Washington State at dinner Friday night. One of the reasons redistricting is such a hot issue is that it affects both PCO elections and delegate selection for the 2012 Presidential Election year. To see the proposals from the Redistricting Commission, go to: <http://wa-demchairs.org/2011/redistrictingproposals.php> and be sure to let the 4 Commissioners know what you think. All of the proposals will change our legislative district boundaries as well as our congressional district boundaries.

As part of the discussion, the issue of PCO elections was put before the body. County Auditors are trying to do away with PCO elections because they are partisan

elections, but there's nothing more Democratic than neighborhood residents electing representatives at the most basic level. A proposal to use electronic voting via the internet failed, but the body did vote to allow the State Chair to bring that method to the State Executive Committee only if mail-in ballots aren't used. We also voted to use the new redistricting boundaries for 2012 caucuses rather than the pre-census boundaries that some favored.

We voted unanimously to endorse Jay Inslee as the Democratic candidate for governor, voted down Tim Eyeman's Initiative 1125, voted to endorse Initiative 1163 that requires training for long-term care workers, voted to endorse the Initiative Measure 502 to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana for adults 21 and over, voted against Initiative 1183 to abolish state liquor stores. We voted unanimously to call for Federal recognition of the Duwamish Tribe and voted to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act requiring banks and brokerage houses be separate.

It was a very busy weekend, but well worth the trip to Bellingham. John and I urge all members to try to attend State Committee meetings whenever possible.

Mimi & John Latta, proxies for Barbara O'Brien and Brad Taylor

AN OPEN LETTER TO SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER

Dear Mister Speaker:

Thirty years ago, President Ronald Reagan assumed office. He promised lower taxes, a balanced budget, and economic prosperity. At the end of his two terms in office, the budget was not balanced, the deficit had almost tripled, taxes had been increased eleven times, the United States had endured the worst recession since the great depression, and the stock market had crashed.

Twenty years ago, President William Clinton came to office. He promised to lead the United States out of the recession and to economic prosperity. After eight years, President Clinton has raised taxes with nary a republican vote, balanced the budget, created twenty-two million jobs during his terms, and had the country on course to paying to zero its entire national debt.

Ten years ago, President George W. Bush assumed the presidency. He promised to lower taxes and create an "ownership society." After eight years, the deficit had

doubled, the financial markets were on the verge of collapse, the housing market was in free-fall, 1.1 million fewer Americans had jobs, the United States was engaged in two wars - one started under dubious circumstances, and the United States was entering the "great recession."

Just a few months ago, you and the Republicans in the House of Representatives assumed control of that body. Today, you and your colleagues are asking Americans to allow you to restore the economic policies of President George W. Bush, which brought the United States to the precipice of total collapse of the financial system. You ask to lower taxes which are already at the lowest percentage of gross domestic product in sixty years. You and your republican colleagues believe they should be even lower, particularly for those in the highest income category. You boldly state that these are the people who create jobs in this country.

Mister Speaker, in the ten years of the Bush tax cuts, not one single job has been created. In fact, the United States has the same number of jobs as it did in 1998. When, Mister Speaker, can the millions of Americans who are unemployed or underemployed, and the thousands of new college and high school graduates expect jobs to be created from this discredited fiscal policy?

Sincerely,
Regina Speer



October-November-December 2011 CALENDAR

Tuesdays	7:00 PM	NEW LOCATION for Drinking Liberally - Red Lion Hanford House, Richland
Wed Oct 19	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Democratic Central Committee Meeting - Check website for location
Sun Nov 6		Daylight Savings Time ENDS
Tue Nov 8		Election Day
Fri Nov 11		Veterans Day
Wed Nov 16	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Democratic Central Committee Meeting - Check website for location
Sun Dec 11	1 - 4 PM	Holiday Party - Red Lion Hanford House, Richland
Wed Dec 21	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Democratic Central Committee Meeting - Check website for location

Visit www.bencodems.org/ and click on Calendar for up to date information