



The WDC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 8

September 2009

DEM RIVERSIDE UPDATES

Sheila Kay Riley

WDC Campaign/Election Committee Chair

Here's who we know will be on the **November 3rd**, 2009 ballot. While these races are non-partisan, in order to build our Democratic Farm Team, we've got to elect **Democrats** every time we get a chance. These are just the races in and around Riverside.

City of Riverside – Mayor

- Current Office Holder: Ron Loveridge (D)
- Challenger: Art Gage (R)

Alvord Unified School District – 3 seats to be filled

- Greg Kraft (R) (Incumbent)
- Debra Kroning (R) (Incumbent)
- Jose Luis Perez (D) (Incumbent)
- Donna K. Wandro (R)
- Rodrigo Torres (D-t-S)
- Arthur L. Kaspereen, Jr (R)
- Scott Andrews (R)

Riverside Unified School District – 2 seats to be filled

- Kathy Y. Allavie (D) (Incumbent)
- Charles "Chuck" Beatty (R) (Incumbent)
- Mark Swartz (D)
- Christopher Lorenz (D-t-S)

Home Gardens Sanitary District – 3 seats to be filled

- Daniel Archueta (D) (Incumbent)
- Antonio Davila (D) (Incumbent)
- Grady W. Garrison (R) (Incumbent)

Home Gardens County Water District – 3 seats to be filled

- Albert C Holguin (D) (Incumbent)
- Heinrich Sonksen (D-t-S) (Incumbent)
- David Vigil (D) (Incumbent)

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** DEM RIVERSIDE UPDATES
- 1** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 2** TOP FIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM LIES
- 3** MYTHS ABOUT LIBERALS
- 3** VOTER REGISTRATION

President's message

By Becky Foreman, WDC President

I guess it was bound to happen. Just halfway into his first year in office and Barack Obama has already lost his pleasant new president scent. We were all happy with him when we drove him off of the lot, so shiny and fun, fully-loaded, powerful and ready for the road ahead. But we've already hit a few bumps and his presidential approval rating – down from 69% at his inauguration to 51% currently – has been seriously dinged. Which raises two questions: How did this happen? And, should we be worried?

To answer the second question first: Yes. The looming possibility of losing significant congressional seats in the 2010 election if Obama's popularity continues to ebb, along with the related danger that Congressional Democrats may distance themselves from the president in self-defense is certainly cause for concern. With the Republicans putting forth highly organized, unified opposition to anything Democratic, Obama must be able to count on our congressional majority if he is to carry out his promise to create "change we can believe in". Without it, his administration will sputter and we will stall.

As for why this happened, pundits point to several factors, healthcare reform primary among them. With so many in our country desperately in need of affordable, accessible healthcare options, this should have been Obama's grand, New Deal moment. Instead, he has allowed the Republicans to distort his proposal and put him on the defensive. Frankly, I am disappointed in the president for not getting out in front of the issue much sooner and more forcefully, enlisting full support from Congressional Dems and putting out a clear, understandable and unchanging message to the public. There is still hope that we will see reform before the end of the year, but if the final product is diluted (especially if it lacks a "public option" – the crucial element which appears to be in jeopardy) it will be a terrible waste of what should be a golden opportunity.

I will admit that my personal approval rating for the president has slipped. When I helped elect Obama I was confident that he would restore us to peace and prosperity, with an emphasis on peace. To his credit, Obama was quick to set an exit timeline for Iraq, but he has also ramped up the war in Afghanistan and the highest single month death toll occurred under his

continued on page 3

Note: the reason why there are people on the ballot when the number of candidates exactly equals the number of seats to be filled is to provide for a write-in candidate.



Please encourage your friends and family to go to www.hedrickforcongress.com and make a donation (no matter the amount) today!



The campaign is not about putting Democratic or Republican policies first – it's about putting **our families first**. When Bill represents us in Washington, every vote he casts will support **families first** by securing our homes, advancing our schools, and making our communities thrive once again!



DID YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY MAIL?

