



# Yavapai County DEMOCRAT

January, 2011

## IN THIS ISSUE:

A Lion in Winter 2

Events/Fact Check 3

From the Chair  
New Headquarters 4



We're on the Web!  
Visit us at  
[www.yavdem.org](http://www.yavdem.org)



Find the Arizona  
Democratic Party at:  
[www.azdem.org](http://www.azdem.org)

Yavapai County  
Democratic  
Headquarters

1555 Iron Springs Road,  
Prescott, AZ 86303

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1644  
Prescott, AZ 86302

928 - 541-0413

## Happy New Year, America! Democrats come through!

As 2010 comes to a close, so does the most productive post-election period America has seen in decades. The past several weeks have shown that Washington is not doomed to perpetual gridlock.

President Obama and congressional leaders joined together and took vital steps to boost economic recovery and increase America's national security, making progress on several important issues. Much of this progress was in spite of obstructionism by Arizona Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain:

**New START Treaty:** The Senate ratified the most important arms control agreement in almost two decades – in a bipartisan vote. In so doing, they demonstrated America's leadership on non-proliferation issues, reinforced America's relationship with a key ally, and made America safer.

**Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell':** President Obama and congressional leaders brought an end to the longstanding injustice created by 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' Ending this outdated policy was the right thing to do for America's military and for America as a whole, upholding the ideal that all men and women are created equal.

**Middle-class tax cuts and unemployment insurance:** The president and Congress passed a package of middle-class tax cuts and unemployment

insurance that will create jobs, support businesses, and boost growth. While the president and Democrats were not happy about the GOP's push to extend tax cuts for the rich, the overall bipartisan agreement was cited by economists from both sides of the aisle as good for America.

**Food safety bill:** President Obama and congressional leaders undertook the biggest upgrade of America's food safety standards since the 1930s. **9/11 health bill:** Despite puzzling opposition from many Republicans, this important measure was passed to cover the health care costs of first responders who ran into the World Trade Center and inhaled toxic air during the rescue effort.

"While it's deeply disappointing that the Senate didn't pass the DREAM Act during this session, we applaud the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives for its vision and commitment in voting for passage," said Luis Heredia, Arizona Democratic Party executive director.

"The president and congressional Democrats have made it clear they are fighting for the middle class and strengthening the economy," Heredia said. "In 2011, we'll be watching incoming Republicans like Schweikert, Quayle and Gosar to see who they are fighting for."

## A Lion in Winter

By: Jo Kelleher

On Friday, December 10, 2010, Independent Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, assisted occasionally by Democrats Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Mary Landrieux of Louisiana, stood in the empty Senate Chambers and spoke for eight hours and 37 minutes against the tax cut package negotiated by President Obama and Republican leaders in Congress. What lesson shall we learn from this liberal lion of 20 years standing in the United States Congress?

First, the message. This is the legislative package that will extend the Bush-era tax cuts to the nation's wealthiest income earners. As Senator Sanders stated: "Extending income tax breaks to the top two percent is not the only unfair tax proposal in this agreement. It continues the Bush-era 15 percent tax rate on capital gains and dividends, so people who make their living off of their investments will continue to pay a substantially lower tax rate than firefighters, teachers, nurses and most American workers."

The Senator is giving voice to what should be the most important message the Democratic Party delivers between now and 2012. The gap between the rich and middle class grows ever wider, and the situation of the poor grows ever more desperate. This is not an accidental effect of economic realities; it is rather due to a conscious, deliberate effort on the part of the very wealthy "investment class" and corporate America to maintain and increase their ability to make more money. Corporate America regards historical middle class worker values like good wages and benefits as "problems" to be eliminated in pursuit of higher dividends for investors. The very rich want



no regulation or oversight on investment schemes to increase their wealth, though these schemes are detrimental to the economic health of the country.

