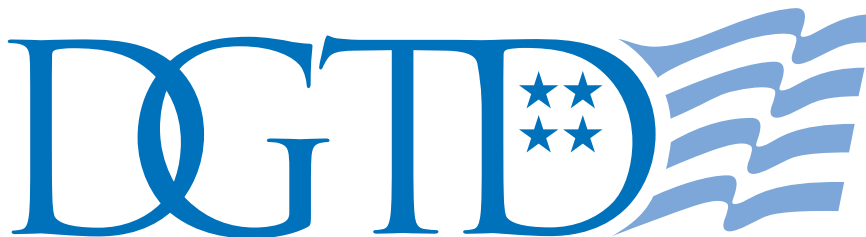


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Downers Grove Township DEMOCRATS

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

Summer 2008

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

Issue No. 2

www.dgdemocrats.org

Working Together To Elect Democrats

Message From Kim Savage

Chair of the Downers Grove Township Democrats

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter! I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped produce and distribute the well received first issue. Special thanks go to all of the people who contributed through memberships and other contributions so that we are able to expand distribution for this issue.

I know all of you want to elect Democrats up and down the ticket! At the national level it is imperative that we elect a Democratic President and a Democratic Representative for the 13th Congressional District who will advocate for us in Washington. In this issue we have included an update on incum-

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Scott Harper

District 13-Congressional
Candidate

Over the past few months, our campaign for Congress has enjoyed unprecedented momentum. From shattering fundraising records last quarter to being added to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's target watch list, people around the country are coming to realize what you and I already know: that this is a race we can win in November.

In March, we saw Bill Foster in our neighboring district, the IL-14, win an historic contest in a seat where some people never imagined a Democrat winning. This was Former Speaker Hastert's seat, a district that George Bush carried handily in 2004. And over the last few weeks, we've seen two more Democratic victories in Congressional elections—in Louisiana and Mississippi—in areas where the Republicans usually receive more than 60% of the vote.

It is clear that George Bush and his Republicans in Congress are taking our country in the wrong direction. And make no mistake: Judy Biggert is part of the problem.

For the last eight years, Congresswoman Biggert has been nothing but a rubber stamp for President Bush and his failed agenda. Whether it's voting for a \$500 billion blank check for the misguided war in Iraq or voting against SCHIP to expand health care for the children of the working poor, when



www.scottharper.us
630.848.2111

Is Judy A Moderate?

Our own Republican Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R IL-13)—does she really deserve her “moderate” reputation? You decide, from a sample of her recent votes:

WAR AND PEACE

- voted YES to authorizing military force in Iraq (Oct. 2002)
- voted YES to declaring Iraq part of War on Terror with no exit date (June 2006)
- voted NO to Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act (July 2007)
- voted NO to prohibit unauthorized pre-emptive military strike on Iran (May 2007)
- voted NO to Mandatory Troop Rest Periods between Deployments to Iraq (Aug. 2007)
- has voted YES to every bill funding the war in Iraq with no exit date

HEALTH ISSUES

- voted NO to SCHIP (medical care for low-income uninsured children, Oct. 2007)
- voted NO to Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act (Jan. 2007)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- voted NO to IRS code amendments that would provide more tax credits for wind energy and energy conservation (Feb. 2008)
- rated 33% by League of Conservation Voters (watchdog group on environmental issues)

In short, Judy voted with Bush 79% and with Republicans 89% of the time. Whatever her moderate reputation, she votes reliably with the hard Bush right wing. Fortunately we have a choice this November: Democratic candidate **Scott Harper!** www.scottharper.us

- voted NO to Renewable Energy Standards (Aug. 2007)
- voted NO to keeping moratorium on offshore oil drilling (June 2006)
- voted NO on prohibiting oil drilling and development in ANWR (Aug. 2001)

FREE TRADE

- voted YES to CAFTA (July 2005)

GUN CONTROL

- voted YES to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits (Oct. 2005)
- voted YES on decreasing gun purchase waiting period from 3 days to 1 (June 1999)
- rated A- by the National Rifle Association

CIVIL LIBERTIES

- voted NO to Responsible Electronic Surveillance Act amending FISA to prevent warrantless spying on Americans (April 2008)

CLEAN ELECTIONS

- voted NO to Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act to help local governments switch to easily audited paper ballots (April 2008)

Continued on page 5

How Judy Fails Our Veterans

Our own Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R-IL13) is widely considered to be a *moderate* Republican. However, her lack of support for our troops, especially our returning troops, is extreme even by Congressional Republican standards:

