

June
2010

yavapai county DEMOCRAT



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Bell and Donahue Seek Your Support

Democrats Bob Donahue of Cornville and Lindsay Bell of Prescott have announced their candidacies for the Arizona legislature. Bob is vying for the Senate seat in District 1 to unseat incumbent Republican, Steve Pierce. Lindsay is seeking a seat in the Arizona House against two Republicans.

In announcing her run for the Arizona House, **Lindsay Bell**,



long-time Prescott resident and community activist said, "Arizona is at a cross-

roads. As a state we are faced with falling revenues, declining job and business opportunities, failing infrastructure, mounting drug related crime, immigration challenges and population growth that continues to strain the capacity of government services. The decisions we make in the next two years will affect the state for decades to come. We must come together as a state to make strategic choices and informed decisions to create the Arizona we want in the future."

Lindsay has been active in civic affairs throughout her 37 years in Prescott. She served on the Prescott City Council from 1995 to 1999 and worked on several city strategic planning and visioning committees over the last two decades.

She has served on boards of behavioral health agencies at the local, regional and national level and on employment related boards including the Yavapai County Private Industry Council (forerunner of the local Workforce Investment Board) and the State Rehabilitation Council. Lindsay is a member of the League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai and serves as President for the Democratic Women of the Prescott Area.

She is running as a Clean Elections candidate and would appreciate your \$5 contribution to help her qualify for clean election funding.

Bob Donahue, also an Arizonan with deep roots in the state, is running for the District 1 Senate seat opposing Republican incumbent Steve Pierce.

Bob addressed county Democrats speaking of the need for an immigration policy more comprehensive and humane



than SB1070. He would secure the border with the assistance of the National Guard and also consider the farm labor needs of Arizona. He noted that these Hispanic workers and their ancestors worked for generations to develop this part of our country. For that they deserve respect.

Arizona Clean Elections Act Under Assault

In 1998, the people of Arizona passed a ballot measure, the Citizens Clean Elections Act, which revolutionized the way campaigns are financed in our state. The Act was supported by Arizonans who wanted to lessen the influence of special

interests in determining state elections, to encourage citizens to run for office not just "professional politicians," and to increase competition and choice in races.

That law, which has been a great success, is now under attack. The Republican Party

filed suit to have it struck down. Attorneys for the Goldwater Institute, a Right Wing think tank, represented Senate President Robert Burns, State Treasurer Dean Martin and State Rep. Rick Murphy in the action. On

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Ben Furlong
Yavapai County
Democratic Party Chair

Letters, We Need Letters

Letters to the editor in the *Daily Courier* each day offer growing evidence that more rational voices need to be heard on issues of the day. If you would like to work with us in getting the voices of more Democrats heard in the *Courier* and the *Arizona Republic*, contact Larry Lawlyes to see how you can help. LarryL4469@aol.com

Pop Quiz

Which of the following has the **least** legitimate reason to say, "I just want my country back"?

- A. Native Americans
- B. Hispanics who work hard for low wages
- C. Arizona Tea Party members

From The Chair . . .

Senator John McCain's campaign is in full swing. One of his TV ads has been characterized as "almost comical" by *Arizona Republic* opinionist, E. J. Montini. In the ad Sheriff Paul Babeau of Pinal Co. closes their exchange with, "Senator McCain, you're one of us."

Look at some Arizonans who qualify as "us":

- **Veterans** - despite being a veteran himself, Senator McCain voted against enhancing the GI Bill and opposed increases in funding for veterans' healthcare programs. As for supporting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, Senator McCain voted against additional safety equipment. He was an obstructionist regarding a bill intended to provide \$1 billion to reduce a shortage

of helmets, bulletproof armor and other gear for the National Guard.

