

The Democratic Reporter

From the Chair

We heard it at the summer picnic, we heard it at Maria Cantwell's two events: our focus is to elect Democrats who bring their values to the offices they'll hold and to the votes they'll cast. The first test of the '06 elections comes on Sept. 19th. Cast your vote for either Mark Cope or Kimberly Kennedy for Benton Co. Coroner. Put Maria Cantwell back on the ballot for November. Refuse to elect judges bought & paid for by developers and builders. It's all up to you. Primary ballots are scheduled to leave Prosser on Wednesday, August 30th. General ballots are scheduled to leave Prosser on approximately Wednesday, October 18th.

BCDCC has endorsed Mark Cope and recommended co-endorsement of Kimberly Kennedy. We've endorsed Maria Cantwell for Senate, Richard Wright for the 4th Congressional District (CD) Representative, Susan Owens & and Tom Chambers for WA State Supreme Court and recommend endorsement of Gerry Alexander. We endorsed Andy Miller for County Prosecuting Attorney.

We'll publish a guide for Initiatives in the October newsletter after a discussion and vote at the September 20th meeting.



PCO FILINGS 2006

There are 103 people in Benton County who filed for the positions of Precinct Committee Officer. Of

the 103, 42 are Democrats and 61 are Republicans.

The election of PCO's takes place in the Primary Election on September 19, 2006. If you missed the filing period of July 24 through 28, and still would like to become an elected PCO, you can be elected as a Write-in candidate. To file as a Write-in candidate, you must file a Certificate of Intent and pay the \$1.00 filing fee by September 18th. - However the Certificate of Intent can only be filed in person at the Auditor's Office at the courthouse in Prosser. If you filed for PCO in July your name will be on the September Primary Ballot for your precinct. ** As a certified write-in candidate the number of write-in votes you receive will be tallied and the person receiving the most votes (whether you be a write-in or filed candidate) will be elected. Although the deadline for filing a write-in Certificate of Intent is the day before the election, it would be to your advantage to start your write-in campaign by September 1st when the voters will begin to receive their Vote-by-Mail Ballots. If you would like more information on being a write-in candidate and/or possible campaign strategies, please call me on 943-4559.

Let's Beat Those Republican Numbers!

Bob Bowersock, Organization Chair BCDCC

Judges

For the first time in this state, a political action committee has been formed to help elect candidates to the state Supreme Court and Court

of Appeals. The Constitutional Law PAC has a right-of-center orientation. The development alarms some court observers, who say an agenda-driven PAC for judicial elections could threaten the independence and impartiality of the state's judiciary, and that the emergence of one will lead to other, countervailing PACs.

Former Republican Sen. **Slade Gorton is the PAC's chairman.** Its board includes two former state GOP chairmen and candidates for governor, Dale Foreman and Ken Eikenberry, the committee's vice chairman. It also has veterans of political and legal fights favoring property rights and opposing government regulation and taxation.

"It's going to be, 'Here's my (political) agenda as a judge' ... and when judicial candidates walk away from trying to be the most impartial people they can possibly be (as opposed to) having a more traditional agenda as a partisan candidate, the public really ought to be worried."

Washington is one of only four states that elect judges but have no finance limits on their campaigns. Contributions to candidates for other statewide offices are limited to \$1,350 per donor. A bill to place that limit on judicial candidates passed the state House this year but died in the Senate.

That bill came on the heels of the 2004 election of lawyer Jim Johnson to the Supreme Court with the help of more than \$200,000 in campaign contributions from the Building Industry Association of Washington and its affiliates. The association is one of Olympia's

most politically active and free-spending lobbies.

Johnson's BIAW money alone dwarfed the entire campaign treasury of his opponent, Mary Kay Becker, a state Court of Appeals judge in Bellingham.

Some conservative activists welcome the PAC. Rick Forcier, executive director of the Christian Coalition of Washington, said leaders of the PAC have sought the coalition and it's money that has not been taxed before. While most other states without the estate tax have an income tax or a capital gains tax, Washington does not.

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Letters to the Editor

Support your candidates by writing a letter to the editor of the Tri-City Herald and other local papers. To be noticed, it's usually best to stay on one or two subjects. Come right out and say what you mean. One often successful format can be summarized as: 1) Tell them what you're going to tell them, then 2) Tell them what you want to tell them, then, 3) Tell them what you told them.



Fundraiser

We recently sent out a request for donations to BCDCC. We haven't had any other fundraisers this year in an effort to encourage Democrats to donate to our candidates, but it's become clear that we need to raise some money in order to complete the year.

We make every attempt to be careful with funds raised by donations from hard-working families. We put on caucuses in March and the County Convention in April, participated in May's

Cinco de Mayo parade, July's Grand Old 4th parade and booth at the TRAC, had an entry in the County Fair parade as well as a booth at the fair, held our summer picnic, helped with two fundraisers for Maria Cantwell, contributed supplies to the Coordinated Campaign - paid for our website and the voice mail system - and all without asking for additional dollars.

