



THE DEMOCRAT



Clark County Democratic Party Newsletter

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Serving Democrats with News and Opinion

August 2008

State's new and important top-two primary is here

Owing to actions, decisions, directions and prevailing views of the U.S. Supreme Court, the two major political parties, legislators, the Grange and Washington voters, we have a whole new kind of primary election on our hands in which every vote counts big and many results will amount to a general election.

Ballots were scheduled to be mailed to all registered voters by the end of July. Counting will be done starting at 8 p.m. on August 19. Counts will be reported at co.clark.wa.us/elections and in the sixth-floor hearing room in the county building at 1300 Franklin St.

In each contest the top two vote-getters will advance to the general election regardless of party affiliation. In a number of jurisdictions (including two in Clark County)

the final to be tallied on Nov. 4 could pit two Republicans or a Republican and an Independent against one another with no Democrat surviving.

Moreover, even when a Republican and Democrat are unopposed in the primary race for a seat and end up in the general election, their primary tallies will be counted by people with time, money and energy to contribute. That will be particularly important in such contests as the one at the top for re-election of Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire. The regressive, anti-government, big-money manipulators are bent on shoving her aside in favor of their designated hitter, Dino Rossi. So far the Rossi campaign appears to be funded mostly by the development industry. A good showing in the primary could broaden his support.

Take Charge for Change rally set August 3

Let's have a party! Let's have it in a public place. How about the nice little amphitheatre nestled in the hill just north of the Clark College campus in Waterworks Park? How about 4 p.m. on August 3?

That was the conclusion when a group of Democratic Party regulars (including the editor of this publication) were sitting around the office bemoaning the fact that fewer than a dozen people had signed up for volunteer training scheduled for a July Saturday.

All the names on the register were party regulars who already had been trained and active for years — decades in a couple of cases. The list included nobody younger than 40, nor did it include any of the thousands of new people who showed up for the Feb. 9 precinct caucuses. Many of those were attending their first politi-

cal event ever, and a lot of them expressed lively interest in continuing with the party. A lot of them showed up for the Clark County Democratic Convention and legislative district caucuses. Few have been seen since at party functions or events planned by individual campaigns.

Those at the meeting agreed that the training plan was solid and essential to anybody just getting involved. The catch was that you had to be at least somewhat involved already to get word about the training. It was published prominently in the June and July issues of this newsletter — which is mailed and emailed to around a thousand people who are already active to some degree.

Thus the plan for the rally, whose organizers include people who were very active in the campaigns of both Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clin-

ton. Everyone is invited, including all Democratic candidates for state and local election. Many have promised to show up,

But how do we get the attention of those many hundreds of caucus attendees who expressed interest in doing more? This notice will be read by a lot of party regulars. The organizers also plan to hit the phone banks armed with caucus lists.

All of the Democratic candidates have been invited; most have promised to stop by. There will be speeches and introductions, maybe some live music. The main objective, however, will be for party regulars to listen to newcomers and irregulars who could have terrific ideas for bringing fresh energy and intellect into the party organization as the institution works to make good on its basic function of making real change for the better.

Meetings scheduled for August 2008 by the Clark County Democratic Central Committee and other Democratic organizations. (Check for updates at the county party's website: www.bluedonkeys.com).

Friday, August 1	Opening of Clark County Fair including Democratic Party booth staffed by volunteers
Saturday, August 2	18th District Democrats meet at noon at Horseshoe Lake Park in Woodland just before the 18th annual Ice Cream Social at 1 p.m.
Sunday, August 3	4 p.m. Unity Rally at Waterworks Park amphitheatre on the hill just north of Clark College in Vancouver.
Monday, August 4	Executive Committee of Clark County Democratic Central Committee meets at 7 p.m. at the Carpenters' Hall, 612 E. McLoughlin Boulevard.
Saturday, August 9	49th District Democrats meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hometown Buffet, 7809B Vancouver Plaza Drive.
Monday, August 11	Clark County Democratic Central Committee meeting, 7 p.m. at the Longshore Hall on Ingalls Street
Tuesday, August 19	Clark County Section of 15th Legislative District Democratic Central Committee, 6 p.m. at the Parker House, Port of Camas-Washougal.
Tuesday, August 19	Counting and reporting of primary ballots, 8 p.m. in sixth-floor hearing room at Clark County Public Service Building, 1300 Franklin St. in downtown Vancouver.
Monday, August 25	Opening of Democratic National Convention in Denver.
Monday, August 25	17th District Democrats meeting, 7 p.m. at the Waterford at Fairway Village, 2911 SE Village Loop. (Call on gate box for entry after 7 p.m.)

Show me the money!

By Dena Horton, Clark County Democratic Chair

Thanks to a very successful Jefferson Jackson dinner and auction and other efforts, we are in a position to provide cash contributions to our candidates for the first time!

The Clark County Democratic Central Committee has consistently provided approximately \$25,000 to fund the operations of the campaign office which directly benefits all of our candidates at the county, state, and federal levels. So these donations are above and beyond our traditional contribution.

