



Welcome to the Benton County Democrats Newsletter. If you have suggestions please let us know at [Newsletter Chair](#). As well, if you have an event you think should be covered please submit it via [suggestions](#). For more information about Benton County Democrats, visit <http://www.Bencodems.org>

Message from the Chair:



Hello Dems!! Lots of great news to report for the month of January!! I am inspired by all of you and truly believe that 2018 is going to be excellent!!

I'm proud to report that we had great representation for this month's Washington State Democratic Committee Meeting in Bellingham!! 8 of us from the Tri-Cities braved the pass (that closed down at one point) or took the long way around (9 hours) in order to attend caucus meetings and training sessions that help keep us plugged in to all the diverse groups that make up our wonderful Democratic Party, as well as get schooled on the newest tools that will help our PCOs and their GOTV efforts. Our very own Cigdem Capan was elected as an at-large Executive Board Member of the

Environmental Caucus, and Jeffrey Robinson, second Vice Chair of Franklin County, was elected as Secretary of the Stonewall Caucus. Please attend our next business meeting Feb. 21st hear all about it!!

Due to the success of Rise and Organize, I'm happy to report that our own Tina Podlodowski and our WA State Dem Organizing Team was invited to Washington DC to brief and train the DNC on our model of organizing. Our Organizing Academies are 4-hour immersive, interactive training sessions led by organizing staff from the Washington State Democrats. We're proud to be having our second Rise and Organize event Feb 24th and urge PCOs especially to attend. Anyone who has attended should have a tremendous amount of gratification knowing that we are on the front lines of what may very well be the new model of Organizing for Democrats around the country. The Academy is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the process and has a desire to assist our GOTV efforts. Let's kick grASSroots!! Included below is a statement released by Communications Director Ansley Lacitis.

Voter Registration remains a critical element in our GOTV efforts, please contact Vice Chair Peter Roberts vicechair@bencodems.org if you'd like to join that team. As always PCO recruitment is essential to increasing voter turnout as well, please contact Organization Co-Chair John Harder at orgchair@bencodems.org if you are interested or have any questions.

Release: The State of the WA State Democratic Party's Organizing Program

Jan. 30, 2018 --Tonight President Trump will deliver the State of the Union address. While the President lays out his plan for 2018, we will be working to implement ours. While the President will use tonight's speech as a platform to directly address his donors, we will be continuing to engage and train volunteers across Washington.

The Washington State Democratic Party is proud to announce that the state of our organizing program is strong. Really strong. Here are some quick stats:

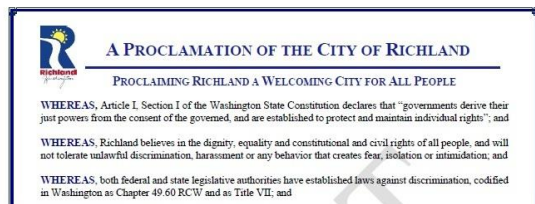
- 1 For the first time in over a decade, the Washington State Democrats have year-round organizers in Eastern, Central, and Western Washington.
- 2 This month alone, 1,034 volunteers attended an Organizing Academy.
- 3 This month alone, we have trained 51 new canvass hosts to lead on-the-ground grassroots organizing efforts in their communities. These 51 people will join our 198 active canvass hosts to lead canvasses across the state.
- 4 In just the past 10 days, nearly 150 people have canvassed with us to knock on 3,823 doors, of which 2,863 were in the 5th and 8th Congressional Districts. This marks a significant increase from past years when voter contact efforts didn't begin until later in the year.

Said Chair Tina Podlodowski: "Simply put, the state of the Washington State Democratic Party's organizing program is strong. Really strong.

"Republicans like Paul Ryan are going to dump millions of dollars into Washington State to support Trump apologists like Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Dino Rossi. The way Democrats are going to win is by outorganizing them -- and we're off to an unprecedented start."

