

February 2nd
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

Winter 2010

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

Issue No. 7

www.dgdemocrats.org

Working Together To Elect Democrats

Message From Chair, Kim Savage

Last Year at this time we were celebrating the historic election of Barack Obama as President. Since then, we have experienced a year in which the policies of the previous administration have continued to unravel leading us into a broken economy and two unending wars. For many, the excitement of the campaign and the election has turned to frustration as the President has not solved the massive problems that face our country quickly enough. Others are disappointed by the gridlock in Springfield and the staggering budget deficits facing our state that create dramatic challenges for our schools, community colleges, universities, social service agencies, health care providers and other entities that depend

on state tax revenue for a portion of their operating expenses. However, now, more than ever, Democratic candidates need your support so that we can build on the foundation that has been laid for a government that reflects the democratic principles that we value.

Some voters, like fair-weather fans who desert the White Sox, Cubs and Bears by the end of the season, may choose to stay home because an elected official did not agree on some of their issues, or because the health care debate did not meet their personal visions, or because they are embarrassed that they did not take the time to learn about the candidates and the issues. Despite the gains we have made over the years in Downers Grove Township and in Du-

Page County, some voters still moan about their perceptions of the "Republican" majority in DuPage County. Many people forget that President Obama received more than 50% of the vote in DuPage County, as did most of the state constitutional officers in the last election.

The truth is that more than half of the voters in DuPage County will vote Democratic! It is our job as friends and neighbors to encourage Democrats to come out and vote in primaries as well as in general elections. I challenge each of you to become more involved in helping to elect our candidates. If we are to permanently change the political environment in the township and the county, all of our supporters need to find a

Continued on next page

Scott Harper for Congressional Dist. 13

A Personal Update

Hello to all Downers Grove Township Democrats and Friends. Thanks for all of your help, volunteering and well-wishing. I'm so delighted to have married Cheryl Footlik on October 12th. We are enjoying our newlywed days, and have moved back to my hometown of Naperville. We found an old farmhouse in downtown Naperville—right on the parade route on Mill Street. We will be delighted to see you here—after a parade, or joining us in the dining room, which we are using as our temporary campaign headquarters. We are open for volunteers, so come along any day to 19 Mill Street in Naperville for a day of fun and companionship with other volunteers dedicated to taking this Congressional seat.

To make a living, I'm teaching ethics and leadership to undergraduates and graduate students at North Central College. What a privilege it is to have an influence on the lives of these young people. As a teacher and a mentor, I feel honored to contribute to the lives of others. For this reason, I seek to represent us all in Washington.

Congressional Update

The campaign against Judy Biggert is making great strides. We are working closely with volunteers and reaching out to groups and voters as we gain momentum going into 2010. Our efforts have been helped by the fact that Biggert is consistently saying NO to so many of the initiatives that the President or Congress proposes to help with our very difficult economic times. She has voted against equal pay for women, cast a vote that could radically limit choice for middle-class women, and voted against efforts to create jobs in our district. In addition to her votes, she has increasingly adopted the rhetoric of the extreme right wing, hanging out with the Tea-bagger crowd. This is a moderate district that doesn't like partisan fights, and wants common sense solutions. There is more than ever a political space for leadership that is fiscally responsible and people focused.



www.scottharperforcongress

Message From Chair, Kim Savage . . . *continued from first page*

way to help, whether it is driving an elderly neighbor to the polls, encouraging your friends and relatives to register to vote, becoming a precinct committeeman or election judge, by helping your precinct committeeman or a candidate distribute literature or even by just posting signs in your yard.

From candidates for Forest Preserve District and County Board to Lt Governor, I have had the opportunity to meet almost all of the Democratic candidates on the ballot. I can assure you that this

excellent pool of candidates deserves your attention and support. Please take the time to read about our very able local candidates in this issue and to also learn about the candidates for U.S. Senate, Governor and other state constitutional officers. In this issue read statements by Scott Harper, candidate for U.S. Congress from the 13Th Congressional District against Judy Biggert again. All of our candidates are committed to serving the community as elected officials who will work on behalf of the

common good. So, I urge you to become knowledgeable and engaged in this election.

We do expect many changes in polling locations for the February 2ND election, so please make sure to check any communications you receive from the Dupage Election Commission to insure that you know where to go on Election Day (See information box)

Thanks for your continued support of the Democratic Party.

