



MUTTERINGS...



Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

December 5, 2016

Vol. 2 No. 9



Contact Your Legislator... Here's How



I promised you an outline to help you get started in contacting your newly elected officials; so here it is. Remember the purpose of this note is to establish a relationship. Short and sweet is always good and bullet points can help you save words! Include these aspects:

- ✔ Congratulate them.
- ✔ Tell them something you liked about their campaign.
- ✔ Tell them what's important to you.
- ✔ Tell them you will be watching.
- ✔ Ask about their goals for the year.
- ✔ Tell them you are willing to help them be successful.

[see page 3 for a letter template]

Here's Where State Senators

Senator Sharon Brown
(8th District)
sharon.brown@leg.wa.gov

Senator Maureen Walsh
(16th District)
maureen.walsh@leg.wa.gov

Olympia Office
202 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40408
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7614

Olympia Office (January - March)
420 John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7836
Toll-free: (800) 562-6000

(March - December)
26 East Main Street, #8
Walla Walla, WA
(509) 527-4151

Here's Where State Representatives

8th District

Representative Brad Klippert
brad.klippert@leg.wa.gov

Olympia Office
122A Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7882

Representative Larry Haler
larry.haler@leg.wa.gov

Olympia Office
122D Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7986

District Office
(March - December)
713 Jadwin Ave., Suite 9
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 372-7997

16th District

Representative Bill Jenkin
rotaryjenkin@yahoo.com

(This is his old address.
However, his legislative address
has not yet been posted.)

Representative Terry Nealey
terry.nealey@leg.wa.gov

Olympia Office
404 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7828

District Office
26 E Main St Ste 8
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1957
(509) 526 - 6284



<http://heritageaction.com/>

One of the most expedient ways of contacting your national legislators is to become a Heritage Action Sentinel. Heritage Action prides itself as being "Committed conservatives doing the work of holding Congress accountable." It is the source of Legislative news coming to you in a timely manner with helps and hints on contacting your legislators.

Senator Patty Murray

www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2621

Representative Dan Newhouse
wa04dnima@mail.house.gov

D.C. number 202-225-5816
Tri-Cities Office
3100 George Washington Way #135
Richland, WA 99354
Phone: (509) 713-7374

Senator Maria Cantwell

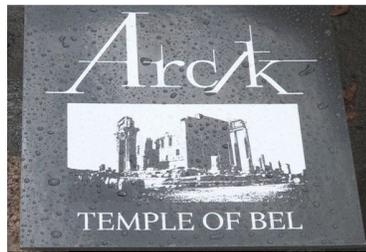
www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria
511 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3441



Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power - Abraham Lincoln

This plate is on the ground near the Arch of Baal in NYC

Read more <http://tinyurl.com/jrjponu>



In a moment of stark truth this country has demonstrated the depth of the revival of an ancient pagan religion. The Arch of Baal has been erected in the park near the New York City Hall. Many in this country have dreamed that the age of religiosity was long over, but the fervent followers of Baal, today, prove otherwise. These Baalites are more active, more demonstrative, more proselytizing that any religion we have ever seen in America. They pretend their religion is simply a secular manifestation, but their rites come straight out of the "Baal instructions book for pagan believers." Their fervency, too, lacks any restraint as they press their rituals onto our cultural scene with total abandon.

The Baal Arch, an exact replica of the arch erected by the Romans in Palmyra, Syria, which lead into the Temple of Baal, was unveiled on a rainy Monday afternoon, Sept. 19, 2016. Worshipers of Baal sacrifice their children to their god and exercise the fulfillment of any and all their sexual lusts before him.

Many Baalite followers say they don't believe there really is a god who would be pleased with their sacrifices. Nevertheless, they are strident practitioners of the cult. Others understand perfectly well that the "god of this world" most certainly does get a satisfaction in seeing people act out these religious rites.

In recent years we have seen enough campaign and lobbyist funds to sway state and national governments towards actually using taxpayer money to sponsor these rites of the Baalites. Although selling the sacrifices following worship rites has pays back any costs involved, the money has been left to the priests performing the sacrifice and not repaid as a government loan would have been.