- voted **YES** to authorizing military force in Iraq (Oct. 2002)
- voted **NO** to Mandatory Troop Rest Periods between Deployments to Iraq Act (Aug. 2007)
- DID NOT CO-SPONSOR** bill to make V.A. funding mandatory—bill never made it to a vote in the House ((Oct. 2005)
- DID NOT CO-SPONSOR** Sen. Jim Webb's Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Act (H.R. 5740) to update the current G.I. Bill, which barely covers the cost of community college. Of 298 co-sponsors to date, 93 are Republicans, placing Biggert in the far right wing of her party (May 2008)
- voted **NO** to Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008 which would prohibit KBR and other defense contractors from using off-shore shell companies to avoid paying U.S. taxes (April 2008)

—voted **NO** to Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. The new G.I. Bill was combined with war funding legislation H.R. 2642 roll call 330. Education benefits for vets would be funded by a .5% surcharge on incomes of over \$500,000, or \$1,000,000 for joint returns. The bill passed the House 256-166 with 32 Republicans voting "yes." Judy's "no" vote placed her to the right of many in her own party (May 2008)

Does Judy EVER vote to support our veterans? Only when there is NO opposition. She voted "yes" for the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (HEART Act, H.R. 6081 roll call 331), a bill which provides certain tax breaks for troops and their families. This legislation passed the House 403-0 (May 2008). Some political courage!

Judy's priorities are clear. She takes care of families with million dollar incomes and war profiteers like KBR, but she won't buck the far right wing of her own party to support our vets. It's time to elect our Democratic candidate for Congress, Scott Harper!

See www.scottharper.us

unteers. We are also participating in a Coordinated Campaign for the 13th Congressional District candidates in DuPage County to maximize our resources.

- 8) Recruitment of additional candidates for County Board and County Recorder.
- 9) Vetting and recommendation of election judges for appointment in our precincts.

One more accomplishment we hope to report in our next newsletter is a contribution from the Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization to the four candidates from Downers Grove Township.

I am pleased to report a record Democratic turnout in the General Primary Election. The changing demographics, combined with voter enthusiasm, great candidates, and dedicated volunteers contributed to the historic outcome.

Downers Grove Township:

23,247 Democratic Ballots

20,017 Republican Ballots

DuPage County:

132,000 Democratic Ballots

109,000 Republican Ballots

Based on these results, we are extremely optimistic about the prospects of our outstanding pool of candidates.

Having excellent candidates is important, but we need your help to win these seats. We cannot elect our fine candidates without commitments from more volunteers. We all have many conflicting obligations to work, family, and other organizations, but even an hour or two a week extends voter outreach. In one hour, a volunteer can usually complete 30 phone calls or knock on 20 doors. Perhaps, the idea of direct interaction with voters terrifies you, as it did with me before I got involved. However, I can tell you that the voters who answer the door make it all worthwhile with their appreciation for your outreach.

Here are a few ways you can help with visibility and voter contact:

- a. Join us in one or two July 4 parades
- b. Volunteer in or visit our Heritage Fest booth
- c. Volunteer to make phone calls for the Coordinated Campaign
- d. Volunteer for one of our weekly precinct canvasses

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www.dgdemocrats.org

Democrats On The Ballot

Bob Brandt

County Board District 3

I am a candidate for DuPage County Board in District 3 which consists of portions of Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Lemont, Westmont, Willowbrook, and Woodridge.

I have proposed the following "6 Steps To Better DuPage Government:"

1. Reducing county board member salaries by 50% (currently \$50,079 a year for two meetings a month) and eliminating the \$3,000/\$1,000 committee chairman/ vice-chairman bonuses;
2. Eliminating the retirement plan for county board members (which pays 85% of their part-time salary after 20 years of service);
3. Consolidating county departments and reducing the size of county government as suggested by the independent non-partisan Civic Federation and the county's own Efficiency Committee;
4. Increasing governmental transparency by creating a web-based database with all county personnel and county vendor information;
5. Instituting an ethics ordinance to prohibit companies that give campaign contributions to county board members from getting county contracts ("pay to play"); and
6. Opposing "home rule" and stopping any attempt to bring "home rule" power to DuPage County.

These proposals will save millions of dollars and change the fundamental structure of county government, which will put an end to the county's yearly property tax increases.

Instead of offering new ideas and real solutions, Republican candidates for county board seem to be content to repeat the same old bumper sticker slogans and negative political rhetoric in the hope that it distracts voters from their failed leadership and yearly tax increases. But they can't fool voters forever. And the clock is ticking.

