



Yavapai County DEMOCRAT

November, 2011

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ONE YEAR LATER!



It has been one year since the Republican Party swept the 2010 elections and established a majority “tea party” presence in the House and greatly increased the “tea party” Republican presence in state legislatures.

Are we better off as a result? The answer is a resounding NO, we are far worse off, and it's getting worse every day! This issue of the Yavapai Democrat will be devoted to the damages perpetrated by the Republican majority in the last year. Their shenanigans have threatened our economy, the rights of the voter, the Middle Class, the environment, and democracy itself.

Voter Suppression - A “Solution” to a Problem that Doesn't Exist

As The New York Times editors aptly put it, “New restrictions to voting are really intended to keep Democrats from the polls.”

- 19 laws and two executive actions in 14 Republican-dominated states will cause more than five million eligible voters to have difficulty participating in the 2012 election.
- Their excuse – “Cutting back on early voting will save money”. THE TRUTH – Early voting is popular among working people who cannot take time off from their jobs on Election Day.
- Their excuse – “Requiring government ID at the polls is to protect the sanctity of the ballot from unscrupulous voters.” THE TRUTH – The young, the poor, the elderly, and minorities often do not have government ID's. THE TRUTH – There is virtually no voting fraud in America.
- This fraudulent attempt to disenfranchise voters is most egregious in its effects on new, young voters – the very people we want to become enthusiastic about the election process. An example – no college ID card in Wisconsin meets that state's new stringent requirements. When the non-partisan Election Board suggested stickers with expiration dates and signatures on the college ID's, Republican lawmakers said – you guessed it – “that will lead to voter fraud.”

Once again, in the words of The New York Times editors, these Republican legislators and governors “... are abusing the trust placed in them by twisting democracy's machinery to partisan ends.”



Chad Campbell

Arizona House Minority Leader, to speak at the November 10, 2011 meeting of the Yavapai County Democratic Party County Committee.

Come hear this courageous Democratic leader report on the latest news from the Arizona Legislature. Chad will also respond to questions on issues of interest to all Democrats. See details in Calendar of Events.

Chad Campbell is a Phoenix native and life-long Arizona resident. A graduate of Moon Valley High School and Northern Arizona University, Chad is in his third term as a State Representative for District 14, which covers parts of central and west Phoenix.

As a legislator, Chad has been the leading voice in advocating for comprehensive tax reform that would make taxes fairer for individuals and businesses alike, and put Arizona in a much more competitive place moving into the 21st century. He has also led the fight in improving the campaign finance system, working to instill more accountability in private prisons, and cleaning up our neighborhoods by cracking down on graffiti and gang crimes. Chad has received numerous awards for his work with cities and towns, the disability community, and the press for his fight to defend free speech. He has also been

recognized for his work on economic development issues, being named one of the "Tech Ten" Legislators of 2008, 2009, and 2010 by the Arizona Technology Council, a Public Policy Champion by the Arizona Realtors Association for 2010, and receiving an Eagle for Enterprise Award from the AZ Small Business Association.

Going into the 2011-2012 session, Chad has been chosen by his colleagues to serve as the House Minority Leader. He is honored by this distinction, and will continue to bring a vision of common sense and pragmatism to the legislative debate in 2011-2012. Chad also serves as the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee and will serve on the House Rules Committee. In addition to his duties at the legislature, Chad is a private consultant and sits on the Phoenix Environmental Quality Commission.

Truman - Clinton Dinner: A Rousing Success

The 2011 Truman-Clinton Dinner was a great event, moving this year to the "other side of the mountain" at the beautiful Hilton Resort and Spa at the Village of Oak Creek in Sedona. Cosponsored by Yavapai County Democratic Party, Democrats of the Red Rocks, and Democrats of the Verde Valley, the event featured a welcome from Andrei Cherny, Chair of the Arizona Democratic Party, and a moving speech by Congressman Raul Grijalva, Arizona CD 6. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, the wonderful sounds of Out of the Box, a variety of gorgeous items on which to bid in the "Cell-a-thon", and a riotous "Heads or Tails" fundraising game.