The House Democratic Campaign Committee (HDCC) and the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee (SDCC) as well as the 15th, 17th, 18th, and 49th Legislative Districts are all very busy raising funds to support our local legislative district candidates through donations. However, this leaves a big hole in terms of raising funds for county races, particularly the very important commissioner races.

The majority of the legislative candidates are virtually guaranteed to survive the top-two primary and go on to the general election in November. Because the CCDCC wants to see two Democrats as our next county commissioners and given the number of candidates filed for both commissioner seats, the CCDCC voted to provide \$2,500 to Pam Brokaw and \$1,500 to Jeanne Harris to help propel them as they do battle in the primary.

CCDCC Treasurer Marsha Manning is busy chasing down some final contributions from folks who attended the JJ Dinner and tracking the funds so that we can provide more contributions to our county and legislative candidates after the primary too. So, we're not done yet. This is a milestone to be truly proud of! Congratulations Democrats!



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Clark County, Washington

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Campaign staffers working at Coxley Drive office

The crew of volunteers and professional staffers at campaign headquarters is growing and getting more lively as primary counting day on August 19 approaches.

The office is at 10621 Northeast Coxley Drive, Suite 103, in the Orchards business district.

Vicki Work is organizing volunteers who take regular shifts on the reception desk. She still needs some workers, particularly for the Friday afternoon shifts. Those so far in the rotation include Julie McBride, Jan Lustig, Kathy Dixon, Alex Lovita, Celia Louderback, Ann Martin, Bobby Norvelle, Jane Buchanan-Banks and Charlene Steele.

Eric Withee is director of the Coordinated Campaign and Campaign for Change. He can be reached at - 541-912-1512 or by email to eric@wa-democrats.org.

Cory Farr is the staffer for the reelection campaign of Gov. Christine Gregoire. Her email is cfarr@christinegregoire.com. Her telephone number is 360-433-7205.

Party's booth at fair needs active help

Michael Dalesandro has again organized the Clark County Democratic Central Committee's booth at the Clark County Fair.

The exposition opens on August 1 and will run through August 10.

Dalesandro reports that he has filled in the calendar for most shifts in the fair booth, which will be at the same place in the fair Exposition Center. Some slots remain open, however. Those willing to spend a couple hours working the booth in exchange for a day pass and free parking can email him at mdalesandro@yahoo.com or telephone 360-601-2840.

Jeremy Zegas at 360-609-0771 is working for Pam Brokaw. Gilda Ciraulo, 360-892-6750, is working for Jim Jacks.

Jim Moeller's campaign manager, Janet James, is at 360-503-5115.

James Weiss answers 360-892-6750 for Craig Pridemore.


Steven Sparks, 360-892-2987, handles calls and such for Tim Probst.

Dave Hodges is there for Deb Wallace at 360-892-7058.

In campaign offices, names and faces change with the seasons and contribution possibilities.

Visit the office and volunteer often.

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Cindy Gipson has Baird's interests at heart

This is the forty-second in a series of introductions to some local Democrats. Send suggestions for subjects of future columns to mikewrit@hotmail.com.

As do many other Clark County political narratives, Cindy Gipson's begins: "I met Dan Ogden."

For Cindy, now on leave from Brian Baird's 3rd District Congressional office in Vancouver to manage the local effort to win re-election for Baird, that meeting was in 1994 after her husband met Dan at a Labor Roundtable meeting.

She grew up in a non-active Republican family on a Wisconsin dairy farm. After high school graduation, she said, she got married and began raising babies (two, now out of the nest). In 1993 the family moved from Michigan to Washington. Cindy went to work for the Battle Ground School District as a Title I reading and math specialist.

A year later came the fateful meeting with political science scholar and political activist Ogden, who persuaded her to become a Democratic Precinct Committee Officer in the 18th Legislative District, which then reached deep into Lewis County. In 1995 she got her political baptism working on the campaign of Jim Springer, who was running against Republican Hal Palmer, who was trying to hold his appointive seat in the Legislature. That didn't pan out. Late in the year she was

among a group invited to the Ogden home by Dan and then-state Rep. Val to meet a teacher and sociologist from Olympia who had expressed a willingness to run against Republican U.S. Rep. Linda Smith from Hazel Dell. The professorial fellow, Baird, interested Gipson sufficiently that she joined his 1996 campaign. Smith was a political phenomenon who had won the seat by a last-minute write-in campaign against Rep. Jolene Unsoeld. Baird was an unknown political beginner. When the votes were tallied, though, Smith's winning margin was fewer than 900 votes.

That showing was sufficient to keep Baird's enthusiasm bubbling, and he announced a few weeks after the loss that he was going to try again. Early in 1997, Gipson left her job with the school district and joined the campaign, which paid off in a Democratic recapture of the 3rd Congressional District in 1998. Baird beat Don Benton by three percentage points. His margin has increased each time out, owing in considerable part to crack constituent services provided by his staff at district offices — including Gipson.

Cindy also remained active in the Clark County Democratic Party. When Ogden was county chair in 1996, Gipson served as vice chair. She also served several terms as Democratic State Committeewoman for the 18th LD.