Background: Organizing Academies are 4-hour immersive, interactive training sessions led by organizing staff from the Washington State Democrats. The sessions train volunteers on core organizing skills they need to effectively mobilize their communities and networks. To date, we have completed 15 Organizing Academy sessions in 14 locations throughout the state: Wenatchee, Auburn, Snoqualmie, Omak, Sammamish, Issaquah, the Tri-Cities, Spokane, Graham, Vancouver, Yakima, Walla Walla, Chewelah, and Pullman.

Richland Statement of Welcome



Citizens began coming to the City of Richland Council meetings in December 2016 asking for the council to make a statement of inclusiveness for all. Despite the council's initial resistance, they directed city staff to draft a statement on September 5th. The staff prepared a statement and on November 21st council unanimously voted to accept the language

submitted proclaiming Richland a Welcoming City for all people.

The full Welcome Statement is available here: <https://goo.gl/PbD8Zc>

Candidates Wanted!

The 2018 campaign season is ramping up and we need citizen legislators, now more than ever, who will help create a government which looks like, and more faithfully represents, us. Hard working Quality candidates are needed in all communities and for all manner of positions. "If not you, who? If not now, when?"

Please contact Benton County Elections Committee Chair Jay Clough or Franklin County Chair Brian Griffith if you are even remotely considering running for office. They are there to walk you through the process and explain what your campaign might look like.

If an elected position is not for you at this time, please consider applying for an appointment to one of the boards in your city. Planning commission, parks boards, arts boards and others all contribute in important ways, and they need your voice!"

Women's March





Despite the challenges posed by the weather, approximately 1000 people attended the 2018 Women's March at John Dam Plaza in Richland on Sunday, January 21. The event organization was truly a collaborative effort by many local groups and women leaders.

The event was: Emceed by Christie Oar & Blanche Barajas

Music was provided by Tiphony Dames, the Justice Choir, and Cathy Kelly

Speakers included:

- Christine Brown (Candidate for Washington Congressional District 4 Representative to the US House of Representatives)
- Jenn Goulet (candidate for Washington Legislative District 9 representative to the state house of Representatives)
- Claudia Colindres
- Johnson Rocio Carrion



Many people brought great ideas and effort together to make the event happen with a great vibe and a peaceful/positive/constructive intent.

Volunteers from local huddles and the Love Army constituted our "Marchmellow" team to help assist with crowd welcoming and safety.

Attendees brought vibrant, fierce, patriotic, and awesome signs

showing that we are serious about political resilience and change! The Action After-Party at

FUSE allowed many organizations to reach out to attendees. This event was a huge success and just as important as the march itself. In 2018 we are going to make some political magic happen!





Republican Tax Reform The Greatest Moral Issue of Our Time

By: Richard Badalamente

Bernie Sanders has said that, “wealth and income inequality is the great moral issue of our time, it is the great economic issue of our time, and it is the great political issue of our time.”

In today’s America, the top one tenth of one percent owns almost as much wealth as the bottom ninety percent. How will the Republican tax bill affect this situation? Well, according to a special report by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the GOP’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), “is essentially a bid to make the U.S. the world champion of extreme inequality.”

The TCJA overwhelmingly benefits the rich. Sure, families at every income level can expect a tax cut — but guess what, the richer the family, the bigger the break. And speaking of big, the break for corporations is permanent, but you and I are temporary. In 2025, all individual tax cuts expire. This little trick was needed so that the Republican “reform” didn’t exceed the deficit limits that would otherwise require Democratic votes to pass.



The Republicans fixation on corporations derives from their theory that giving tax cuts to corporate America will make everyone richer by boosting the stock market. The stock market?! The richest 10 percent of U.S. families owns 80 percent of all publicly traded stock, while more than half of Americans don’t have one dollar in a 401(k).

Millions of Americans live pay check to pay check and are only a medical crisis away from being broke (one of the fastest growing industries in America is the Pay Day Loan industry). And by the way, the elimination of the ACA individual mandate in the TCJA exacerbates that threat by making health insurance unaffordable for those people.