If so, that means the **Women's Democratic Club** does not have your e-mail address. Please, please send me your e-mail address today. We should absolutely only be mailing this newsletter to people who do not have access to an e-mail address. We need to be sending out these newsletters via e-mail to save the **WDC** funds so that they can be spent for political activities. We also want to be able to communicate with you at a moment's notice and we just can't do that without your e-mail address. So, enough said. If you received this newsletter with a little postage stamp in the upper right hand corner, help save a tree and help re-allocate **WDC** funds. Send me (sheilaandruss@aol.com) your e-mail address today. We really, really need your cooperation! Thanks.

Sheila Riley, WDC Secretary

Governor Candidate Gavin Newsom comes to Riverside!

During a recent town hall at Chemawa Middle School in Riverside, Newsom discussed health care, jobs and education and took questions from the audience. More than 200 people attended the event, including several WDC members such as Marisa Yeager. For more information, see the website: www.gavinnewsom.com



Top Five Health Care Reform Lies

-SEIU COMMENTARY

Lie #1: President Obama wants to euthanize your grandma - The truth: These accusations--of "death panels" and forced euthanasia--are, of course, flatly untrue. As an article from the Associated Press puts it: "No 'death panel' in health care bill." What's the real deal? Reform legislation includes a provision, supported by the AARP, to offer senior citizens access to a professional medical counselor who will provide them with information on preparing a living will and other issues facing older Americans.

Lie #2: Democrats are going to outlaw private insurance and force you into a government plan The truth: With reform, choices will increase, not decrease. Obama's reform plans will create a health insurance exchange, a one-stop shopping marketplace for affordable, high-quality insurance options. Included in the exchange is the public health insurance option--a nationwide plan with a broad network of providers--that will operate alongside private insurance companies, injecting competition into the market to drive quality up and costs down.

If you're happy with your coverage and doctors, you can keep them. But the new public plan will expand choices to millions of businesses or individuals who choose to opt into it, including many who simply can't afford health care now.

Lie #3: President Obama wants to implement Soviet-style rationing - The truth: Health care reform will expand access to high-quality health insurance, and give individuals, families, and businesses more choices for coverage. Right now, big corporations decide whether to give you coverage, what doctors you get to see, and whether a particular procedure or medicine is covered--that is rationed care. And a big part of reform is to stop that.

Health care reform will do away with some of the most nefarious aspects of this rationing: discrimination for pre-existing conditions, insurers that cancel coverage when you get sick, gender discrimination, and lifetime and yearly limits on coverage. And outside of that, as noted above, reform will increase insurance options, not force anyone into a rationed situation.

Lie #4: Obama is secretly plotting to cut senior citizens' Medicare benefits - The truth: Health care reform plans will not reduce Medicare benefits. Reform includes savings from Medicare that are unrelated to patient care--in fact, the savings comes from cutting billions of dollars in overpayments to insurance companies and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse.

Lie #5: Obama's health care plan will bankrupt America - The truth: We need health care reform now in order to prevent bankruptcy--to control spiraling costs that affect individuals, families, small businesses, and the American economy.

Right now, we spend more than \$2 trillion dollars a year on health care. The average family premium is projected to rise to over \$22,000 in the next decade--and each year, nearly a million people face bankruptcy because of medical expenses. Reform, with an affordable, high-quality public option that can spur competition, is necessary to bring down skyrocketing costs. Also, President Obama's reform plans would be fully paid for over 10 years and not add a penny to the deficit.

We're closer to real health care reform than we've ever been--and the next few weeks will decide whether it happens. We need to make sure the truth about health care reform is spread far and wide to combat right wing lies

MYTHS CONSERVATIVES BELIEVE ABOUT PROGRESSIVES

Sheila Riley
WDC Secretary

Following is an excerpt of an article from Sara Robinson.

MYTH #8: “Liberals are Godless – and therefore, amoral”

This often sounds odd coming from people who raise you, who generally like you, and who usually think you're a fairly sound citizen ...well, apart from that weird, liberal thing. One good comeback is to personalize that accusation. Do you really think I'm less moral than you are? Seriously? In what way? Hmm. (It's good if you can resist the temptation o say: Gee it must have been the way I was raised.)

Another twist on this: I'm liberal because *you* made me that way. You dragged me to church, where they taught me to love my neighbor and care for the poor and sick – and I became a progressive because I took the things you taught me to heart.

