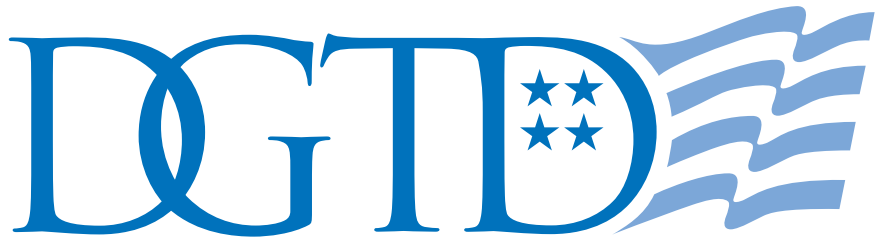


Special Election Edition



Downers Grove Township
D E M O C R A T S

Burr Ridge • Clarendon Hills • Darien • Downers Grove • Hinsdale • Westmont
• Willowbrook and portions of Woodridge and Lemont

Fall 2008

P.O. Box 785, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Issue No. 3

www.dgdemocrats.org

Working Together To Elect Democrats

Message From Kim Savage

Chair of the Downers Grove Township Democrats

Greetings, Democrats! We are in the final weeks of a very exciting election season. Summer has rapidly slipped by with weekend canvasses and weeknight phone banks for our candidates. By early September, we had over 3,300 actual contacts with voters either at the door or on the phone, and over 11,000 contacts have been attempted, counting people who were not at home and were left information at the door or scheduled for callbacks. A group of committed volunteers has faithfully canvassed door to door almost every weekend and identified voters over the phone. The Harper campaign has been instrumental in providing the resources needed for these efforts. On at least three weekends, we knocked on over 300 doors, up to a high of 800. The candidates for county offices and state

senate have also been an integral part of this process. The commitment of volunteers and donors was a key factor in earning Scott Harper a spot on the Democratic Congressional Committee's Emerging Races list. As a township, we have learned a lot about our voters and have a finger on the pulse of their concerns. The ultimate goal of electing our Democratic candidates will be realized in less than a month, but we still need your help, because we still have about 7,000 voters to identify before the end of October.

We are very hopeful about the outcomes for this election, from President all the way down to County Board. However, public response to the Republican Vice Presidential pick may have raised your concerns about the mindset of the voters. If you are even

the least bit worried, like I am, it is essential that you make time to help contact voters and help stop the spread of misinformation. We cannot afford another four years of failed policies and declining quality of life. *The presidential campaign is not about personalities, it is about appointing judges to the Supreme Court and the federal courts; it is about access to affordable healthcare for all Americans; it is about the economic health of our country. Not one of us can sit on the sidelines, no matter how disappointed we may have been if our preferred candidate was not chosen as the presidential nominee.*

We need help to insure our candidates are elected. From phone banking, door-to-door canvassing, and stuffing, just two hours of your time can make a difference, and two to four hours a week can make a big difference. If you are not on our email list, please contact

Continued on page 2

Scott Harper

District 13-Congressional
Candidate

**A Comparison Between
Democrat Scott Harper and
Republican Judy Biggert:**

**Fixing Our Economy,
Keeping Taxes Low**

Harper will stand up for middle-class families and fight for the relief they need by lowering their tax burden and reducing health care costs.

Biggert supported Bush's failed policies and reckless spending, including \$500 billion for war in Iraq and rais-

Scott will help Obama enact Democratic policies that will help heal our nation and look to the future both domestically and internationally.



www.scottharper.us
630.848.2111

ing the national debt to \$8.18 billion.

**Making America
Energy Independent**

Harper will work to lower gas prices and create new high-paying green jobs by investing in alternative energy.

Biggert called high gas prices "tough love" for working fam-

ilies, then took \$87,000 from the oil and energy special interests and gave them billions in tax breaks.

**Ending the War and Honoring
Our Veterans**

Harper will work for a phased with-

drawal from Iraq and ensure that our veterans receive the funding and benefits they deserve.

Biggert voted for the war and raised her own pay 7 times, but opposed combat bonuses for troops she sent into harm's way.

Making Health Care Affordable

Harper will stand up to the big drug and insurance companies and work tirelessly to make health care affordable and accessible.

Biggert, whose daughter is an insurance industry lobbyist, took \$230,000 from health care special interests and voted against making low-cost generic drugs more accessible.

www.scottharperforcongress.com
www.therealjudybiggert.com

Message From Kim

continued from page 1

chotchkin@sbcglobal.net and you will be added, as we disseminate updates and requests for help almost daily. The two top priorities for help are phone banking on Monday evenings and canvassing on the weekends. If you don't want more of the same for the next 4 years, please help out. The last week before the election, we will need every available body to help make last minute deliveries of literature and phone calls.

