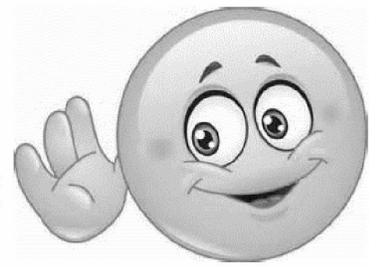


MUTTERINGS...

Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

March 2, 2015

Vol. 1, No. 3



Calendar

Precinct Officers

Central Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30
Benton PUD Auditorium in Kennewick
on 10th St. where it intersects with Highway 395
(If you cannot attend be sure to make arrangements for a proxy to attend in your
place at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.)



Catch the Ride

Donald (Donnie) Landsman, dclandsman@live.com, 8th
District Legislative Representative, frequently makes a
day trip to the State Capitol in Olympia on Fridays. He is accepting
ride-sharers. If you haven't visited your legislators in their
legislative environment, consider taking advantage of Donnie's offer
as a convenient way to do so. If you have visited them, but it's time
for another chat, contact Donnie and make arrangements to take
advantage of this privilege, and travel in good company!

**Please contact your legislators to get their Newsletters. I prefer to use
the space to provide more information on bills working through the
legislature. However, if you get a personal reply that might have value to
the rest of us, like Senator Hewitt's response to Common Core, send it
over and I can put it here for others to see.**

The Federalist Papers

A New Hillsdale College Online Course

https://online.hillsdale.edu/?_ga=1.78792276.1923123332.1422827202
The Federalist Papers, written between October 1787 and August
1788, is a collection of newspaper essays written in defense of the
Constitution. Writing under the penname Publius, Alexander Hamilton,
James Madison, and John Jay explain the merits of the proposed
Constitution, while confronting objections raised by its opponents.
Thomas Jefferson described the work as "the best commentary on the
principles of government, which ever was written." This course will
explore major themes of *The Federalist Papers*, such as the problem of
majority faction, separation of powers, and the three branches of
government.

Representative Walsh Said It...

(Feb 20) Today is House policy cutoff, meaning policy-
only bills (bills with little to no fiscal impact) that have
not made it out of committee are typically "dead" for the
session. However, leadership can technically revive a
bill at any point throughout the legislative session.

On Jan. 28, the House passed an early action supplemental operating
budget to help fund court-ordered, additional mental health treatment
capacities, eastern Washington wildfires and Oso landslide expenses,
and other emergency services. The Senate made minor changes to the
bill, and the governor signed the bill into law Wednesday morning.

Representative Maureen Walsh - (360)786-7836

PROVERBS Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting
...for our troubled times fantasy of those who seek death. [Proverbs 21:6 NKJV]

From Senator Hewitt



Sen. Mike Hewitt was sworn in Thursday as a member of
the Washington State Investment Board. As one of 15
trustees, Hewitt, R-Walla Walla, will help oversee the state
agency entrusted to manage billions of dollars in assets,
highlighted by the portfolio that underpins the state-run
pension system.

[Above, from his website; below, from a letter dated Feb 19]

Thanks to all of you who wrote in support - asking that Washington
State withdraw from Common Core.

I respect your decision to weigh in, particularly knowing that more
and more states are choosing to withdraw.

I will add my 2 cents in that this issue is fairly simple to me. I
strongly advocate for the best educational system we can achieve for
our kids.

I want to support education funding in Washington State that delivers
effective policies, favor student outcomes, equity and transparency.

This can be done by trusting the citizens in the 16th district to elect
quality school board members who seriously undertake their role of
authority. Our local leaders certainly understand the impact of
working together, weighing the balance of education reforms that
produce high-quality programs, and smarter balanced exams with
expectations to deliver greater accountability.

Senator Mike Hewitt - (360)786 7630

From Representative Nealey's website...



The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast
Council today released its quarterly revenue forecast for
the state. According to Chief Economist Steve Lerch,
the General Fund-State change is an increase of \$107
million for the current 2013-15 two-year budget cycle
compared to the previous forecast in November. The
council also increased its forecast for the 2015-17 biennium by \$129
million.

"Any time the state's revenue forecast is up, that's good news.
However, the increase is not very large, considering the size of our
state budget. And while we've yet to see any effects in this forecast
from the ports slowdown, I am very concerned that if the West Coast
ports labor dispute is not resolved soon, it could begin to impact our
revenue outlook in the next forecast cycle.

"It's important to remember that the state is taking in more than
three-billion dollars above our last budget cycle, about an nine-
percent increase. However, the Legislature also has some important
financial obligations it must meet -- chief among them is funding
education.

"Our state's economy, while looking up, is still fragile. Working
families have not enjoyed the kind of increase in their paychecks that
the state is taking in. Given those circumstances, I think the
Legislature needs to continue to exercise restraint as it prepares the
budget. We've got to worry about working families and the middle
class. They're the ones who end up getting hit the hardest, even by a
small tax increase." Representative Terry Nealey - (360)786-7828

It isn't the mountains ahead that wear you out, it's the grain of sand in your shoe. - unknown

BILLBOARD...

