



MUTTERINGS...



Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

December 3, 2015 Vol. 1, No. 11



Precinct Caucuses

The following is a tool for use by PCOs and other active citizens in recruiting participation in Precinct Caucuses among friends and peers in your groups and non-political organizations. It is intended as a way to reach out to encourage friends and family to become involved in the first and easiest step in exercising their Constitutional prerogative of "government by the people."

The Precinct Caucus is an amazing open door available to every citizen which gives the opportunity for each attendee to meet face to face with neighbors to share a practical, livable world view, and to personally encourage them. You WILL find interests and opinions among your precinct neighbors that are similar to your own, especially on such topics as taxes, gun control, lack of respect for U.S. Constitutional governmental, Common Core and other bureaucratic oversight problems. Those concerns may readily be condensed into public statements calling on your elected government officials to correct wrongs and return to a limited federal government consistent with the Constitution. The Caucus is a natural, long standing, legal platform from which citizens can speak their concerns, and by grouping together, increase the possibility that their unified voice can be heard.

Reviving the Ancient Custom

Basis: The Precinct Caucus is a well defined process still on the books: It is in the Laws of Washington State, and in the tradition of the political parties.

Function: The man chosen for President has, from the beginning history of the US, been chosen as the "people's choice" by a unique process which preserves a balance of power in elections as effective as the checks and balances among the three branches of government. The President's nomination was directed by the representative voice of the people which originated in the communities of the governed and grew step by step to the national level, where each level of authority was nothing more than the representative of the group of people who supported that authority. Thus precincts, or neighborhoods, elected delegates to a county convention, which elected delegates to a state convention, which elected delegates to the national convention.

Through the years, many good, honest men and women, who were offended by the dirty tricks of politics, dropped out of the fray and left the political arena. Thus we arrive at today's situation wherein the president has become a political party's choice sponsored by big money. (i.e. the more money he has raised for his party and his fellow politicians, the better chance he has to be put on the ballot.)

Thus, in most realms of life in America, we have allowed the enemy of freedom to tear our society into arena's of combat between multiple special interest groups who compete with lots of money in battles for the purchase of special favors from a government which sells its policies to the highest bidder instead of basing its policies on freedom and justice as should be its basis.

Active involvement at the Precinct Caucus (the very widest and shallowest contact government has with its citizens) might have a chance to let grassroots voices be heard again, IF concerned and willing voters went to the caucuses knowing the purpose to which they are called and given an understanding of the process, and how to prepare for it.

Two Important Goals of the Precinct Caucus

As has already been mentioned, it elects delegates to the county convention. The delegates from your precinct are chosen to represent your precinct's support for a presidential candidate. Hopefully, "your" delegate will be among those selected to represent your county at the state convention. It is extremely important that near the opening of the caucus, each person around the table share the name of his or her preferred candidate as part of an informal discussion. This tends to minimize any "peer pressure" to prematurely agree on a single choice. If this does not happen as a preliminary discussion, it is mandatory that each potential delegates declare his or her preference after his or her nomination to the position of delegate to the county convention, but before the voting happens.

Calendar

Central Committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 3

7:00 pm - Benton PUD Auditorium in Kennewick on 10th St. where it intersects with Highway 395

Exec Committee - Tuesday, December 15

Benton REA, West Richland



Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.—Thomas Jefferson

As an aside, about half of the county's precincts (220) have no representation in their county's party decisions via an elected Representative. This precinct representative is a legal political position known as a Precinct Committee Officer (PCO), and is normally elected by voters of the precinct. This may be important to you if you really want to go to the county convention because the Precinct Committee Officer is an automatic delegate to the county convention, in addition to allotted delegates which number in proportion to the number of voters in each precinct. The PCO is normally an elected position, but can become an appointed position if the position in your precinct is "vacant." If you are interested in filling that position, it is YOUR responsibility to seek an appointment by contacting the party's County Chairman before December 14. (Shon Small 509-833-0308)

Discussions of "Resolutions" and "Party Platform" have mandatory allotted time on the caucus agenda. For the inexperienced PCO, this could become the most important part of the agenda for which he/she needs to prepare.

PLATFORM: Before the caucus, obtain the party's platform and become familiar with it. It can be found at the County Party's website <http://www.bentoncountygop.com/> under the tab, "About us." If there are changes you would like to see in the platform, they should be presented during the Precinct Caucus, hopefully in discussion with others. Whether or not there is discussion, Submit them in writing to be sure they become part of the records of the meeting, assuring that they are seen by the Platform Committee of the county party.

RESOLUTIONS: Any one, present or absent, may submit a resolution, which may subsequently be submitted to the County Convention, if it has at least 12 signatures attached.

A "Resolution" must be written in the following format:

One or more "Whereas . . ." statements listing the problem/s needing to be solved, followed by...

The proposed solution as a "Be it resolved . . ." statement.

As an abbreviated example: *Whereas busloads of foreign children without their parents are being detained within our borders, be it resolved that Congress will investigate the lack of care and responsibility for these children so that the Departments of Immigration and Homeland Security may be formally accused or freed of charges of human trafficking.*

It would likely make a newsworthy event if even ten percent of our county precincts (22 of 220) offer resolutions for better government. There are several "hot button issues," some of which are non-partisan, that would hold general appeal to many voters and might even be used to bring unity within the precinct. For example, Common Core has turned out to be both a Democrat and a Republican issue because both teachers and parents object to its use. Planned Parenthood has created a universal travesty against human life. Lawless cronyism is creating a clamor for the return to Constitutional principle of separation of powers of our Republic.