If personalizing the argument won't work with your crowd, go general. A lot of progressives are deeply religious – and our politics are guided by our religious faith. Evangelical churches are getting involved with environmentalism, poverty, and human trafficking – all issues where liberals have been active for decades. It's good to have the extra hands on board.

It's also true that a lot of progressives aren't religious. Unfortunately, many conservatives equate “secular” with “having no moral code whatsoever,” since they honestly believe that nobody can possibly behave themselves unless there's some outside authority keeps a hairy eyeball on them. (It's tempting to speculate about what people who believe this might try to get away with when they think nobody's watching; personally, I think it's an incriminating admission that they can't be trusted behind closed doors.) Rejecting God means you refuse to follow His rules – which, according to their logic, can only mean that you hold nothing sacred and don't recognize any rules at all.

Call this out for the wrongness that it is. All non-religious progressives have things they hold deeply sacred: family commitments, community obligations, professional responsibilities, the Constitution, social and economic justice, the earth and its systems, the idea of democracy, the dream of a peaceful future. Those things form the basis of a demanding internally-driven moral code; and, it's not uncommon to find secular progressives who live more uncompromisingly moral lives than many overtly religious people.

Sara Robinson is a blogger for progressive websites such as www.ourfuture.org and has worked as a columnist or editor for several national magazines.

Continued from page 1

watch (in July). I know Obama is trying to win freedom for the people of Afghanistan, but I just can't support a further escalation of troops and the loss of more lives as a means to that end. Neither can the majority of the rest of the country, apparently, as Obama's approval ratings on the Afghanistan war are under 50%. (If Obama really wants to make history, he could be the first president to put significant resources into nonviolent conflict resolution. Please visit www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org to read more about this valid and proven method.)

I guess the main question is not “Why has this happened” but “What do we, as good Democrats, do?” The answer is simple --- I don't know. But I am sure many of you have great ideas and I would love to hear them. Please email your suggestions to corinne.parker@yahoo.com and we will print them in an upcoming newsletter.

In the meantime, all we can do is what we do best – educate, advocate, talk to everyone we know and set the record straight. Combat negative messages by reminding folks (including me!) of the much weightier positives: the economy is in recovery, we are on our way out of Iraq, we are closing Guantanamo and ending torture and we are much closer to meaningful healthcare reform than we have been in over 70 years. Best of all, we still have a president who is modern, sleek, beautiful and handles curves with grace. Ultimately, that will get us where we need to go.

Yours in peace and unity,



Becky

S-O-S! HELP NEEDED!



Nan McCoy, WDC Voter Registration Chair

If you have a couple of hours (or more) on the **second Saturday** of each month, we can use your help to staff our Voter Registration table at **Riverside Plaza**.

We will be there from **noon until 5:00 p.m.**, outside of the **California Pizza Kitchen**. We always will have at least one other person at the table so you won't be alone.

This is a WIN/WIN for our club **AND** for Democrats in Riverside County. We are paid a “bounty” of \$4.00 for each Democrat we register. Plus, we can help turn Riverside County into a **BLUE** County for the next election. Remember, the next primary is only 9 months away on June 8, 2010.

We plan to be at the Plaza on Saturdays: **September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12**. If you want to sign up to help, please contact Nan McCoy at **951-242-6032** or nanos2nd@aol.com. We have some training materials available for those who want to help but may need more registration information.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE WDC NEWSLETTER!

CONTACT US WITH NEWS, TIPS, AND
IDEAS...OR SUBMIT A GUEST COLUMN OF
YOUR OWN.

SEND YOUR SUBMITTALS TO:

CORINNE.PARKER@YAHOO.COM

Remember: this is **YOUR** newsletter, too!



WDC Executive Board

Becky Foreman, President
Corinne Parker, Vice President
Suzanne Tanenbaum, CFO
Sheila K. Riley, Secretary
Marisa Yeager, Membership Chair

Please visit our website!

www.RiversideWomenDems.com

NEXT MEETING: WED SEPT 2

Eleanor Roosevelt Tea: OCT 4

RIVERSIDE WOMENS DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. BOX 20602
RIVERSIDE CA 92516

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
0000

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321