The conservative economic dogma posits that low taxes on the wealthy result in economic expansion so that benefits for the yacht and penthouse crowds “trickle down” to the dinghy and trailer park folks in the form of more and better jobs and higher wages. Like science, history is not a strong point for Republicans. Reagan and Bush tax cuts quite clearly failed to produce additional revenue or benefit middle-class wages.

The nail in the coffin for struggling Americans is what, by necessity, comes next — cuts to the safety net. Its been reported that while canvassing for votes for the tax bill, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) attacked “liberal programs” for the poor and said Congress needed to stop wasting Americans' money. So, after incurring another \$1.5 trillion in debt by their “tax reform,” congressional Republicans will attack spending on Medicare, Medicaid, and anti-poverty programs, citing the need to reduce America's deficit.

You can’t make this stuff up.

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 Mr. Newhouse that might make one question just who our representative thinks he's representing.

“Net neutrality” is the principle that Internet service providers must provide access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites.

By now, anyone reading this will know that the FCC, under Trump appointee Chairman Ajit Pai, voted to rollback net neutrality rules. Rep Newhouse held a town hall in Sunnyside April 13, 2017, to address a number of constituent concerns. Asked what plans he had to defend net neutrality, he said, “the FCC has been the policeman on the beat, and they've done a good job.”

He went on to say that he wanted to make sure, “there are clear rules in place to protect Internet privacy.” Clearly Newhouse was confusing net neutrality and Internet privacy, because he'd already voted to allow Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to sell a user's browsing history to whomever was willing to pay for it. Newhouse joined Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA5) in voting for Senate Joint Resolution 34, which rescinded an FCC rule that required ISPs to protect customer privacy.

Newhouse said he would look into the issue to see what agencies are doing with users' browsing history and, “if needed,” look into legislation. Newhouse has been quick to offer to “look into things.” However, according to Govtrack, in 2017, Newhouse introduced no bills that became law, including via incorporation into other measures.

Meanwhile, back on topic, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) has been introduced to nullify the FCC's December vote to roll back internet regulations. It's chances of getting the votes to put it on the President's desk are slim to none, and if it did land there, Trump wouldn't sign it, because, as we all know, he's against rules.

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.

Upcoming Events

Special Election – **VOTE** by February 13, 2018

Klippert/Haler Town Hall When: Saturday, February 17, 2018

Where: Arc of the Tri-Cities, 1455 Fowler St, Richland

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/350515012024936/>

Rise & Organize – Washington State Democrats

When: Saturday February 24 2018 1 PM – 5 PM

Where: UA Local Union 598 Plumbers and Steamfitters 1328 N Road 68, Pasco

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/520380258342978/>

Monthly Meetings

BCDCC General Meeting

When: February 21, 7 PM; Where: TBD

8th LD General Meeting

When: February 21, 6 PM; Where: TBD

Tri-City Democrats

When: February 9; Where: TBD

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>

Young Democrats Tri-Cities

<https://www.facebook.com/youngdemstc/>

4th Congressional District Democrats

<https://www.facebook.com/TurnThe4thBlue/>

8th Legislative District Democrats

<https://www.facebook.com/8thLDWADems/>

16th Legislative District Democrats

<https://www.facebook.com/WADems16LD/>

4th CD Public Calendar
PFLAG Benton Franklin
Citizens' Climate Council
Indivisible: WA - 4CD
Love Not Hate Tri-Cities
Our Revolution: Tri-City Progressive
Tri-City Freethinkers
Working Families Party

<https://tinyurl.com/WA04Calendar>
<https://www.facebook.com/BFPFLAG/>
<https://tinyurl.com/FB-CCC-TC>
<https://tinyurl.com/FB-WA04-Indivisible>
<https://tinyurl.com/FB-LNH-TC>
<https://www.facebook.com/TriCityWAProgressives/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tricityfreethinkers/>
<https://tinyurl.com/FB-WFP>