Kim Savage, Chair

Support Democratic Candidates Running For Office

DENNIS P. CLARK

for President of the Forest Preserve
www.wlwctdennisclark.com

The Forest Preserve District is at a critical crossroad. Emphasis is shifting from acquisition to protecting and transforming the holdings for public benefit. Since the Forest Preserve is substantially supported by locally paid taxes there must be accountability to the public. This year, we have seen continued board decisions that have been neither open nor honest and in most cases have been wasteful of time and resources. It has taken public outcry to bring overlooked issues to light. A board headed by a President with a proven vision, energy and strong connection with nature will be needed to transform the organization. Without the right education, training and career experience today's inefficiencies will continue to mount. Our preserves will suffer and the tax base will be asked to support

this lack of good management through increased taxes.

As President, I will move the District to a customer-centric model, ensuring that we, the Board and staff, have a connection with those we serve. Projects will be planned and executed only after proper due diligence and full public disclosure. My goal will be to restore the basic foundation of trust with each and every "customer" in the county. In addition, a renewed emphasis will be placed on the mission statement. We will hold everyone accountable for the mission of the Forest Preserve District, the relationship to the public and for operating costs. My professional credentials and personal interests are the perfect blend of leadership, management style and passion for preserving this precious gift.

CAROLE CHENEY

for County Board Chair

I entered the race for DuPage County Chair because I believe that all voters deserve to have a viable choice when they go to the polls. While I gathered signatures to get on the ballot, I repeatedly encountered voters who were frustrated with what they perceived as the lack of integrity of those holding public office. The most basic duty of any public office is to earn and keep the public's trust. I would work from day one to build that trust. When the same people work together for long periods of time, opinions and positions can become entrenched. As an outsider, I will bring a fresh perspective to DuPage County governance. I've long had a desire to serve in public office. I went to law school for that reason after reporting on the Illinois General Assembly while earning a master's degree in Public Affairs Reporting in Springfield and later serving as

Press Secretary for the Illinois Senate. For the past 18 years I have practiced law while raising two boys, 10 and 13, with my husband Jim, a fourth grade teacher. From these experiences, I have learned the need for balance. For county government during these difficult economic times, balance means working to meet the increased need for county services while holding costs in line. The citizens of DuPage County have been forced to tighten their belts, and county government should do the same. Last year, I traveled on a mission to Haiti, one of the world's poorest and most troubled countries. I realized how fortunate we are in this country to have a role in the political process. I plan to work with both Democrats and Republicans to foster an open government that serves all the residents of DuPage County.

MATT MOSTOWIK for Representative to the General Assembly Dist. 82

In my ten years as a member of a local school board, I have grown tired of watching the folks in Springfield slowly ruin the educational system of this state. Our representatives in Spring-

field have consistently reduced state contributions to school funding, which put additional pressure on the property tax payers within the districts. The turning point in my decision to

run was the day I had to vote to cancel my daughter's favorite class due to a lack of funding from Springfield. No parent should ever have to deny an educational opportunity to their

child. I have had to deny such opportunities to hundreds of current and future students. I want to go to Springfield to help refocus our attention on education.

KAROL SOLE for County Board District 3

DuPage County is home to nearly one million residents. The rapid growth we have experienced over the past decade has produced significant changes in population density, diversity of business enterprises, transportation needs, and demographics. Despite the changes, the county government continues to operate on an outdated paradigm by a largely homogenous group of elected officials. While three Democratic board members were elected in 2008, the current board is not yet reflective of the broad spectrum of professional, educational, and personal backgrounds of our citizens.

I am running for the DuPage County Board because I believe that I bring a fresh perspective and a broad range of experience that will strengthen the county so it can adapt and move forward as economic conditions and technological advances present us with challenges requiring innovative solutions. My engineering education teaches me a systems approach to evaluating problems and issues. My expertise as an environmental manager will advance the county's efforts in

storm water management, environmental issues, and public safety. My lifetime of involvement on diverse boards in Iowa, Tennessee and Illinois includes; the Southeastern Iowa Community College Board, United Way, Main Street, Planning and Zoning, Music City Blues, County Compensations, Historic Preservation, professional environmental organizations, and the Friends of the Westmont Public Library, creating an unparalleled wealth of experience to address the concerns of county citizens.

Since I first decided to run for County Board in 2008, I have been studying the issues and the operations of the DuPage County Board and other levels of local government. I have attended Board Meetings, Committee meetings, and Commission meetings. In November, I will face an opponent who will lack my depth of knowledge of DuPage County Government and my diverse experience with organizations and issues. I look forward to sharing my professional leadership skills with the citizens of DuPage County as a Board Member from District 3.