Beyond the local efforts, there are many opportunities to help out with the Barack Obama campaign. There are organized trips to Wisconsin from DuPage County every weekend. If you are interested, please contact sschindl@barackobama.com. Other opportunities to help out may be found by creating an account at my.barackobama.com.

It is also important to take time to educate yourself about the candidates. We have listed candidate websites elsewhere in this newsletter. There is also critical information at www.thereallybiggy.com and www.stopthesmears.com.

I must emphasize that our efforts to engage Democratic voters does not end on November 4. On November 5, we will be shifting our focus to electing a slate of Democratic candidates to township offices. Our township and county governments have been controlled by the Republican Party for too long. *While the Republicans love to blame the Democrats for high taxes, in DuPage County, it is the Republicans who are*

responsible for your high taxes. Library, park district, fire protection districts, and school boards are also over populated with Republican operatives and these seats will be open for election. Petitions for local seats will be available in October or November and must be filed between January 19 and January 26 for local races. We will have the required caucus to select the township slate on January 13, which is the day before our regular January meeting. We must also maintain the momentum we have built during this election cycle for the 2010 elections!

Lastly, a combination of volunteer enthusiasm, hard work and money provides the foundation needed to elect Democrats here in DuPage County. While it is important to contribute to Democrats at the national and state level, *money that you donate to the DNC, DCCC, DSCC, and the Democratic Party of Illinois does NOT trickle down to our local organization or candidates.*

Our ability to produce this newsletter and contact voters is dependent on your generous contributions. You may donate online to the Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization, <http://www.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/19696>, or send a check made out to DGTD to PO Box 785, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

We will try to continue to keep Obama/Biden yard signs, and other items on hand to provide for a donation. Please call 630-771-5546 to request signs, buttons or t-shirts.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Congratulations to:

Precinct Committeeman *Phil Smolinski* and *Katherine Lemus* on their recent marriage.

Precinct Committeeman *Elliot Curry* on acceptance to Washington and Lee's Law School.

Lifelong DG Twp Democratic voter *Cleona Cox* on her 100th birthday!

Precinct Committeeman *Ron Solberg* on the release of his first book *Whizbangs, Oohs and Ahs*

Looking for more information on election related topics? Check out these websites:

Electoral votes:
www.fivethirtyeight.com

Electoral votes:
www.elecoral-vote.com

Political facts:
www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/

Political facts:
www.factcheck.org

Elections DO Matter

As Al Gore recently said, "Perhaps the single greatest gift that our democracy affords us is the opportunity to change course when things have gotten off track."

Eight years ago, many were saying that elections didn't matter and that there was very little difference between our major parties. However after eight years of failed policies from George

Bush and Dick Cheney showing contempt for our constitution "..., I think almost everyone agrees that elections matter a great deal.There are unbelievably high stakes in this election"

McCain and Palin and Representative Judy Biggert offer more years of the same failed and dangerous Republican policies. Judy Biggert has voted with Bush over 85% of the time including

her vote to privatize social security to allow Wall Street investments (and we all know now just how risky those investments would have been!). The difference is clear – vote for Obama & Biden, and for Scott Harper for Congress!

Vote for Obama & Biden and Scott Harper for Congress.

Democrats On The Ballot

Karol Sole Candidate for County Board District 3 www.karolsole.org

I should be elected because I bring a new perspective:

- As someone with an industrial engineering degree, using my technical and managerial experience to help solve our pressing transportation, stormwater management and environmental problems.
- As a Democrat, re-establishing real dialogue and a two party balance to the all-Republican County Board.
- As a business person, bringing a no-nonsense approach to the County budget. For example, the recent sales tax increase windfall must be responsibly managed.
- As a community member who will always listen to your needs and concerns.
- Finally, given my prior experience in county government, I can begin making a difference on the first day in office.

Bob Brandt Candidate for County Board District 3 www.BobforDuPage.org

I plan to cut county spending, shrink county government and make county government more effective, efficient and accountable by implementing the following:

- cut Board Member salaries by 50% (currently at \$50,079 per year);
- eliminate the retirement plan for Board Members (80% of their part-time salary after 20 years);
- hire a professional administrator to manage the day-today operations of the county;
- consolidate county departments as suggested by the Civic Federation;
- increase governmental transparency by creating a web-based database with all personnel and vendor information;
- prohibit campaign contributions from companies with county contracts ("pay to play");
- stop any attempt to bring "home rule" to DuPage county.

