



# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

September 2010

[www.bencodems.org](http://www.bencodems.org)

**HOTLINE 546-8115**

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## FROM THE CHAIR

The days are getting shorter slowly but surely. I'm not a fan of shrinking daylight and later mornings. But with it all comes better weather for campaigning; door belling, leaflet dropping, phone banking, fundraising and all those things that tend to intrude on one's time if you want to enjoy the improving weather.. HOWEVER .... if you want to get more involved in the many 2010 campaigns, now is the time to do it! Our candidates DO need your help.

Our modest showing in the Primary is only one point it time. Ballots won't be mailed until Oct 15<sup>th</sup> and typically voters don't get serious about sending in their ballots until 6 days before the election which will be about Wednesday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. So we have about 62 days to improve our numbers. If you're so included to help PLEASE contract the campaign(s) of your choice.

I occasionally get a complaint for someone whose contacted a campaign, sometimes repeatedly, and the campaign never responds. Sometimes folks ask for yard signs and never receive them. I'd like to believe that it doesn't happen, but it does ... more often than it should.

Each supporter that volunteers is valuable to that campaign. And it's unfortunate that because of inattention, mismanagement or whatever the reason is, that volunteer is lost to the campaign and probably miffed at their treatment. That said, it has to be recognized that these campaigns are largely made up of volunteers with skills, abilities and interest levels that can be quite diverse. And yes, sometimes things don't get done as they should.

I don't know of any campaign that intentionally treats volunteers in that manner. If you run into this problem, please call or e-mail me directly or call our HOTLINE.

## *A DAY TO REMEMBER AND A DAY TO CARRY ON*

### **SEPTEMBER 11 - IT'S A DAY TO REMEMBER AND A PICNIC**

We pause to remember 9/11 and what it means to each of us. Then as Americans we carry on our traditions.

The 2010 summer picnic will be held September 11 at Howard Amon Park in Richland. The BCDCC will be reprising its very successful Seafood Boil.

The picnic will commence at 3:30 pm at the north pavilion. All food will be provided by the party at this year's event. Donations are \$10 per person and children 10 and under eat free.

Democratic and non-partisan candidates have been invited to speak. Headlining will be appearances by candidates **Jay Clough** and **Carol Moser**. Plan to attend and rally for these worthy candidates.

Make your reservations today by calling the Hotline at 546-8115 or by emailing [events@bencodem.org](mailto:events@bencodem.org).

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***FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> LD***

## **A GOOD FIGHT AND A MORAL OBLIGATION**

The recent primary results show that we Democrats have a tough task ahead of us before November. Our candidates will be out-spent and out-shouted as we go into the general election. Our main and most effective weapon will be our own voices. We need to not be bashful about raising those voices. And we have a powerful message to share. We must remind everyone that the policies of the opposition are proven failures. During the Bush years lowering taxes on the rich did NOT produce jobs. Decreasing regulations brought about this Republican Recession that now dogs our citizens. All the ideas that Republicans are using to influence voters have been tried and all of us are paying the price for them to this very day.

As reported by many news organizations in April and May of this year, current tax rates are the lowest they have been in 60 years. The idea that higher taxes are going to strangle businesses is simply not true. Any business that is so on-the-edge that a bit more in taxes is going to kill it already has a failing business model. People in the top income bracket are getting a freer ride now than they have in decades. During that time, the real earnings of middle-income have been in decline. Contrary to the Republican line, the real engine of economic growth is middle-income spending not high-income spending.

State government spending primarily represents our human obligation to one another. We must work together to provide a good education to our children, to provide the infrastructure businesses need to flourish, and to be a backstop to our most vulnerable citizens. When Republicans talk about cutting state spending, they are actually talking about shirking our moral obligations.

At the Federal level we are in an unfortunate situation in which the financial system has become paralyzed (thanks to excesses produced by ill-considered

deregulation). When private sector activity dries up, the economy collapses unless some other economic activity comes in to take over. This is what happened in the Great Depression and it is what is happening now. It was the massive spending of World War II that finally ended that era. Thankfully we have avoided the worst effects of the Great Depression. And it will require the discipline of continued spending to bring us out of the Republican Recession. No one wants to waste money so we can have a discussion of what constitutes appropriate spending. If we are wise, we can direct spending to infrastructure and initiatives that prepare us for future robust growth. That growth will erase the debt we are incurring. When businesses spend to grow, it's called investing. The same should apply to government spending now. But spend we must until the ravages of deregulation have been healed.

We must remind voters that regulation wasn't dreamed up out of thin air to harm business. Every regulation was enacted to mitigate a problem. Remove the regulation and you are allowing that problem to return. Perhaps regulation can be more streamlined or more effective. But the need for it is certain.

The Republican attacks even extend to Social Security. Yet they can offer no alternative that is better. Whatever they do offer is only worse and, given their track record, much worse.

As Democrats, we have a fight on our hands. But it is a good fight. It is a fight worth fighting. We have a message worth sending. We have a moral obligation to raise our voices and speak out. The facts of history are on our side. Let us not be found wanting in our energy or effort at this critical time.

Kendall Miller

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***SHOCKING PRIMARY RESULTS***

## **WE ARE IN IT TO WIN!**

Primary results for Carol Moser were a shock, there's no denying that. After the initial slam, I hoped that late voters would move Carol up in the count. No luck there.