Their personal proselytizing has been so active in the last couple of years that anyone, even of another religion, is susceptible to civil lawsuit if they refuse an invitation to Baal rites, even when the rites are categorized under religious titles of other religions.

It would appear that the proselytizing has been so strong as to influence government officials to recognize, promote and even protect one religion. This is an egregious offense of the First Amendment of the Constitution. All Americans have the right to participate in any religion they desire. But around the world NO ONE has the right to force another person to participate in their own religious rites, and much less their beliefs.

Understanding these differences in religions would clear up an educational issue. Teaching children transgenderism is equal to teaching children the meaning of Christian Baptism, promising its followers a kind of "new life." Religious instruction has long, long been banned from anti-God instruction in the secular sector. Why would any parent want their own child to be taught the basics of a religion other than their own by a teacher who may not even understand what they are teaching. (This issue is demonstrated in a different way by the American Center for Law and Justice as they have confronted school districts after they began teaching Islam to their older students as part of Common Core curriculum.

See <http://tinyurl.com/j9yn2ju> or <http://tinyurl.com/jfxqej0>

These obvious facts also solve the bathroom privacy catastrophe. Suppose a particularly religiously inspired Baalite decides to avail for himself a public bathroom and feeling called to higher ground, enters the woman's bathroom. This inspiration cannot be justified on cultural grounds of diversity because, as we have been taught for the last thirty years, "preying" in public at a secular event is deeply objectionable to those who hold different beliefs.



Now what?



Paul Ryan, in an interview on November 9 with PBS News, said what, I think, is the MOST important commentary following the election: "This is a Great Victory. . . This is the most incredible political feat I have seen in my lifetime. Seven out of ten Americans don't like the direction this country is going. Many of our fellow citizens feel alienated and have lost faith in our core institutions. They don't feel heard and they don't feel represented by those in office. Donald Trump heard a voice out in this Country that no one else heard. He connected in ways with people that no one else did. He turned politics on it head. Now Donald Trump will lead a unified Republican Government and we will work hand-in-hand on a positive agenda to tackle this country's biggest challenges."

Trump's win in many states pointed to the fact that both the Democrats and the Republicans have been tragically out of step with their grass roots. Democrats didn't nominate the choice of their constituents and Republicans did not nominate the choice of their party leaders. Trump's victory points to the same problem within both of the parties, where money counts more for influence than citizens' voice. Both parties have shriveled on the vine without leadership that submits to the wishes of citizens. The Republican Party is going to have to actually work with an "outsider" in order to try to clean up their dirty faces and attempt to give their oft heard cry of "One United Party" some resemblance of authenticity. Good for them, they can do it. Hopefully they will find as much satisfaction in serving the more conservative voice of the "seven out of ten" who have been ignored over the years. as they have had the past years in serving the voice of money. In the process perhaps they can extend the Party's vitality into the coming years and entice the seven out of ten to return to their home within the party.

On the CNN election results we were reminded, "On December 16 of 1976 Ronald Reagan (after his victory over Jerold Ford) said he was going to 'rebuild the Republican Party by courting Republicans who now calls themselves Conservatives, Democrats and Independents.' That is exactly what Donald Trump was about." I am hoping we have some Republican leaders wise enough to take counsel from history.

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 24 hours in advance of the subject meeting. The proxy's standing shall be verified by the Credentials Chair. 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 _____



BCRP Reorganized For 2017-2018

Congratulations to the newly elected officers They make a great team and they are all ready to push ahead to higher ground.

- Chair - Bill Berkman
bill.berkman@gmail.com
- Vice Chair – Dallas Parr
parr_dallas@yahoo.com
- State Committeeman - Richard Bilskis
rabilskis@outlook.com
- State Committeewoman Kimberly Heath
Votekimberlyheath@gmail.com
- Treasurer – Jerry Strickler
pco6220@gmail.com
- Secretary – Mary Ruth Edwards
mruthedwards@gmail.com
- Legislative District Representative 8th – Dennis Miller
milffe@gmail.com
- Legislative District Representative 16th – Michael Massey
michaelmassey509@gmail.com

Try to catch each of these officers and find out from them what their vision is for the coming year. Make note of the direction of their leadership. From your notes find a place of service that suits your abilities and passion. The real work accomplished by the party is accomplished within the committees, where every contributor helps and every skill can be used.