Upcoming bills of interest

→HB2009 would eliminate the "personal-conviction exemption" from the requirement for childhood immunization. Presently in the rules Committee.

→SB5289 & HB1493 require notification to parents or guardians in cases of abortion. 5289 has passed to Rules Committee for its second reading, 1/20/15. 1493 was stalled in committee.

→HB1647 Requires every insurance policy to cover every form of contraception, abortion, and sterilization, and forbids the policy from charging a deductible or copay. Executive action was taken by the Appropriations Committee - 2/26/2015 .

→HB1314, Inslee's Cap and Trade, a fancy name for more gasoline and electrical taxes aimed at reducing the bogus climate change, now awaits a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee – 2/17/15. SB5735, In the Senate, the substitute bill is already through the Rules Committee and read for it's second reading on the floor.

→HB1355 would up the statewide minimum wage to \$12. The measure passed the House Labor Committee in January, and made it through Appropriations Committee last week. It now goes to House Rules Committee.

→HB1356 would institute minimum paid sick and safe leave for Washington employers and has been referred to the Rules Committee.

→HB1472 is a toxics reductions bill, (chemicals remain unnamed in the bill and are to be chosen by the agency.) The House bill is already in the Appropriations Committee. Keep in mind, this bill was sponsored by Inslee and is moving hand-in-hand with Gov. Inslee and the Department of Ecology's rule-making on the fish consumption rate. There's a series of public hearings on fish consumption in March, including one in Spokane March 3, one in Yakima March 4, and one lengthy session in Lacey on March 12.

→SB5527 is an act extending the time period for voter registration; and amending RCW 29A.08.140. It has been placed for a second reading back on the Senate floor.

→HB1352: Rep. Terry Nealey's bill allows incremental electricity produced as a result of efficiency improvements to hydroelectric generation projects to qualify as an eligible renewable resource under the energy independence act. Now in House Rules Committee. A companion bill from Sen. Sharon Brown, R-Kennewick, is also alive in the Senate, SB 5094.

→SB5689 relates to the scope and costs of the diabetes epidemic in Washington, and adds a new chapter to Title 70 RCW. It is waiting for a second reading in the Rules Committee.

→SB5892, a solar energy bill passed out of Committee on Feb. 19 and is awaiting a hearing in Way & Means Committee.

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How Does a Bill Become a Law?

1. A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives by a member.
2. It is referred to a committee for a hearing. The committee studies the bill and may hold public hearings on it. It can then pass, reject, or take no action on the bill.
3. The committee report on the passed bill is read in open session of the House or Senate the bill then referred to the Rules Committee.
4. The Rules Committee either places the bill on the second reading calendar for debate before the entire body, or takes no action.
5. At the second reading, a bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.
6. After passing one house, the bill goes through the same procedure in the other house.
7. If amendments are made in the other house, the first house must approve the changes.
8. When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is signed by the respective leaders and sent to the governor.
9. The governor signs the bill into law, or vetoes all or part of it. In case of no action on the bill, it may become law without a signature.

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A Note from Michael Needham, info@heritageforamerica.org

Yesterday, the House pulled the **No Child Left Behind** bill from the House floor. This is a huge win. Two weeks ago, it looked like a long-term reauthorization of No Child Left Behind would pass without a fight -- and then you got involved.

NCLB was defeated because the grassroots applied direct pressure through letters, calls and emails to their lawmakers.

NCLB was defeated because Heritage Action Sentinels personally reached out to lawmakers in meetings and townhalls, explaining and persuading them why this bill was bad for America.

NCLB was defeated because the bill maintained federal testing mandates, didn't eliminate programs and prevented states from opting out of federal control.

PCOs absent from Central Committee Meetings...

may be represented by a proxy who is a declared Republican [It is your responsibility to know they will vote the same as you would vote if you were there] and a registered voter in the same precinct. All proxies shall be in writing, signed by the maker, and delivered to the County Chairman or the Credentials Chair via electronic transmittal, mail or in person. The proxy's standing shall be verified by the Credentials Chair. The proxy authorization must be provided at least 24 hours in advance of the subject meeting. Standing proxies are permitted in the case of PCOs who have reasonable expectations of not being able to attend due to working commitments.

PCO Proxy Form

I, _____ of _____ Precinct do hereby appoint _____

to vote as my proxy at a meeting of the Benton County Republican Central Committee to be held on _____, 20____

or at any adjourned meeting thereof, with all the power I should possess if personally present, hereby revoking all previous proxies.

Signed _____ Date _____

Witnessed _____ Date _____

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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 voters informed of legislative activity, and how their own District 16 elected officials are acting on their behalf. She may be contacted by email at pco1365@gmail.com, or by phone at 509-628-8442.