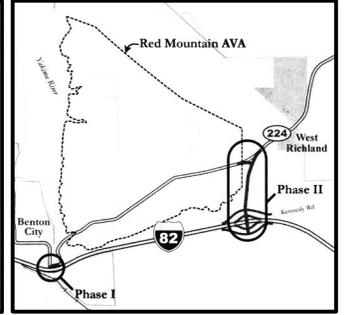
Signatures on a resolution do not have to garnered only on the day of the caucus to complete them for submission to the County Platform Committee. The resolution may be turned in to party officials up until the time of the County Convention in mid-March.

Platform Committee Chair: Victor Morris victor.morris@frontier.com
Chairman Shon Small: mailto:shon@voteforsmall.com

Red Mountain-Area Interchange

The final 2012 transportation budget included \$1.2 million for pre-design and analysis of an interchange in the “Red Mountain Area.” The “design visualization” below shows only plans for Phase 1 of the project. Phase I improves the SR 224/225 intersection by eliminating two stop signs and building a roundabout at the I-82 interchange at Benton City. Easing this very busy intersection will serve most of the city's commercial activity, the Red Mountain American Viticultural Area (AVA), West Richland and rural areas of Benton County. The preliminary cost estimate for the entire project is \$4.5 million for the roundabout at the Benton City exit and another \$25.5 million to be spent for Phase 2 of the project. Phase 2, site map shown below, provides for a new I-82 interchange and improved connection to SR 224, east of Benton City. The proposed connection and interchange will provide direct interstate access to and from developments in West Richland while improving emergency response times to the entire area. This project is in the planning/preliminary design stage. New revenue is needed to complete the design, right of way acquisition and construction of these important improvements. Approval from the Federal Highway Administration is also required to complete Phase 2.

see <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i82/redmountain/> and Benton REA's [The Cooperative Way](#), October 2012



Political Humor

Who's the Dog and Who's the Tail?

or

Where are the citizens and the Constitution?

THE HILL (<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/261227-gop-donors-wrestle-with-possibility-of-trump-nomination>) reports that “In conversations over the past month, GOP establishment donors have confided to *The Hill* that for the first time in recent memory, they find themselves contemplating not supporting a Republican nominee for president. ...Seated around the table in the private dining room of the Hotel Bel-Air were several of the West Coast's most powerful Republican donors, including: Ronald Spogli, the venture capitalist and former ambassador to Italy under President George W. Bush; his [Spogli's] business partner, Bradford Freeman; and [Dick] Riordan [former mayor of Los Angeles and long-time Republican establishment figure].*”

“A story that circulated after the lunch was that the donors engaged in a hypothetical question: 'If it was Donald Trump running against Hillary Clinton, who would you vote for?' One version has it that most of the Republicans at the table put their hands up for Clinton.”

The article goes on to say, “Trump flaunts the fact that he is uninterested in the support of elites” and “says he has turned down multiple offers of \$5 million-plus from lobbyists who he says would have wanted favors from his administration if he took the money.”

“When *The Washington Post* broke a story about a pro-Trump super-PAC with closer-than-advertised connections to the Trump campaign, the billionaire front-runner and his aides pushed back forcefully. The super-PAC ultimately shut down, and Trump called on all super-PACs supporting him to return their donations.”

“The most generous Republican donors appear to be taking note of Trump's hostility.”

* (“The four Republican donors sitting at that lunch table — Schnabel, Freeman, Spogli and Riordan — have between them contributed more than \$2.7 million to candidates and political action committees over their careers. All have donated to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's presidential campaign, and Freeman and Spogli have given \$1 million and \$50,000, respectively, to the pro-Bush super-PAC Right to Rise.”)

An Invitation to District 16 PCOs

Visit Your State Legislators on Their Turf

Do you have questions for your legislators? Would you like your legislators to hear direct from you regarding issues that you feel strongly about? If you had the chance to sit and chat informally, face-to-face with your legislators, with a few of your fellow voters for moral support, would you take advantage of the opportunity?

I am trying to arrange meetings with District 16 Representatives Walsh and Neeley and Senator Hewitt for some time in January, before they return to Olympia for the coming legislative session. They've had a busy couple of months in Olympia, and I don't yet know yet what time they will have available in January.

Visiting them as a group has a bigger impact in assuring them that we, their constituents, care about what they are doing.

Since their offices are in Walla Walla, this would mean one or more trips to Walla Walla during business hours.

Please, I would really like the company, and I would really like them to have the chance to meet more than one person from the Benton County end of District 16. Consider joining me in visiting them in January. Contact me by email or phone if you are interested. My contact information is in the paragraph at the bottom of this page.

Merry Christmas

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents... As it is about opening our hearts.

from the editor



PROVERBS ...for our troubled times

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. (Proverbs 12:15)

Legislator Sendoff

Hosting 8th, 9th & 16 District Legislators

Olympia Send-off – Wine, Cheese, No-host Bar

Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 6:30 pm

Country Gentleman Event Center

9221 W. Clearwater Ave, Kennewick, WA

\$8.00 donation



RSVP – Republican Club, Nancy Pickett 509-544-1880

This newsletter is published and distributed by Karen Batishko, the current precinct committee officer for Benton County Precinct 1365, as well as the 16th State Legislative District Representative on the Benton County Republican Party Executive Committee. It's purpose is to keep PCOs informed of legislative activity, and how our own elected officials are acting on voters behalf. She may be contacted by email at pcol365@gmail.com, or by phone at 509-628-8442.