



MUTTERINGS...



Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

January 2017

Vol. 3 No. 1



Focus on Committees...

Committees serve as the arms and legs in working towards the goals and objectives of the BCRP. Without them working to their own specific charters, we'll never achieve the objectives of the Central Committee. Therefore, it is our (the EC) hope, that all PCO's express interest in working on at least one committee and/or sub-committee. It will strengthen our growth potential and give all PCO's an opportunity to work with one another and have an increased "ownership" in the success of meeting our core goals.

- At present, the BCRP Bylaws specify which committees are 'standing' committees. The EC has begun looking at these committees and other potential 'ad-hoc' committees and how best to organize them.
- At the next CC meeting in January, we'll be taking a survey about our member's strengths and abilities as part of the overall assessment of how best to organize the BCRP for the 2017-18 biennium. We'll then use this information in looking at committee chair appointments and creation of new committees not currently specified in the bylaws.
- The EC is also considering a 'workshop' during the week of January 9 or 16 in an effort to gain PCO's input on committee organization. The workshop would be a more informal meeting that we'd use to explore committee organizational structures and their respective charters.
- A few examples of new committees under consideration include: Municipal and/or School District committees that will attend city council / school board meetings and report back to the central committee on actions being taken by these elected officials. We also look to have a sub-committee that will develop and deliver PCO training and support the LD Reps in their responsibilities of keeping PCO's active and attending CC meetings on a regular basis. *[The above four bullets were provided by Bill Berkman, BCRP Chairman, bill.berkman@gmail.com]*

The following committees are explained in the BCRP Bylaws. However, the need for a webmaster is not included in the bylaws. Nor are some other functions implemented by defined committees. In the coming year, there are plans to remedy some of these needs.

Nominating Committee – Elected Office

Secret Ballots are required when electing the five members of the nominating committee. This five should be elected at the at the Organizational Meeting in December or at the latest at the first meeting following. They should remain in their office for a two year term of service.

Finance/Fundraising Committee – Appointed

The committee shall be responsible to develop a comprehensive biennial plan of operation, budget and fund raising goal for the Central Committee. The committee shall include the Treasurer, the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Central Committee. The budget shall take into consideration the needs of:

- Republican nominees for public office in Benton County
- The needs of the Benton County Legislative Districts
- The Central Committee itself.

These plans will be reviewed at the end of the first year of the biennium and re-presented to the Central Committee.

The committee must:

- Keep accurate records of all funds received.
- Keep the Chairman, The Executive Committee and the Central committee aware of all finances.
- Make Records available to the County Treasurer and deliver all funds to the County Treasurer promptly.
- Work closely with the Events Chairman to ensure maximum fund raising advantage is secured from all special events of the Central Committee.
- Be responsible for contacting individuals and organizations in a personal effort to raise funds.

Bylaws Committee - Appointed

The committee shall be responsible for preparing and issuing bylaws for approval by the Central Committee and for timely consideration of all petitions to amend the bylaws. Donnie Landsman is currently Bylaws Chairman - dlandsman@live.com



Events/Outreach Committee - Appointed

Establish the events calendar with a schedule of activities required to meet the Central Committee's goals, appoint individuals to coordinate and organize these activities and find suitable places to meet for each activity. The committee is responsible to negotiate contract prices or costs and present them to the Central Committee for approval. Events to be considered for planning and GOP presence include: parades in Benton County, Fair events, sidewalk events, socials, breakfasts, Fall Dinner, and others.

Ron Higgins is currently in charge of the Lincoln Day Dinner preparations coming up in February/March and will be looking for lots of helpers. - ronald.higgins@charter.net

Rich Bilkis is currently in charge of a breakfast meeting with the Republican Club. - rabilskis@gmail.com

Credentials Chairman - Appointed

A two-year term begins after the Organization meeting. Responsibilities include compiling and organizing for efficient use, all available records/sources, electronic and otherwise, regarding character, addresses, precinct designations and other information needed for vetting. This allows verification of PCOs, delegates to conventions and attendance at Central Committee or Executive Committee meetings according to State Law and Benton County and/or WSRP requirements. Brian Skeels is currently Credentials Chairman - bigbskeels@msn.com

Platform Committee, Site Committee, Rules and Order Committee - Appointed

These committees serve during the year that Caucuses and Conventions meet in preparation for nominating a Presidential Candidate.