Dave Meek Candidate for County Recorder www.votedavidmeek.com

My reason for running for the office of DuPage County Recorder is threefold. First and foremost, I am tired of seeing the Republican candidates getting a free ride and running unopposed for each and every County office. Second, I believe the Democratic time has come to DuPage County and the "winds of change are blowing" due to our strong presidential candidate. And thirdly, I have been a Democratic Election Judge for 16 years and lived in DuPage for 20 years and have a vested interest in the area.

My motto of bringing "Corporate Experience to County Government" and my election to this position will change the County's autocratic system of internal promotion and eliminate the "not invented here" mentality to one of fresh innovative practices and procedures for the County Recorder's Office.

Matt Mostowik Candidate for Forest Preserve Dist. 3 m.mostowik@comcast.net

While every candidate at one time or another will say "I am ready to make the difficult decisions", I am the one candidate for DuPage County Forest Preserve District 3 who can say "I have made the difficult decisions". My 10 years of School Board experience have taught me that you cannot make everyone happy, no matter how much you want to. I have lost many hours of sleep agonizing over decisions I wish I had a better solution for, but there wasn't. There is a big difference between "thinking" you're ready and already doing.

Max J. Havlick Candidate for County Board Dist. 2 themaxhavlickcampaign@webtv.net

- Independent scholar and businessman
- Project manager, writer, consultant
- Take-charge guy, not afraid to ask questions
- Jobs at GE, Univac, Harvard, UN
- M.A. History, Baylor University, 1969

Goals: (1) to speak moderate Democratic views for a balanced, two-party government, with special attention to the needs of the less-fortunate, and (2), to seek better public safety, education, health and transportation, paid for by aggressive new economic development.

Barbara Dahl County Board Dist. 2
dahlfam3@comcast.net

Audrey Manley IL State Senate Dist. 41
amanley8@sbcglobal.com

An Illinois Constitutional Convention in 2010? Not a Good Idea!

By Chris Hotchkin

There will be a question on the ballot in November, asking voters if they want Illinois to hold a Constitutional Convention. The current Illinois Constitution requires that this question be asked of Illinois citizens every twenty years. If a Constitutional Convention were to be approved by voters in 2008, it would be held in 2010. The entire Illinois Constitution would be subject to revision—delegates to the Con Con could just tweak parts of it or could redo the whole thing! Any changes recommended by the delegates would need to be approved by the voters.

Must we have this convention? No, Illinois citizens can say that we do not need this convention and will retain our current constitution by simply voting “No” to the question on the ballot. The last Constitutional Convention was held in 1970.

The League of Women Voters, most labor organizations (including the AFL-

CIO, Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federations of Teachers) the Illinois Business Roundtable, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Taxpayers Federation of Illinois join together to oppose holding a Constitutional Convention, for a variety of reasons.

A Constitutional convention would cost an estimated \$78 million at a time when Illinois is struggling to balance its budget and is under funding pensions.

In fact labor is concerned that if a Constitutional Convention were to be held, state pensions themselves could be at risk if the delegates removed language in the current Illinois Constitution that protects pensions.

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention would be selected by the Illinois Legislature. Some people do not think it would be a good idea to entrust the Illinois Constitution to the current dysfunctional legislature.

There has been no preparation for a

Constitutional Convention, no studies of our current constitution or public hearings.

Our current Illinois Constitution can be amended (and has been amended 10 times since 1970) without putting the entire document at risk with a Constitutional Convention.

For these reasons, we urge voters to vote No on the question of an Illinois Constitutional Convention 2010.

Go to our website,
www.dgdemocrats.org
or
Use the envelope
enclosed to join or
contribute.



Books:

Moyers On Democracy, by Bill Moyers.

This Land Is Their Land, Reports From a Divided Nation, by Barbara Ehrenreich the author of *Nickel and Dimed*.

Perfectly Legal, The Covert Campaign to Rig Our Tax System to Benefit the Super Rich and Cheat Everybody Else, by David Cay Johnston, Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Reedy at Random by Bill Reedy, Yellow Dog Democrat

Where Do You Stand?

It really strikes me funny that people complain so loudly when they actually get what they voted for. They vote Democratic for president and then vote Republican or Independent for Congress and feel justified when they complain about “gridlock” and the so called “do-nothing” Congress in Washington.

Why would a Democrat consider voting a split ticket in the up-coming election? Could it be that they have lost sight of what they believe in and what we stand for? Could it be they don’t see the inconsistency? Come on people, make a stand and stick with it! Stand for the almost 50 million Americans who don’t have access to adequate health care. Stand for the 9.5 million Americans who are out of work. Stand for equal pay for women, human rights, funding for energy research, and public education. Stand up for the poor and middle class. Stand for Peace. Stand for all that we Democrats hold dear. Because, like an old friend of mine used to say, “If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.”