Bob@BobForDuPage.org

Dave Meek

County Recorder

I decided to run for County Recorder for several reasons. First, I have been a Democratic Election Judge for 16 years in the York and Downers Grove Townships. Second, I strongly believe that the time has come for Democrats in DuPage County. The "winds of change" are blowing. We can see this in the strength of the recent county vote totals which were so heavily Democratic as well as in Bill Foster's BIG win over Jim Oberweis. Third, I've lived in DuPage County for 20 years (Wheaton-4, Villa Park-8, and Westmont-4) and so I am familiar with the County and its strengths and its problems. Fourth, I am tired of seeing the Republican candidates run unopposed for county offices. Who knows what is going on? And lastly, I want to bring a business perspective to county government. I have spent 20 years in 4 Fortune 500 Companies, have an MBA from Tulane University and B.S. from the University of Illinois. My background is in business planning, financial analysis, strategic planning and merger & acquisition evaluation in the corporate world. I plan on transferring these talents to the office of County recorder.

At this stage of my life, I wanted to stop being part of the landscape and be part of the solution.

www.votedavidmeek.com or votedavidmeek@gmail.com

Max Havlich County Board Dist. 2

maxjh33@webtv.net

Barbara Dahl County Board Dist. 2

dahlfam3@comcast.net

Matt Mostowik Forest Preserve Dist. 3

m.mostowik@comcast.net

Karol Sole

County Board District 3

I'm a Westmont resident currently employed as an environmental consultant. As a degreed industrial engineer, I'm trained to implement systems that solve complex problems, especially involving the efficient employment of resources such as people, money and time. My career has enhanced my knowledge of environmental issues and I am certified as a Hazardous Materials Manager and a Registered Environmental Manager.

I am very concerned with the bait-and-switch scheme played by the DuPage County Board. In November they announced a Doomsday Budget, which included a property tax increase. Then they urged passage of a County Sales Tax. Then they urged voters not to vote for the County Sales Tax because they had brokered a deal to benefit from the RTA Act with a new sales tax. Finally, they opted to abate the no longer needed property tax increase. One of my concerns is that all the drama was caused because the Board failed to plan for a predictable drop in their revenue stream. I feel that the taxpayers deserve better leadership in DuPage County Government.

Since my undergraduate years, I have been actively serving the communities I've lived in with innovation, vision, and leadership. My volunteer activities include civic and professional appointments in Iowa, Tennessee and Illinois, including the Board of Trustees of a community college, county compensation board, Chair of the Keokuk Historic Preservation Commission, and the Main Street Keokuk Board of Directors. I currently serve as the Secretary of the Friends of the Westmont Public Library and President-Elect of the Democratic Women of DuPage County and of the Chicago Chapter of the Certified Hazardous Materials Managers. Please help me, Karol Sole, help you by electing me to be the responsible steward of our county resources.

www.karolsole.org or sole4countyboard@aol.com

Audrey Manley

Illinois State Senate Dist. 41

Send an Educator to the Senate. As an educator, I have worked with students from kindergarten to graduate school teaching the values of teamwork, collaboration and working together to get a job done. I believe that our legislators would be more successful if they were able to operate in this manner. I want to serve the people of the 41st District and the State of Illinois by using my skills as a team builder and team player.

I will be an advocate for education, healthcare, and senior services.

As a member for eight years and president for four years of a high school board of education, I helped the school district become successful in a number of ways. During my term the district established a recognized energy conservation program reducing energy use by 20%. This saved the district well over one million dollars in energy costs. An indoor air quality program was initiated, and the school was recognized for its green cleaning program. Both of these programs were recognized nationally. The district remained fiscally sound and continued to be one of the ten lowest spending districts in the Chicago collar counties.

Serving on the advisory board of a nursing home and a senior services development committee, I learned a great deal about health care and its effects on the economy. There is very important work to be accomplished in this area, and I would like to help solve the ongoing crisis.

For more information check my website audreymanleyforsenate.org. I am looking for people willing to host coffees, go door to door with me in their neighborhoods, as well as raise money, and do a number of other small things that will make a big difference. My P.O. Box is 854, Lockport IL 60441, and I can be reached by email at:

amanley8@sbcglobal.com

Message From Kim

continued from page 1

bent Judy Biggert's voting record and a separate look at how her votes impact veterans. In contrast, Democratic candidate Scott Harper will work to bring our troops home and provide them with the support they need when they return. He will also work to improve our ailing economy, and insure that everyone has access to the health care they need.