Central Committee will meet on Thursday, January 5, 2017, 7 p.m. at the Benton PUD Auditorium, 10th & Ely, in Kennewick. An "official" notification, including agenda/minutes, will be sent prior to the meeting.

Executive Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 in the Dade Moeller conference room, 1835 Terminal Drive, Richland (near the Columbia Basin Racquet Club facility)

Political Humor

BUREAUCRACY, AMERICAN STYLE: You have two cows. The government takes them both, shoots one, milks the other, pays you for the milk, then pours the milk down the drain.



PROVERBS It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness. *...for our troubled times* Proverbs 16:12



"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are:" 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'"
- Ronald Reagan



"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." William Arthur Ward



You might hear the term “budget” when you hear comments over what fight is coming up in the State Legislature. However, there is not ONE State Budget – there are THREE Budgets. As a matter of understanding, it is important to make note of what these different budgets cover because the fight doesn't finish on holding taxes down until each of these three budgets has been considered: <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/index.html>

Operating Budget...Capital Budget...Transportation Budget

Omnibus Operating Budget

- **Other Human Services** – such as Health Care Authority, Department of Corrections, Employment Security Department, Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Department of Labor and Industries.
- **Public Schools** – cost of educating the state’s children from grades kindergarten through high school, plus activities of public schools.
- **Higher Education** – education beyond high school including workforce training in 34 community and technical colleges, four regional universities, and two research universities.
- **Department of Social & Health Services** – social services for citizens of Washington State [as well as a lot of non-citizens].
- **Governmental Operations** – central service agencies, such as the departments of Enterprise Services, Financial Management, Revenue, etc., and legislative and judicial branches of government.
- **Special Appropriations** – includes Sundry Claims, Contributions to Retirement Systems (LEOFF, Judicial, and Judges), Bond Retirement and Interest, and specific Special Appropriations to the Governor (which may include funding for a variety of items such as County Public Health Assistance, drought preparedness, firefighting, disaster response, and lawsuit settlements, among others).
- **Natural Resources** – agencies such as the departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **Other Education** – specialized education services at the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, arts and cultural services provided through the Arts Commission, two state Historical Societies, and cost of the state Work Force Training, and Education Coordinating Board.
- **Judicial** – Trial court (Municipal, District and Superior), Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court
- **Transportation** – only includes a portion of the total funding for the Washington State Patrol and the Department of Licensing.
- **Legislative** – the Senate, the House of Representatives, other Legislative agencies providing services in support of legislative process, studies, and policy making.

Capitol Budget

- **Natural Resources** – include repair of forest roads, flood hazard risk reduction, recreational trail construction, water supply projects, and salmon recovery efforts.
- **Other Education** – state support for the construction of K-12 public schools, funding to support the facilities used by the state schools for children who are deaf or blind, and funding for the museums.
- **Higher Education** – secondary education, main and branch campuses of the state's six four-year universities and facilities utilized by community and technical colleges.
- **Governmental Operations** – Governmental Operations agencies in charge of construction and repair projects like state offices, arts and cultural facilities and local infrastructure.
- **Human Services** – Most involve construction and repair of state institutions such as mental health facilities, prisons, juvenile rehabilitation facilities, and veterans' homes.

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Transportation Budget

- **Department of Transportation Improvements** – capital projects that increase highway capacity, reduce congestion, increase mobility, and prevent collisions.
- **Department of Transportation Preservation** - Projects include preservation and rehabilitation of existing roadway pavement, bridges, and other structures and facilities.
- **Department of Transportation Rail** – includes the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor in western Washington and the 297-mile state-owned Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad.
- **Department of Transportation WA State Ferries** – links eight counties and a province with 22 vessels and 20 terminals.
- **Department of Transportation Facilities** – replacement, preservation, and improvements.
- **Department of Transportation Local Programs** – examples are Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Safe Routes to School, local agency federal program providing funds to cities, counties, ports, tribal governments, transit systems, and metropolitan and regional planning organizations.
- **Department of Transportation Traffic Operations** – Examples are installation of traffic cameras, message signs, highway advisory radios, ramp meters, data collectors, and management centers.
- **Transportation Improvement Board** – administers grants for transportation projects approved in accordance with legislative direction.
- **County Road Administration Board** – administers grants for county transportation projects.
- **Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board** – selects, prioritizes, and creates funding partnerships for freight transportation projects.
- **Washington State Patrol** – manages a capital program, for both small projects and capital improvements.