Second, the medium. Sanders' speech was not a "filibuster" in the usual sense, that is, an attempt to stop debate and action on a vote. It was rather an attempt to get liberal objections to the tax bill before the public and the media, and into the Congressional Record. The speech was widely publicized and commented on in the social media, and was, according to Business Insider's Joe Weisenthal "... the first time we can recall that something happening on the liberal side is getting people excited." In addition, as mentioned in a local Vermont paper, The Rutland Herald, "Bernie Sanders is on his way to folk hero status around the nation because of his ardent opposition to tax breaks for the wealthy. His eight-and-a-half-hour speech last Friday was the sort of dramatic gesture that captures the imagination. He spoke

words that many Democrats were hoping to hear from President Obama." The favorite quote from the speech resonated with many bloggers. "How can I get by on one house? ... I need five houses, ten houses! I need three jet planes to take me all over the world! Sorry, American people. We've got the money, we've got the power, we've got the lobbyists here and on Wall Street. Tough luck. That's the world, get used to it. Rich get richer. Middle class shrinks."

For too long we Democrats have been curbing our rhetoric, minding our manners, and avoiding flamboyant messaging in the hopes of appearing more "centrist." The reactions to Senator Sanders' speech should cause us to rethink this strategy. The American voter is disgusted with politics and government as usual, and is looking for emotionally charged leadership. President Obama had it in 2008 as a candidate; it is much more difficult to maintain in the position of governing. But that's where we come in. Like Senator Sanders, we need to mount our soapboxes and give voice to the values of the Democratic Party. As I write this, we have just won repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and have a good shot at both resurrecting the START treaty, and realizing the DREAM act. These were accomplished by Democratic outrage at unfairness, and Democratic persistence in demanding that our legislators do the right thing.

Thanks for the reminder, Bernie. We needed it.

### Citations:

Frank James, [www.NPR.org/blogs](http://www.NPR.org/blogs)  
Heather Horn, [www.theatlanticwire.com](http://www.theatlanticwire.com)  
[www.Sanders.senate.gov](http://www.Sanders.senate.gov)

# Fact Check - January 2011

By: John Neibich

## *Is Mike Kelly, new Representative from Pennsylvania's 3rd District, coming from the Real World?*

So, on CBS' Face the Nation, on Sunday, Jan 2nd, 2011, kept acting like Democrats in Congress has no idea what life was like in the "real world", and that Mike was from the private free market. He also said "I pay for my own health care." Well of course he does, Millionaire Mike can pay for his own healthcare, because he's using his Daddy's money.

What Mike didn't mention was that in his "real world" Mike's Daddy owned a Cadillac Dealership in the Pittsburgh, PA area. Or that Mike's Daddy could afford to send Mikey to Notre Dame. Or that Mike bought his Daddy's Cadillac Dealership, I'm sure at a "family" rate. Someone needs to tell Millionaire Mike that most Americans don't have family Cadillac or Lincoln Dealerships. Not even Kia Dealerships! In the real world, most Americans are workers.

What Americans need to do is call Rep. Mike Kelly, and ask if Rep. Kelly understands that in the Real World, the large majority of Americans work for other people.

- Those workers can't afford healthcare, as evidenced by the fact that in America last year, over 50,000,000 Americans went without health insurance, according to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Most Americans
- The median American worker makes less than \$41,000 a year, and health insurance costs \$13,770 for a family a year. Now, how in the "real world" are real Americans supposed to be able to afford to spend about one third of their gross income on health insurance? That is before they pay for anyone who actually gets sick.