So how did we end up at 35%? Democrats didn't vote in the Primary. We didn't get enough volunteers to help walk precincts so that we could pass along how important a Primary race is. Fundraising is harder when Primary numbers are down, enthusiasm is harder to generate, volunteers are harder to find, and there's a feeling that the race can't be won.

I'm not ready to give up yet. We haven't seen the numbers to see how many voters are still trying to make up their minds on this race. According to the Benton County Auditor's office this morning, there are 87,740 registered voters in Benton County and 37,784 total ballots cast. That means that there are nearly 50,000 registered voters who didn't vote.

Brad Klippert received 20,165 votes to Carol's 10,968. If we assume that Brad received about as many votes as he's going to get in this election because Republicans came out in droves to decide who'll run against Senator Patty Murray, then there are still 50,000 votes for Carol to pick up in order to beat her opponent. Obviously, she won't win all 50,000 votes, but are there enough so that she could still win this race? **Definitely.** But she has to have more volunteers. We have to reach voters in order to convince them they can have better representation.

We have to get the message out that Klippert proposed a bill to allow Tasers in classrooms, that he brought up a bill to secede from the Union, that he voted to deny pension benefits to the widows of police officers slain in the line of duty and voted against retraining dollars for out-of-work Washingtonians.

**YOU!** Carol needs you. There's no substitute for one neighbor talking to another. There's nothing like a friendly knock on the door to get that ballot sent in. So if you go to the gym to keep in shape, do some of your aerobic workout with Carol. If you walk anyway, how about adding weights to that routine by carrying campaign handouts for voters to read? I can't stress enough that this is a winnable race if we can reach more voters.

I know you don't want Brad Klippert in the state legislature. Do you want Carol Moser enough to help get her elected? It's still a race. Are we in it to win it?

Mimi Latta, manager  
Carol Moser 2010  
627-2679 Home  
308-1285 Cell

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## County Party Elections

In about 19 weeks Benton County Democrats along with the 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Leg Districts will be electing new officers. ALL positions will be open. From Chair through Secretary and State Committee people. Now is the time to find out what these positions entail and give some serious consideration to running. Any of our officers would be more than willing to share their experiences with you and what their particular job entails. .

According to our Charter only ELECTED PCOs can vote in this election. Because of the extremely small turnout for PCOs 25 people will decide the future composition of the County Party! Even though PCOs may be appointed by the Party, only ELECTED PCOs can vote. The newly elected PCOs will officially take office on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Note that you don't have to be a PCO to run for office. Our January County Central Committee will have the County and likely the 8<sup>th</sup> LD elections on the Agenda. Depending on State Party Rules, we may have to change the date for this meeting.

## County Fair Early Report

It was a bit more difficult to obtain help for the Fair Booth this year. With only three candidates and the Senate race focusing more on the west side of the state, there didn't appear to be as much interest in the election. The fewer fair booth visits, lower numbers of registrations, etc.

The state party normally provides a plethora of buttons, bumper stickers, and other political items that we sell at cost. But this year the State Party had no offerings for sale to us.

Maybe that's why they call it an OFF-YEAR election.

### O'Callahan's

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL  
946-9006

**Sunday Brunch**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

On the Riverfront at  
Comstock in Richland

Omelette stations with all the trimmings, Vegetable frittata, Cheese blintz's with NW berry compote, French toast with bananas & walnuts, Smokehouse bacon, Carved honey baked ham, Sausage & kielbasa, Biscuits & gravy, Traditional eggs benedict, NW eggs benedict with smoked salmon, Hashbrowns O'Brien, Fresh baked breads, muffins, scones, pastries & baby croissants, Fresh fruit & berry display, Assortment of desserts, Chocolate fountain, Beverages

*BOTTOMLESS CHAMPAGNE OR MIMOSAS*  
*\$3.95*

SENIORS...\$12.95

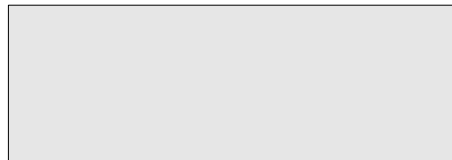
ADULTS...\$15.95

CHILDREN...\$8.95

CHILDREN UNDER 6 EAT FREE !

# SEPTEMBER 2010 CALENDAR

Fri Sept 3		Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)
Mon Sept 6		Labor Day
Tue Sept 7	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Thu Sept 9	6:30 PM	Executive Board Meeting – Richland Community Center ...
Fri Sept 10	Rescheduled	Tri-City Democrats combined w/Benton County Picnic on Saturday Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>
Sat Sept 11		
	3:30 PM	Benton County Democrat Picnic & Candidate Forum
Tue Sept 14	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Wed Sept 15	7:00 PM	Democratic Central Committee Meeting ..... - Richland Public Library
Fri Sept 17		Hanford Friday OFF (site-wide)
	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland
Tue Sept 21		Last day for Newsletter submissions
Thu Sept 23	10 AM	Newsletter assembly and mailing @ Shilo Inn
Tue Sept 28	7:00 PM	Drinking Liberally ..... - Shilo Inn - O'Callahan's, 50 Comstock, Richland



Return Service Requested

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