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“...a reason to believe the Truth”

Justice Antonin Scalia

There was a good reminder from... [Alliance Defending Freedom](#) in their *Faith and Justice* Volume 9 Issue 3. In an interview with Father Paul Scalia, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy in the Catholic

Diocese of Arlington, VA. he was asked: “Your father's [the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia] life and words have inspired so many who are not lawyers. How would you explain that impact?” The explanation: “People who respect and admire my father often quote something that he said, and I tease them sometimes by asking them, 'Well, you know that was a dissenting opinion?' What I've found is that even when he was dissenting, people loved to read what he wrote because it confirmed in them what they knew to be true. His was a voice of reason in the midst of insanity. This is a necessary role: confirming the just, telling the faithful, 'you're not crazy for believing this.' The human mind – which is created for the Truth, and is designed for clear, concise, and systematic thought – to have someone boldly articulate a reason to believe the Truth is very encouraging, even if that person happens to be dissenting. We need more voices like this in the public square.

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Do YOU Know What's Behind the Cover?

A Republican reminder to know the Platform you stand behind and encourage your legislators to live up to the Republican vote you gave them.

This article is intended to be the first in a series of articles focusing on specific planks in the federal, state and county GOP platforms. In this introductory article, we focus on an issue we are all interested in, TAXES! The following is the Benton County GOP Platform plank on taxation.

We support Washington’s continued rejection of a state income tax and the Washington State voter approved 2/3rds majority requirement to raise state taxes becoming a Washington State Constitution Amendment. Eliminating the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax, and minimizing regulations, fees, licenses, and taxes will make Washington businesses more competitive. We support reviews of taxation on business to reduce regulations enabling businesses to compete in national and international markets. Success and hard work should be rewarded by replacing the federal income tax system and abolishing the IRS with the passage of the FairTax Act (HR25) which includes a House Joint Resolution to repeal the 16th Amendment.

We support a balanced budget by all levels of government and the elimination of federal debt. No government should place a tax on an estate or an inheritance. [Benton County Republican Platform, March 26, 2016



Grassroots...NOW more than ever

This month I am hearing the same message over and over again where ever I turn. It goes something like this: Unless we can enlist the voters who elected Trump to get involved in the political scene, all of Trump's plans cannot unfold and open the door to liberty and justice for all. [editor]

Scott Walter at [Capital Research Center](#) lays out their task in this way: “But the task before you and me remains crucial, to let conservatives around the country know what the other side is up to, so we can most effectively counter them in the huge battles to come... Almost entirely shut out of office, they'll be left with the power of their multi-billion dollar network of big-money donors and their near-total control of the media and the culture to try to bully and insult and shame us into submission. They've done it before and now that they have so many liberal policies to protect, they'll stop at nothing!”

David Horowitz of [Freedom Center](#) puts it this way: “With Donald Trump’s victory, we learned there are tens of millions of American ready to fight for this great nation! Conservatives were rallied in fantastic numbers in 2016! They are the men and women you and I will continue to inspire and inform throughout the coming year. Our critically important mission is to rally conservatives to the fight!”

“Together we must stand united and gird ourselves for a protracted battle. We will dedicate the *Freedom Center* to ensuring the radical Left is kept on the defensive, in retreat—we’re going to help President-elect Trump drive a stake in the heart of their agenda and repair the character and integrity of our nation.”

David Rothbard of the [Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow](#) concludes: “We have a President-elect – working with a majority in both Houses of Congress – who during the campaign pledged to 1) rip up or neuter the Paris climate agreement; and 2) Rescind 'draconian climate rules' and 3) withdraw any funding for United Nations programs related to global warming.” Of course, in contrast to the statements of Carrol Muffett, president of the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the UN climate accord is not a treaty. The Senate never ratified it. Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow is hoping to keep it that way “recommending the new President withdraw the United States from the UN climate treaty process entirely and defund the UN IPCC climate panel.”

From Danille Turissini or [Family Policy Institute of Washington](#): “Yesterday I read an article by Doug Mainwaring in Public Discourse entitled “The Battle Belongs to the Grassroots: This Is Our Moment. In the article he reminds us that it is the grassroots, folks like you and me, that can and are going to recapture our state and nation for the values of life, marriage, and religious liberty.”