The event was a success on all counts: fundraising, camaraderie, Democratic fellowship and fun! Thanks to all the Democratic leaders of YCDP, DORR, and DOVV that made it possible.

The U.S. as a Third World Country Shipping Our Natural Wealth Overseas

Summary of an article by Democratic Congressman Raul Grijalva of Arizona
The Arizona Republic, Monday, October 31, 2011

The Situation: There are currently about 1.1 million acres of public forest land surrounding the Grand Canyon subject to a moratorium on new mining claims. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar plans to recommend withdrawing the land from new claims for 20 years. Existing claims would not be affected

Republicans: including Arizona Senator McCain and Representatives Gosar, Flake, Schweikert, Franks and Quayle—propose that Salazar’s moratorium be blocked by the new Arizona Mining Continuity Act of 2011.

The Fraudulent Sell: Republicans claim that opening the land to new claims would be an economic stimulus. Representative Gosar claims opening the land to new claims would bring in nearly \$30 billion dollars (sic) of economic growth opportunities; nearly \$700 million annually; and over a thousand well-paying jobs.

The Sell-out: In 2009 Senator McCain received \$42,000 from the mining industry and Representative Quayle received almost \$40,000. Republican members of Congress received almost four times as much as Democrats from the mining industry in 2009. Senator McCain, long a champion of Arizona’s environment, has abandoned his principles for the tea party vote.

The “Who Would Benefit” Facts:

- International special-interest groups. Most of the claims within five miles of the Grand Canyon have been filed by Canadian mining interests. South Korean Electric Power owns a 20 percent stake in one of the Canadian firms.
- Much of the uranium would be shipped to South Korea and France.
- These companies don’t hire local labor, don’t keep their profits in the state—or in some cases the country—and don’t sell their product domestically.

The Republican proposal has generated little public or scientific support. Secretary Salazar’s plan is supported by Coconino County; the City of Flagstaff; local tribes; the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The local tourist industry would be negatively affected.

A final quote from Congressman Grijalva:

“This is not about American jobs or American electricity. It’s about international special-interest profits.”

Class Warfare? You Bet!

By: Susan Lanning

The Republicans say the Democrats are waging class warfare on the rich when the truth is, the rich have been waging it on the middle class for the last 30 years. They’ve managed to increase the gap in income to the extent it was before the 1929 stock market crash.

The new idol of the GOP, especially the freshmen “tea party” gang, is Ayn Rand, the author from Russia who promoted extreme greed and objectivism – a philosophical concept that a man’s own happiness is the moral purpose of his life, the pursuit of one’s own interests and no one else’s. Not exactly an American concept. The very things that brought the economy tumbling in ‘29, and again in 2008 have been the personal greed that Rand talks of in her books.

You bet there’s class warfare, but it isn’t the middle-class who’s waging it. We’re just trying to bring this country back to a sense of fairness where the rich and greedy don’t ruin it altogether. It took America a good 15 years to come back from the earlier stock market disaster. How long will it take us this time? Will we be smarter and reject the selfish philosophy of objectivists like Ayn Rand? It’s up to the public to decide which way our country will go—back to reasonable prosperity for all or plunging down to destruction.

From the Chair . . .

By: Lindsay Bell



The Yavapai County Democratic party was shocked and outraged to learn of the latest affront to Arizona voters which came in the form of a vote by the Arizona Senate to affirm Governor Brewer's recommendation that Arizona Independent Restricting Commission Chairwomen Colleen Mathis be removed from the Commission. On Tuesday November 1st, the Governor issued a statement accusing the IRC Chair and the two Democratic members of "gerrymandering" of the maps, "substantial neglect of duty", and "gross misconduct in office", and called for their removal from

the panel. She then called the Arizona Senate into special session to affirm the impeachment action. Fortunately, the GOP controlled Senate could not muster the votes to also oust the two Democrats on the commission.