- **The Uninsured** - Senator McCain stumped the state trying to stop President Obama's health care reform and now insists that he is going to work to repeal this "takeover by the Democrats." As a practicing Protestant, it was confounding to me that he held many of his meetings in Protestant churches and is himself well covered by insurance provided at government expense.
- **The Unemployed** - Arizona's unemployment rate is second only to Michigan - nearly 10%. Yet both of Arizona's senators have consistently voted against extending unemployment benefits.

What about an "it" or two:

- **The Economy** - I have lived in Arizona over 60 years and I've never known a recession this deep. The conventional wisdom has always been: "Arizona is the last state to enter a recession and the first to come out of it." Calling it earmarks, Senator McCain has voted against Arizona's receiving funds that would aid our economy—both in the short and long terms.
- **Immigration Reform** - McCain and Kyl now have a plan to approach the issue at the national level. The two of them have been in Congress over 40 years.

Senator McCain has had his chance to work for the people of Arizona. It's time to elect a Democrat who truly cares about the unemployed, the uninsured and the under equipped.

Yes, I Read It – It Didn't Help

Governor Brewer and other SB 1070 proponents have devised a very clever "gotcha tactic" in their attack on opponents of the bill. They ask, "Have you read the bill?" If you haven't then your criticisms are invalidated. The problem is, reading the bill doesn't make it any better. Doing so only raises more concerns.

As David Safier of *Blog For*

Arizona notes, a close look at the law only heightens concerns that race will play a factor in its enactment. The law goes out of its way to say it is not moving to a national ID system opposed by the left and right. This assurance, he muses, is a nod to the right that they need not fear that they will ever have to produce papers. That is only for others to be concerned about.

The law raises other questions – can you be arrested if you drive a van of people to church and some are undocumented? Can your car be impounded? Perhaps.

The bill is unsettling on many fronts. Most concerning is that it was created by and will be carried out by many people like Russell Pearce and Joe Arpaio whose sense of fairness and objectivity is in question.

Repubs Oppose Clean Elections ... from Page 1

May 21st, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their arguments that the law limited their right to free speech.

The plaintiffs say they will take the issue to the US Supreme Court (which, in a recent 5-4 decision, ruled that there are no limits on the amount of money corporations give to candidates.)

AZ Republicans are not content to take their chances in court. They are also preparing for a ballot initiative to kill the law.

They have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars (much from out of state special interests and right wing organizations) to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November ironically and misleadingly titled, *“No Taxpayer Money for Politicians.”*

Time and effort will need to be given to defeat this clandestine effort to subvert the will of the people and to maximize the power of the corporate world to control election outcomes. To fight them, Arizonans need to understand the Act and know how effective it has been.

The Clean Elections Act provides public funding to candidates for office in AZ who are able to raise a threshold amount of money through individual \$5 contributions from supporters. (Frivolous candidates will not qualify.) The amount of money is capped for

each office unless an opponent raises more money through private means.

The Republican Party would like you to believe that public funds come directly from tax dollars. They do not.

Over half of the funding comes from a 10% surcharge on all civil penalties and criminal fines; 43% from voluntary contributions from state income tax returns and voluntary tax credits on donations; and from \$5 donations collected by candidates. When you hear Republicans call the law “welfare for politicians,” please correct them.

The Clean Elections Law has made an important contribution to our political life. Before it went into effect, only 22% of incumbents faced a challenge for reelection. Now more than half do. The percentage of people running as participating candidates rather than as traditional candidates has increased every election cycle. In 2000 only 26% of the primary candidates ran using clean elections funding. In 2008 participation increased to 65%.

This is not a trend the Republican Party wants to see continue. Closed elections funded by private interests increase their chances of staying in power.

Lovers of good government, however, do want competition, choice, and elections decided by the will of the people not corporate interests.

Dems Stump In Yavapai

Democratic candidates are crossing the state to get their message out that Arizona needs a change of direction. Many addressed the May meeting of YCDP.



John Dougherty, award winning journalist, brought his campaign for the US Senate to Prescott.