KATHRYN VLAHOS for Rep. to the General Assembly Dist. 42

I am running for State Representative because I have the ability to understand both sides of an issue and then find common ground. I want to use this pragmatic skill to bring opposing passions together so we can get something done in Springfield—create jobs, fund our essential services and create a better community. For too long our representatives have been unwilling to do their job of properly funding a budget and instead have been “making do” by borrowing and/or delaying payments as they come due.

This is not working for the people and businesses in Illinois and is only adding to the future tax burden. My opponent has been there for eight years and didn't even vote for, or against, the last two budgets. Some are calling for the voters to kick them all out!

I'm offering the voters of our district a new voice. I have lived in the Downers Grove for over 30 years and share the values of my neighbors in District 42—the values of responsible spending to protect and serve our families and communities.

JIM SPETA for Rep. to the General Assembly Dist. 47

June 1st was the date for adjournment of the General Assembly. It was the last day to pass our state budget. It was the first day for the departments to make detailed plans for the next operating year. It was the first day for the social services agencies to measure what they can do in the coming year.

The General Assembly went into special session and we waited. They passed an interim budget. We were told the budget would be passed during the veto session in October but, still we wait.

Budget decisions are difficult in good times and bad. The summer months should have provid-

ed time for study and plans but, that came and went as did the fall. More authority was given to Governor Quinn to operate the state. But, we have no new budget. And still we wait.

Now we are told nothing will be done before the primary, eight months after the budget was due! So we wait.

We should wait no longer! The body of the General Assembly needs to stand up and do the job that the leaders have vacated. If your Representative and Senator is waiting, it is time to retire them. I'd like to serve and do the people's business.

HILARY DENK for Forest Preserve Commission Dist. 2

I am running for Forest Preserve Commissioner because of my commitment to environmental stewardship of our Forest Preserve and my desire to serve the public in a new way. The DuPage Forest Preserves are invaluable treasures for our county and local communities.

As Commissioner, I will bring...

Stewardship: I will be a strong steward of the invaluable Forest Preserve land, while seeking a balanced approach between education, recreation, restoration

and leaving wilderness areas untouched.

Accountability: I will communicate regularly by email and through newspaper articles about the plans and activities of the Forest Preserve. Your input will be invited and I will respond quickly to your questions and concerns. I will also hold informal meetings in your neighborhoods so that you will feel comfortable talking to me about issues and see me as a resource for information and assistance.

CATHERINE D. SEWELL for DuPage County Board Dist. 2

It is my belief that DuPage County needs to hear voices more representative of the diverse and changing population of the county. As your board member, I will put the people of DuPage County first. Over the last 33 years as a resident of Villa Park, I have seen many changes in our County but, only one political party setting our future direction.

The time has come to put petty politics aside. There is an opportunity in the February election to create a political environment where a broad spectrum of voices is heard.

This would enhance transparency and help create an open government where residents can be aware of where and how their tax dollars are spent. Most importantly, I want to make sure that all DuPage County residents have an opportunity to participate in and be heard by their County government.

It is time to make inclusiveness the way we run DuPage County for the benefit of county residents, bringing value to the county through voter participation. Together we will ensure a deep commitment to shaping a successful future.



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DuPage Election Commission
www.DuPageelectioncommission.com
For general questions,
call **630-407-5600**

Check the website for:
Voter status, polling locations
Early voting sites and requirements
Absentee voting information and more

**Don't
Forget!**
Election Day
February 2, 2010
Vote!

CONTACT INFORMATION

President Obama
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202 456-1111
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Washington, D.C. 20500

Senator Dick Durbin
www.dickdurbin.com/contact
312 527-3667
101 Grand Ave #200
Chicago, IL 60610

Senator Roland Burris
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312 886-3506
Kluczynski Federal Bldg
230 S Dearborn St., Chicago, IL
60604

Rep Judy Biggert
www.judybiggert.house.gov
(Go to "contact us")
630 655-2025
6262 S Rte 83, Suite 305
Willowbrook, IL 60527

Some of Representative Judy Biggert's votes in 2009

- NAY: H.R 11 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, House Version
- NAY: H.R 12 Pay Check Fairness Act
- NAY: H.R 2 Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act
- NAY: H.R 1 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (all versions)
- NAY: H.R 1106 Helping Families Stay in Their Homes Act
- NAY: H.R 1664 Pay for Performance Act
- NAY: H.R 2454 American Clean Energy and Security Act
- NAY: H.R 3221 Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act
- NAY: H.R 3269 Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act
- NAY: H.R 3962 Affordable Health Care Act

IS THIS HOW YOU WANT TO BE REPRESENTED?