Locally, we need to work hard to end one-party rule in DuPage County. The unchecked spending, combined with a failure to plan for predictable revenue shortfalls, has resulted in higher sales taxes in DuPage County. See page 3 for information on our excellent slate of Democratic state, county and township candidates and their ideas for bringing new leadership and fiscal responsibility to our county government.

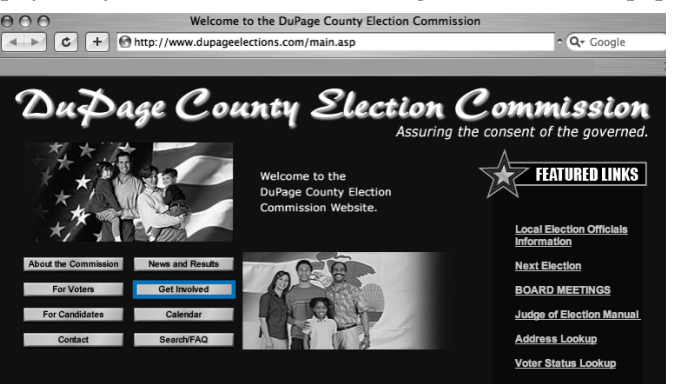
The committed members of the Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization (DGTDO) continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm and drive. Some of our collective accomplishments over the past few months include:

- 1) Distribution of 2,700 newsletters at zero net cost due to your generous contributions.
- 2) Increased volunteerism through phonebanking and canvassing for Scott Harper; the County Recorder, County Board and Forest Preserve candidates; and multiple Presidential Candidates.
- 3) Assistance to the successful Bill Foster campaign by sending volunteers between the General Primary and the Special Election.
- 4) Informative speakers scheduled at our monthly meetings.
- 5) Planning for three parades, Heritage Fest, and the County Fair.
- 6) Our delegates to the Democratic Party of DuPage County continue to faithfully represent our township at monthly and Central Committee meetings.
- 7) Development of a field plan in coordination with the Scott Harper campaign and the local candidates that will increase voter contact. We are planning weekly canvasses in Downers Grove Township to recruit more Precinct Committeemen, Block Captains, and other vol-

A Day In The Life Of An Election Judge

By Liz Strejcek
I was an Election Judge for the Illinois primary. It was an education for me; I learned a lot about what it means to live in a democracy and how to assist other Americans in voting. I also learned that there is a shortage of election judges. Although the hours are long and the pay is short, the voters are grateful and your presence eases the voting process. You are required to attend some training, which assists your knowledge on voter rights and election rules.

Some things I learned about election judges:
Many judges are senior citizens, some with physical restrictions. It's so much easier if there is at least one judge who is physically able to construct the voting booths or move equipment and this is greatly appreciated. Also, since many are older, they may not be up to date on the technical challenges that today's voters need assistance with, among other things.



Questions that election judges need to answer come from many voters:
I've never voted before, how do I do this?
I want to vote, but I don't want to declare a party.
I checked the ballot instead of filling in the circle, do I need another ballot?
If I declare a party, will I have to vote that way from now on?
What if I don't know the people who are on my ballot, do I have to vote for them?
Why do we vote for a candidate and delegates?
How come it says, "vote for two" and there is only one name?
I just moved here—why can't I vote here instead of my old town?
I sent in an address change, but I'm not on the voter list.
You mean the BIG election in November?
The people who asked these questions came from all walks of life. Many who had questions were not new to voting, just new to voting in primaries.

All in all, I felt the day I worked as an election judge was very well spent. Much of my day was spent talking to my neighbors and other people in our community. I urge you to sign up to be an election judge—Democracy needs you!

To volunteer: go to www.dupageelections.com and click on Get Involved.

Reedy at Random *by Bill Reedy*

Republicans, Democrats and Values

In my efforts to understand the difference between Republicans and Democrats and why they disagree on so many issues, I have run across a few ideas that have been helpful. As it turns out, most Republicans are not just trying to be obtuse, they actually view the world differently.

Good and evil. Some conservative Republicans I know, believe that mankind is evil by nature and hold to the concepts of "original sin" and "without hope." Most Democrats I know, realize that man is basically good, and only in need of a little compassion to reach his potential.

Paternal or maternal. Some psychologists believe we model our values mainly on a paternal or authoritarian model and others rely more on a maternal or nurturing model, like when the talking heads on television refer to Republicans as the "Daddy Party" and

to Democrats as the "Mommy Party."