Vince Rabago, Attny-General candidate, shared his common sense for securing our borders and the civil rights of all Arizonans.



Penny Kotterman, seeks to be the first teacher to lead Arizona’s education system. She wants to improve the public’s perception of our schools.



Jason Williams an educator as well, shared his ideas for raising funding and results in Arizona schools.

Things I Don’t Understand

Does Sarah “Drill Baby Drill” Palin have any sense of the irony she provokes when she calls for an investigation into the “connection” between President Obama and the oil companies and his “hesitancy” to do anything about the oil spill in the Gulf? [71% of all money donated by oil companies to politicians went to Republicans.]

Why is the party of Ronald Reagan and “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall” so keen on building a wall of their own on the Mexican border or for that matter between us and much of the rest of the world?

Short Takes

Finally – An EPA That Protects the Environment

The Obama EPA has determined that Texas is violating the Clean Air Act and has told the state it will take over the issuance of permits to an oil refinery in Corpus Christi and perhaps others in the state. Texas was cited for violations under the Bush administration, but this is the first time that any enforcement action has taken place.

Arizona’s STO Program Goes To Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court agreed to consider the constitutionality of Arizona’s program of giving tax credits for donations to organizations that provide scholarships for children to attend private schools.

The 9th Circuit of Appeals earlier ruled the program is likely to impermissibly advance religion in violation of the 1st Amendment prohibition against any government establishment of religion.

Country Wants Democrats To Control Congress

Despite some successes by the GOP, a new AP poll shows that more Americans want Democrats to retain control of Congress after the 2010 elections. It showed that Republicans are losing ground with married women and Democrats are gaining with both young and rural voters.

Democrats, take heart in the poll but don’t be complacent. With hard work, we will win.

Mark Your Calendar

June10: Rep. Kirkpatrick’s NSA legislation, HR4823, to be heard in sub-committee

June12: DORR fundraiser for Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick – 2-4 pm St. Andrews Episcopal Church in West Sedona

Time For A New Secretary of State

Jan Brewer’s appointed SoS, Ken Bennett, nearly disenfranchised 25% of Arizona voters in the recent special election when he sent directions to the wrong polling places to 191,000 households.

If we truly love our neighbor as ourselves, shouldn’t we prioritize education over war, healthcare over armaments, and jobs over profiteering?

Things You Won’t See On Fox News



Sen. Russell Pearce (R-Mesa) isn’t finished yet. SB1070 has not wreaked enough havoc for him. So, he is considering legislation to go after the babies of non-citizens. Pearce hopes to pass an AZ law to deny citizenship to children born of immigrants despite that the 14th amendment grants citizenship to anyone born here. It is clear that Pearce’s agenda vastly exceeds developing a fair and comprehensive immigration program.



Tea Partiers want lower taxes, less government, no health care system, more guns, and the freedom to do anything they want when they want to do it. Guess what? There is a country that meets their needs to a T. They should consider Somalia.



Rand Paul is getting heavily criticized for recent remarks that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 went too far and should not have prohibited private businesses from being able to discriminate against people if they chose and rightly so. But other remarks he made are equally outrageous and are getting far less coverage. Speaking about the oil spill in the Gulf, he refused to blame British Petroleum, saying in their defense, “...sometimes accidents happen.” The lack of empathy is one thing that separates Republicans from Democrats.



If you who think Paul’s comment was just a slip of the mind and the tongue, consider Texas’ Republican governor, **Rick Perry**. He says the spill should not cause us to rethink off shore drilling because it was “just an act of God that occurred.” (Right, blame God not BP.) Should we just rename it the Gulf of Texaco and sell it to the highest bidder?



AZ Republicans accused Tucson schools of pushing an agenda in its ethnic studies program and passed a law to stop the classes. In Virginia, **Gov. Bob McDonnell** (R) passed a law requiring schools to teach gun safety to students in Kindergarten through 5th grade and to use materials from the NRA. Who is politicizing education?