Going into September's Primary Election and readying for November's General Election will require funds we may not have. If we raise significant money, we'll contribute to our candidates after the Primary Election.

We appreciate those who've already sent in a donation. Please know that it means so much to our organization. We hope you're keeping track of all our activities and encourage you to come out to our events.

INITIATIVE 920 HURTS OUR STATE'S CHILDREN

DO YOU KNOW WHAT INITIATIVE 920 WOULD DO?

Did you know that Initiative 920 wipes out millions of dollars in funding for our state's public schools?

Did you know that the campaign to put Initiative 920 on the ballot was financed by just one man - Seattle developer and millionaire Martin Selig?

Did you know that odds are the estate tax, which Initiative 920 would repeal, doesn't affect you? Only about 210 of the state's wealthiest estates are subject to the tax every year.

- Family farms are completely exempt, if at least 50% of the value is actually being used for farming. The estate tax does not force small

businesses and family farms to liquidate their assets or go into bankruptcy, despite what anti-tax zealots would like you to think.

- Timberlands are also exempt from the tax - and it's money that has not been taxed before. While most other states without the estate tax have an income tax or a capital gains tax, Washington does not.

Fair Parade

Kendall Miller, 8th LD Chair

Our numbers were smaller than in the past because a few of the stalwarts were out of town. Nonetheless, we had a grand time. The trailer and truck were decked and festooned with tri-colors and campaign signs. Then they were decked out and festooned again.*** The whole drumming thing was met with trepidation by the neophytes (which was almost everyone). After a few timid taps the rhythm began to take over and self-consciousness was thrown overboard. Boom, boom, dada boom boom. Candy was thrown, free hands gave a wave to the passing crowd. The thundering donkeys were rolling. We were announcing their presence.



Though greeted by cheers and sometimes jeers I'm sure they will be remembered by all. Full-grown people, mind you, somehow rediscovering that inner child that just wants to bang things together.

Thanks to those who envisioned and delivered the decorating. Thanks to those who loaned us the truck, the trailer and the straw bales. Thanks to all the campaigns who gave us signs to cover the rails. And thanks to the people who showed up and joined in the parade.

9/11 Revisionism

The fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks is less than two weeks away, but the avalanche has already begun. ABC intends to mark the occasion in far more grand a fashion.

Starting September 10th and ending September 11th, the network will show a miniseries titled "The Path to 9/11." According to reports from early screenings, the writer/producer of the miniseries, Cyrus Nowrasteh, has crafted a television polemic intended to blame the entire event on President Clinton.

Nowrasteh, an outspoken conservative of Persian descent whose family fled Iran after the fall of the Shah, spoke last year at the Liberty Film Festival, described by its founders as Hollywood's first conservative film festival. Govindini Murty, actress, writer, and co-director of the Liberty Film Festival, wrote a review of "The Path to 9/11" for the right-wing online news page FrontPageMag.com.

In the review, Murty states, "'The Path to 9/11' is one of the best, most intelligent, most pro-

American miniseries I've ever seen on TV, and conservatives should support it and promote it as vigorously as possible. This is the first Hollywood production I've seen that honestly depicts how the Clinton administration repeatedly bungled the capture of Osama bin Laden."

The passage of time will, in all likelihood, finally expose the truth behind exactly what happened on September 11, and why. Efforts such as this ABC miniseries to use 9/11 as a partisan club should be shunned, and hard data should be highlighted instead.

Back in 2003, CBS was forced to pull its miniseries "The Reagans," after conservative groups lambasted the network for crossing the line into advocacy against the Reagan administration. A similar effort should perhaps be undertaken to compel ABC to pull "The Path to 9/11." At no time should a conservative producer with an anti-Clinton axe to grind be allowed to use public airwaves to broadcast a rank distortion of the truth, especially on the anniversary of the worst day in our history.

Newsletter Submission Policy

*Everyone is invited to submit material for consideration to the newsletter editor at email: editor@bencodems.org.

Submissions should generally be kept to 125 words or less unless prior approval is obtained. Your submission may be edited for space or grammar, or other concerns as deemed necessary by the editor.

*Please submit your material by the date listed in the calendar for each month. Submissions received earliest will get priority.

Events

September

- 4 Labor Day
- 12 7:00PM BCDCC Exec Board Mtg. Rich. Lib Seminar Rm
- 19 Primary Election Day
- 20 7:00PM BCDCC Meeting, Rich. Lib. Gallery
- 26 Deadline to submit materials for October newsletter

October

- 10 7:00PM E Board mtg. Hastings Coffee Shop, Rich.
- 18 7:00 BCDCC mtg., Dayton St. Library, Kenn.
- 25 Deadline to submit Nov. newsletter items

November

- 6 7:00PM Exec Board Mtg. Hastings Coffee Shop, Richland
- 15 7:00PM BCDCC Meeting, Kenn. Union St.Lib., Room A
- 23 Thanksgiving**