According to [Tony Perkins](#), President of [Family Research Council](#): “In almost one month, Donald Trump will become the 45th President of the United States. And 100 of the most important days in U.S. history will begin. At that moment, the radical Left -- Planned Parenthood, the Human Rights Campaign, the ACLU, George Soros, Hollywood, and more -- will launch into overdrive.

“They will have one primary goal: Preserve every possible anti-Christian, anti-faith, anti-family executive order, law, regulation, and policy of their hero: outgoing President Barack Obama. It's a deadly assumption to think they can't succeed.”

Tom DeWeese of the [American Policy Center](#) says: “Here is the bad news!

“Our new President, Donald Trump has made very powerful enemies. They have had everything their way for decades. No one have ever stood up to them this way. And they do not intend to lose! You and I have to be there to counter them with phone calls and letters to our elected officials. Demand that Congress stand behind Donald Trump!”

“President Trump MUST know we are there for him – to encourage him to keep fighting You and I must not leave him there to work alone.

“American Policy Center has the main goal of assuring that Congress and the Trump Administration take action to defund HUD and AFFH.

“However, the enemy is strong in each of our cities at the local level. Even with Trump in Washington, we must stand up and oppose their efforts to destroy property rights and local rule in our homes.

“The planning groups like the American Planning Association (APA) and United Nations non-governmental groups (NGOs) like the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) do not intend to stop enforcing 'Smart Growth' policies in our communities.

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“These Smart Growth policies are the root of the drive to change our American culture, provide a safe haven for illegals and change voting patterns that would put the global power forces back in charge.

“They must be stopped. The left has done an incredible job of controlling the power structures through appointed regional boards that take power from the local official you have elected. The Trump administration cannot stop these forces from Washington. You and I must do it on the local level. NATIONAL/LOCAL – that is the ONE/TWO punch!”

Dr. Lance Wallnau describes the battle in this way in *God's Chaos Candidate*: “The groups who fight conservatives and Christians are better funded and better organized than conservatives. The climate change groups—such as Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter— are run by the same group of political activists and donors. They periodically kick-start new names for organizations as opportunities present themselves. Most citizens are clueless as to how the cultural battle is organized and fought.

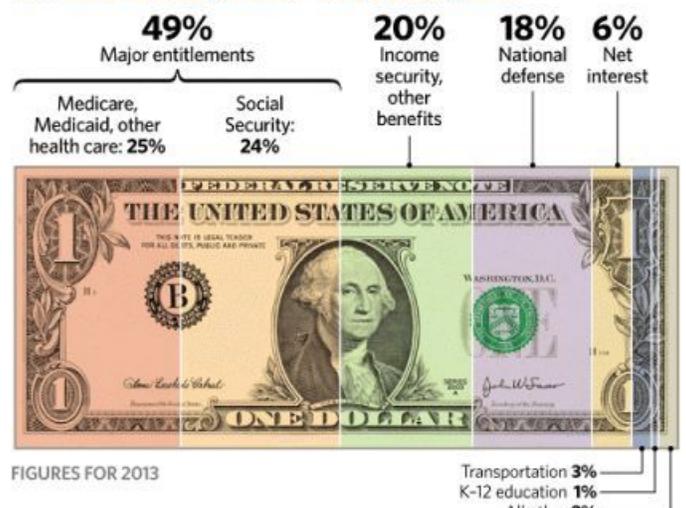
“After the election losses of 2000, the Left realized that it needed to rebuild its movement. A handful of smart and extremely wealthy liberals decided it was time to close the gap on the Republicans' enormous advantage in grassroots organizing and evangelical influence. The strategists came together and called themselves the 'Thunder Road Group.' When they were finished, things would definitely be run differently in America. When they saw strength they created a counter strategy to call into existence new single issue organizations that would target each of these areas and break them down. In essence, they laid siege works against the conservative movement's greatest strengths. Where no Leftist organization existed to take on the task, they created one. When campaign finance was reformed a loophole was found. The loophole allowed for the creation of organizations called 527's—associations organized for the purpose of influencing an issue and capable of receiving unlimited funds!

“Once their strategy was in place, they called together a private audience with 100 leaders who could each contribute 1 million dollars to the new strategy.

- **Center for American Progress** was the think tank created.
- **Media Fund and Media Matters** – created to handle the media operations.
- **Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)** – created to dig up dirt in opposition research.
- **America Votes** – created to organize Hollywood & popularize their ideals.
- **Open Society and Democracy Alliance** – used to create a vast funding source, with the help of George Soros.
- **MoveOn.Org** was the organization used to create a social technology movement.”