Now, none of us are so naive as to believe that we Democrats are perfect – far from it. But, I believe, we are working the hardest to do what is right for all the people. After all, we are all in this together. My money and my vote is with the Democrats, because I love what we stand for.

Will Your Vote Count?

Serious questions have been raised across the country over the accuracy, reliability and security of touch screen voting machines, such as those used here in DuPage County.

Just this past August the president of Premier Election Solutions (manufacturer of the touch screen machines currently used in DuPage county) admitted to the Secretary of State of Ohio that votes could be dropped while being uploaded to a central tabulating machine.

What to do? The Illinois Ballot Integrity Project, a non profit, non partisan civic organization dedicated to fair, accurate and transparent elections recommends:

“Don’t vote Early, Don’t Vote Absentee, and Don’t Touch That Touch Screen”.

Vote on paper, not on a touch screen (use the paper ballot which is inserted in the opti-scan machine instead).

Vote in person, not by mail.

Vote on election day, not earlier.

Ballots cast on paper, on election day, in your own precinct, under the watchful eyes of your fellow citizens are less subject to loss, damage or alteration than ballots that spend more time out of public view.

If you must vote early, an absentee ballot is the best guarantee that your vote will be counted, since all early voting is on the touch screen machines.

For more information, www.ballot-integrity.net

VoteVoteVoteVoteVoteVote

The Electoral College

By Julia Kennedy Beckman

I have the honor of serving as the State Central Committeewoman for the 13th Congressional District. On August 13, I received another honor—that of election to the Electoral College—by delegates to the Illinois Democratic Party State Convention in Springfield.

The College is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Here’s how it works:

There are a total of 538 electors—one from each Congressional district, 2 from each state and 3 from the District of Columbia. Illinois has 21 total votes. After the popular votes for President and Vice President are counted in November, the electors meet in their state capitols on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in November. If Barack Obama carries Illinois, we Democratic electors will be there to cast all of our 21 votes for him. If John McCain wins, his electors will be in Springfield instead. It’s important to note that it is the electoral votes which actually count, al-

though they are based on the popular vote.

As Tinker Harvey, twice an elector, has told me, “It’s really sad when the electors still must cast their votes, even if the Illinois winner loses the national election. (That happened for her in 2000—a very sad time for us all!—because Al Gore carried Illinois.) As we know, that year was one of the rare times when a candidate lost the popular vote and won the electoral vote. I’m sure 2008 will be different!

After the votes are cast in the 50 state capitols, they are sealed and transported to the House of Representatives in Washington, where they are opened and recorded before all the Representatives. The candidate who receives 270 or more votes wins.

If the election goes our way in Illinois, I’ll be glad to report on my trip to Springfield and all the tradition surrounding this centuries old ritual.

Our Successful ‘Tasting & Toasting’ Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

On September 20 we held our annual winetasting fundraiser at **SavWay** Fine Wines & Spirits, 3821 York Rd., Oak Brook, and a fine time was had by all!

Thanks to everyone who came, and a special thanks to Emmett Malloy and the hard working staff at **SavWay** for providing the perfect location and a terrific group of distributors to pour their wines.

We were especially glad to see many new faces that evening and hope you will join with us as we continue our grassroots efforts to organize Democrats in Downers Grove Township.

Do You Know Where To Vote On November 4?

Some polling places will be changed for Election Day, so how can you be sure you know where to vote?

The DuPage County Election Commission will be sending postcards to registered voters with the location of their polling places: postcards will be mailed to households if there is no change of location, and to individuals when the location has been changed.

In addition, you can always check on the location of your polling place by calling the **DuPage County Election Commission at 630 407-5600, or going to the website**

www.dupageelections.com

Join Us

If you have enjoyed this newsletter and found it informative, please consider contributing to the Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization (DGT Dems).

DGT Dems work to educate voters and to get out the vote at election time. In addition, DGT Dems work to find people willing to run for office and then help them create and run their campaigns.

Please consider making a donation and even joining us in this important work so that this third newsletter issue, our Election Issue, will be followed by many more.

Checks can be made out to DGTD and mailed to PO Box 785, Downers Grove IL 60515.

On-line contributions can be made at
<http://www.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/19696>

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Who are the Downers Grove Township Democrats?

If you received this newsletter, you live in Downers Grove Township which includes all or part of Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Westmont and Woodridge. Your township is the most local level of county government and Downers Grove Township Democrats is the most local level of the Democratic Party established by law. Our goal is to elect fellow Democrats, both locally and nationwide. We love volunteers! Learn more about us at www.dgdemocrats.org

Join Downers Grove Township Dems!



Use the envelope enclosed to join or contribute.