This action is the culmination of a deliberately orchestrated effort by Governor Brewer, the GOP Congressional delegation and the Republican supermajority in the state legislature to take redistricting out of the hands of a voter approved citizen commission and give it to entrenched political incumbents. Since the Independent Redistricting Commission was impaneled earlier this year, the Republicans have engaged in continual bullying, interference and undermining of the process. Preventing such political shenanigans is exactly why Arizona voted for an independent commission in the first place.

In 2000, the voters overwhelmingly approved a citizen's initiative to take the redistricting process out of the political arena and have new district boundaries redrawn by an independent commission made up of citizen volunteers. The redistricting commission has done nothing wrong and has followed the requirements for drawing congressional and legislative districts as outlined by law. Their only crime is not kowtowing to Republican leaders.

Responding to the Republican

supermajority's redistricting impeachment vote, Arizona State Democratic Party Chairman Andrei Cherny said, "Today, Arizona's Republican politicians showed they are willing to violate the Constitution and the rule of law in order to perpetuate their own power. This is a historic abuse of power without parallel in modern American history." I couldn't agree more.

Governor Brewer's accusation of Democratic "gerrymandering" is laughable. The draft congressional map adopted by the commission gives Republicans four safe seats, Democrats two safe seats and forces both parties to compete in the remaining three districts. On the legislative side, the proposed map has 11 sure districts for Republicans, another 6 that lean heavily to the right; 5 sure Democratic districts with four that lean Democratic and only 8 that might be considered competitive where candidates of any party have a reasonable chance of winning an election. Apparently, the Republicans are afraid of competing. Even with these maps, Republicans are likely to maintain their majority in the state legislature, a majority they have enjoyed since 1966! Arizona is one third Republicans, one third Democrats and one third independents. Shouldn't all of our legislative and congressional districts reflect this?

Stay tuned folks. I'm sure that there will be more to come on this story.

YCDP Fundraising Update

The 2011 Truman Clinton Dinner was held October 21st at the Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa in the Village of Oak Creek. Our keynote speaker, Congressman Raul Grijalva, was very inspirational with his remarks regarding what's at stake with GOP attempts to roll back environmental regulations and financial reforms as well as the continued Republican attacks on education, America's safety net programs and the middle class. The 150 attendees also heard from several candidates and had the opportunity to bid on some great prizes. A special thanks to everyone who attended the event or contributed to the success of the evening. We have a few more expenses to tally, but it looks like we cleared close to \$9,000. Thanks for the great support!


 Yavapai County
DEMOCRAT
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
November 16	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Democratic Women of the Prescott Area Nancy Joy Merritt on <i>Immigration</i> Lunch - \$13.00	Wyndham Garden Hotel Rte. 69, Prescott
November 10	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Yavapai County Democratic Party County Committee Meeting Representative Chad Campbell, Democratic Leader of the Arizona House Potluck Supper - \$10.00	Meals on Wheels Dining Room, Prescott Adult Center Rosser Road, Prescott
November 17	8:00 – 10:00 AM	DORR Breakfast A forum for candidates and activists to discuss the upcoming election of 2012 that is shaping up as one of the most important elections of our lifetime. Party officials will be on hand to suggest strategy and sharpen the issues in the 2012 election. Come add your voice.	Olde Sedona Bar and Grill 1407 W. SR89A, Sedona (across from New Frontiers)
November 19	1:30 PM	Arizona Democratic Party Fall State Committee Meeting	Hilton Garden Inn Yuma 310 N. Madison, Yuma
		DOVV General Meeting Since the 4th Thursday of November is Thanksgiving, the date and subject of our November meeting is yet to be determined. Check www.dovv.org later in the month.	
November 30	6:00 PM	DORR Movie <i>HOME</i> Experience the wonder of our world in a way that will captivate and inspire you! Award-winning aerial photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand and narrator Glenn Close take you on a spectacular voyage around the world to 54 countries and 120 unique locations. This film is co-sponsored by the Sierra Club. Moderators Marlene and Dennis Raynor will lead the discussion after the movie.	Sedona Public Library 3250 White Bear Road, W. Sedona