[Please note all emphases were added by original sources. - editor]
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Where Did Every Dollar in Spending Go?



Notes: Income security includes federal employee retirement and disability, unemployment compensation, food and housing assistance, and other federal income security programs. Figures have been rounded. National defense includes overseas contingency operations.

Source: U.S. Office of Budget and Management, *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015: Historical Tables*, 2014, pp. 156-157, Table 8.4, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Historicals/> (accessed September 17, 2014). September 17, 2014).

Federal Spending by the Numbers 2014 heritage.org
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Presidential Quotations

You must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing. – Andrew Jackson

Big jobs usually go to the men who prove their ability to outgrow small ones. – Teddy Roosevelt

Justice and good will outlast passion. – James A. Garfield



DUMP the Department Of Education?

From Joseph Blackholm, Family Policy Institute of Washington - info@fpiw.org

You may recall it all began with horrific videos becoming public in which Planned Parenthood officials discussed how much money they could get for aborted baby organs and how to best conduct an abortion in order to maximize the revenue potential from each baby killed. These videos horrified and galvanized us all.

In many states legislators began to cut funding to Planned Parenthood and in Washington, 46 legislators demanded that Attorney General Ferguson investigate whether Planned Parenthood was illegally profiting from aborted baby parts here. In the end, the AG shrugged off the inquiry and simply reported that nothing untoward was happening. Of course this rang hollow with many of you, with the legislature, and with FPIW [Family Policy Institute of Washington.] First there were the videos and second we all know that Planned Parenthood is a major financial supporter of AG Ferguson's political campaigns.

So with your support, FPIW started to investigate the AG's investigation, requesting the public records that would have led the AG to determine nothing illegal was happening. We learned several things:

The Birth Defects Research Lab [BDRL] at the University of Washington [UW] is the largest bank of aborted baby parts in the country. UW's BDRL buys aborted baby parts from Planned Parenthood.

The Attorney General did not seem interested in learning whether this business was being done legally. In fact it seems that the AG deliberately ignored or avoided information that would have incriminated the abortion industry.

Well even if the AG didn't want to know, FPIW did because we knew our supporters like you did. So we requested more public records. But this time the University of Washington and Planned Parenthood were ready for us. At first they stalled, then they went to court and sued to keep the public records hidden. To this date they have refused to turn over to FPIW a single public document.

But in running to court, Planned Parenthood and UW caught the eye of our allies in Congress on the House Investigative Panel on Infant Lives and the Panel reached out to FPIW for more information. We told them what we knew and as a result the panel subpoenaed the records Planned Parenthood and UW refused to release to us.

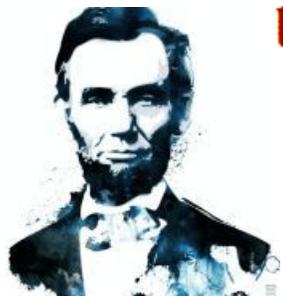
And what do you know - just a few weeks ago, acting on recommendations of the Investigative Panel Senator Chuck Grassley recommended criminal charges against four Planned Parenthood entities and three of their abortion industry allies.

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USAspending.gov "is the publicly accessible, searchable website mandated by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to give the American public access to information on how their tax dollars are spent." On this site it is easy to discover that Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (in Seattle) was given nearly 6 million dollars last year. The largest portion of that was used for their work with adolescences under the title of "Stronger Together: The Northwest Coalition for Adolescent Health (NWCAH) Capacity Building Project." It is no wonder Planned Parenthood has so many body parts to sell to the University of Washington and that they are enabled to be such a large contributor to liberal politics in the State of Washington.

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REPUBLICANS

The Anti-Slavery Party of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and Jackie Robinson, for Liberty and against human Bondage since the beginning.



ISRAEL

I was pleased to discover a website called the [Israel Video Network](http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/) recently as a result of searching for real news about the recent UN resolution.



<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/>

<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/category/most-watched/>

You might be interested also in seeing Israeli response to this affront orchestrated by President Obama.

<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/as-obama-gives-israel-the-middle-finger-this-is-bibis-response/>

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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 PCOs and voters informed of legislative activity, and how their own elected officials are representing their interests. She may be contacted by email at pco1365@gmail.com, or by phone at 509-628-8442.