Cain and Abel. Another explanation comes from the story of Cain and Abel. You might recall that Cain murdered his brother, Abel, in a jealous rage. Later, God asks, "Cain, where is your brother?" Cain then answers the question with the question we all must answer (but assuming the negative in typical Republican fashion): "Am I my brother's keeper?" Most Democrats have taken Cain's question and made it a positive statement: "I am my brother's keeper."

Kindergarten. Most of us learned a long time ago that, "People are more important than things." To some of us those are not just words, but a statement of fact.

What difference does it make? I have heard some well-meaning people say, "I don't vote for the party, I vote for the person." I have to admit that was my reasoning the first time I was old enough to vote

in 1972. I voted for Richard Nixon because it was a time of great civil unrest and he was touted as the "Law and Order" president. We all know how that turned out.

Back then I didn't know what Nixon and the Republican Party stood for. I had no real sense of what I stood for. Now I know that my values make me the kind of person I am. In the same way, the values a political candidate holds determines the kind of person they are and the kind of elected official they will be. Your values determine your party affiliation and party affiliation makes all the difference in the world.

My grandpa was elected as a County Judge in Arkansas and served for six terms. He enjoyed describing himself as a "Yellow Dog" Democrat. Like many Democrats in his day, he claimed, "I'd vote for a yellow dog running down the road before I'd vote for a Republican." Me too, grandpa, me too.



Scott Harper continued from page 1

George Bush needs an ally, he knows he can count on Judy Biggert.

Thanks to activists like you, our race has shown great energy and excitement. In the primary election, we received 25,000 more votes than Judy Biggert and I alone received more votes than both Republican candidates on the ballot. And by the end of the March, we had already raised more money than any Democratic candidate ever to run in this district for an entire cycle.

It's time the voters of this district had someone they can count on in Washington.

But if we're going to win this race and defeat the Bush-Biggert agenda, we need your help.

Whether it's contributing to our campaign, joining us in our office to phone bank or coming out to canvass with us on the weekends, there's so much work to do between now and November. Six months will fly by and it's absolutely essential to get involved today if we're going to be successful.

Thank you for all that you've done to get us this far. Working together, we can absolutely win this race.

Please visit www.scottharperforcongress.com or call us at 630-848-2111 to learn more about our campaign and how to get involved.

"We Remember"

Gordon Messerschmidt

Long Time DGTD Member

Message From Kim

continued from page 2

- e. Volunteer to write press releases for candidates
- f. Donate candy for the parades
- g. Pass your newsletter on to a friend
- h. Donate to the candidates
- i. Join or make an additional contribution to the DGTD.

Your help is vital for Democratic victories in 2008!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Future issues of the newsletter depend on contributions from our readers and membership dues. Members will receive all newsletters that are published during the course of the year, but additional contributions will help expand the distribution of the newsletter.

Have a safe and happy summer! Let's look forward to success in 2008!

Calendar of Events

June 27-29
Downers Grove Heritage Fest

July 4
Parades
Darien-9:00a.m.
Hinsdale-10:00a.m.
Downers Grove-12:45

July 9
Downers Grove Township Democrats Meeting, 7:30p.m.
6301 Springside in Downers Grove

July 19
Democratic Party of DuPage County Blue Fest at Arabian Knights Farm in Willowbrook

August 13
Downers Grove Township Democrats Meeting, 7:30p.m.
6301 Springside in Downers Grove

DGTD meetings are held at Dist. 99 Admin. Ctr., 63rd & Springside, Downers Grove, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Please go to www.dgdemocrats.org or call **630-771-5546** to confirm.

Let's Work Together To Elect Democrats!

Join or Contribute to DGTD



WE WANT YOU!

Go to our website, www.dgdemocrats.org

or

Use the envelope enclosed to join or contribute.

www.dgdemocrats.org

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

Working Together To Elect Democrats

Did You Know?

By Dave Morris, The Nation magazine June 23, 2008

- Number of US Embassy employees in Baghdad: **1,000**
- Number of US Embassy employees in Baghdad deemed fluent in Arabic by the State Department: **10**
- Percentage of US combat troops who are Latino: **17.5**
- Percentage of US population that is Latino: **14.8**
- Pay per day for a US Army sergeant in Iraq: **\$71.53**
- Pay per day for a Blackwater "protective security specialist": **\$1,221.62**
- Pay per day for General Petraeus: **\$493.15**
- Pay per day for a Sunni militia fighter in Anbar province: **\$16**

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Bill Reedy, Kim Savage

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Cathy Reedy

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!