Yavapai County  
**DEMOCRAT**  
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 19, 2011	5:30 PM	Rte 89A Issues DORR Board Meeting	St. Andrew's Church, 100 Arroyo Pinyon Drive, West Sedona (off Hwy 89A)
January 20, 2011	4:00pm	Open House for our NEW YCDP Headquarters!	1555 Iron Springs Road, Prescott
January 22, 2011	10:00 AM	Arizona Democratic Party State Committee Meeting	Wyndham Hotel, Phoenix
January 26, 2011	11:00 AM	DWPA Monthly Meeting with Speaker Norm Perry on Solar Energy	Clubhouse at Stoneridge, Hwy 69, Prescott Valley
January 27, 2011	6:30 PM	DOVV General Meeting	Pine Shadows Club House, 2050 W. SR 89A, Cottonwood
January 30, 2011	5:00 PM	DORR Annual Meeting with Speaker Senator Kyrsten Sinema. Free Light Buffet. Bring Food for Food Bank	St. Andrew's Church, 100 Arroyo Pinyon Drive, West Sedona (off Hwy 89A)
February 17, 2011	8:00 AM	DORR Breakfast - \$11 - with Speaker Alessandra Soler Meetze, AZ ACLU	Olde Sedona Bar and Grill, 1407 W. SR89A, Sedona
March 17, 2011	8:00 AM	DORR Breakfast - \$11 - with Speaker Terry Green Sterling, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism	Olde Sedona Bar and Grill, 1407 W. SR89A, Sedona

## From the Chair...

The 2010 election is now history. Clearly the outcome of the election was not what we Democrats had hoped for. Despite the valiant efforts of dedicated volunteers and a great slate of Democratic candidates for federal, state and local district offices, Republicans won up and down the ticket, both nationally, and across Arizona.

What a change from 2008! Two years ago, Arizona was seen as a swing state, a place where voters were increasingly supporting Democrats for public office at both the state and national level. Not only was President Obama elected in 2008 with a message of hope and change, but Democrats were elected to a majority of the congressional seats from Arizona.

This year many respected Democratic lawmakers were turned out of their seats and replaced by radical right “wingnuts”, and for the first time in



*By: Lindsay Bell*

nearly fifteen years, not a single Democrat was elected to statewide office in Arizona. These folks were swept into office on a platform of fear mongering, misrepresentations and half truths. The next two years will be especially tough in Arizona where Republicans now have veto proof majorities in both chambers of the legislature and Senator Russell Pearce, infamous for his attacks on immigrants, the middle class and the poor, is Senate President.

These dynamics remind me of

the 1994 midterm election when Newt Gingrich and company were swept into office and Republicans took majorities in both houses of Congress. It was a very discouraging election for Democrats, but the Republicans failed to deliver, and the pendulum swung back the other way in a relatively short period of time. I am confident that the same will happen again. The lesson to be learned from history is that now is the time to roll up our sleeves and work together to assure that the pendulum swings back sooner rather than later. As the new chair of the Yavapai County Democratic Party, I am committed to working with members of the local party and all Arizona Democrats to regroup, reorganize and build momentum for successful elections in 2012. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in this effort.

## New Headquarters OPEN HOUSE

*By: Susan Lanning*



Come see the Yavapai County Democrats’ new digs at 1555 Iron Springs Road, Suite #1, Prescott. There will be have an Open House on January 20th from 4 to 6 pm with drinks and hors d’oeuvres and good company.

In an effort to save rent costs in these lean times, the Yavapai County Democratic Party decided to move its headquarters from the old location of 508 Montezuma to the new one on Iron Springs. The new office is actually larger, newer, and has much easier parking. All this while saving money. Who would have thought?

In spite of continued ice, the move took place the first full week of January. Boxes and small items got packed up and carried to Iron Springs all week long. Then on January 7th, a large Penske truck was rented and, with the help of almost 20 volunteers, the big move took place, all orchestrated by LaBeth Pondish, Vice Chair of Headquarters Operations.

In the following week, along with more volunteers, LaBeth will put the new headquarters in order. And that week, Lindsey Bell, the new Yavapai County Democratic Party Chair, will hold her first executive board meeting in the new quarters.

Now, on January 20th from 4 to 6 pm, everyone can get a look at the new location. What a great change. And all in an effort at greater economy!