Nominating Committee: Used to vet candidates for Central Committee and Central Committee's endorsements.

Finance/Fund-raising Committee: Oversees budget and record keeping for the budget.

Events/Outreach Committee: Establishes the events calendar and appoints individuals to coordinate and organize party events.

Credentials Committee: Verifies and qualifies PCOs, convention delegates and Central Committee attendees.

Bylaws Committee: Keeps Bylaws updated.

Needed during Presidential-election year: **Platform Committee, Site Committee, Rules and Order of the Day Committee:**

Please see pages 17-19 of Benton County Central Committee Bylaws for a complete explanation of the work of these committees.

The Chairman of the Central Committee is responsible to appoint committee chairs and each committee is filled out with several members. Contact Bill Berkman with your query.

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PROVERBS ...for our troubled times

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, Than great treasure with trouble. Proverbs 15:16

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Political Humor

Two things are infinite: the universe and human foolishness. I'm not sure about the universe.

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This newsletter is published and distributed by Karen Batishko, the current precinct committee officer for Benton County Precinct 1365. It's purpose is to keep Precinct Committee Officers and other voters informed of legislative activity, bureaucratic activity and GOP activity, shedding light on the actions of our elected officials as they serve on their behalf. She may be contacted by email at pco1365@gmail.com, or by phone at 509-628-8442.



<http://votesmart.org/>

Notes on Campaign Funding

Spending Summaries

\$2,651,122,110 was spent on the 2016 presidential election, which isn't a huge increase from 2012, which cost \$2,261,415,792.

Presidential Spending

Hillary Clinton's candidate committee raised \$497,808,791 for her presidential race. Groups and individuals independent of the campaign raised \$189,453,103.

Donald Trump's candidate committee raised \$247,541,449 for his presidential race. Groups and individuals independent of the campaign raised \$59,389,531.

Congressional Spending

\$4,266,514,050 was spent in 2016 on the congressional elections, which is an increase from 2014, where \$3,845,393,700 was spent.

House of Representatives spending:

Democrats (893 Candidates) - \$432,413,065

Republicans (1062 Candidates) - \$527,538,644

Senate spending:

Democrats (167 candidates) - \$318,462,547

Republicans (223 candidates) - \$361,570,520

Notes the Change in Leadership

Congressional

Democrats gained 2 seats in the Senate - New Hampshire and Illinois, giving Democrats (including independents who caucus with them) a total of 48 seats and Republicans a total of 51, with Louisiana's Senate race still undecided and requiring a runoff election to be held on December 10th, 2016.

Democrats took control of a net 6 seats in the House, giving Democrats a total of 194 seats and Republicans a total of 240. Louisiana's 4th congressional district is still undecided and will require a runoff election to be held December 10th, 2016.

Gubernatorial

Three states switched from Democratic to Republican gubernatorial control: Missouri, New Hampshire, Vermont

It's looking like North Carolina will switch from Republican to Democratic control, but a recount is currently taking place for verification.

Republicans now control 34 of the 50 governorships.

State Legislative

Three state legislative chambers switched from Democratic to Republican control: Iowa State Senate, Kentucky State House, Minnesota State Senate

Three state legislative chambers switched from Republican to Democratic control: New Mexico State House, Nevada State Senate, Nevada State Assembly

Across the nation, Republicans gained seats in state legislatures, but only by about 0.6%.

Notes on National Ballot Measures

Of 154 statewide ballot measures voted on in 2016 elections, 114 passed and 40 were defeated.

Of 9 ballot measures related to legalizing marijuana, 8 passed.

Of 4 ballot measures related to regulating firearms sales, 3 passed.

Of 14 ballot measures related to campaign finance & elections, 11 passed.

Alabama and California tied for the most passed ballot measures with 12 successful measures each.

More people voted on these measures than for the President of the United States.

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