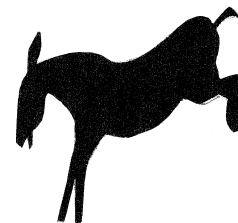


# The *Benzie Kicker*

The Benzie County Democratic Newsletter



The Benzie County Democratic Party is a dynamic part of the community working inclusively and creatively for the betterment of all

Winter - 2006

Volume 10 Issue 1

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## **An Interview with Dan Scripps Candidate for State House**

By Jerry Solanics

*Dan Scripps is running for the 101<sup>st</sup> State House District. At 28, he has spent most of his life either visiting or living in Northport. I met up with him at the Phoenix Cafe in Beulah to ask him a few questions.*

**Kicker:** The Benzie Democrat Platform chose economic development as one of its prime goals. What can you do for the local economy?

**Dan:** Main street development has to take precedence over sprawling development. Small, local businesses need more help and incentives than stores like Wal-Mart. I would like to see a network of wireless computer technology made available to at-home businesses.

**Kicker:** How can the environment be protected and still allow for economic development?

**Dan:** Growth and development shouldn't be seen as competing. Let's not degrade the environment for short-term development. After all, the local environment is the reason tourism flourishes here.

**Kicker:** Gov. Granholm wants negotiated health benefits for same-sex couples in state government to be implemented. Attorney General Mike Cox has filed suit to stop her. Where do you stand on this issue?

**Dan:** Mike Cox is wrong. Proposition 2 defined marriage as between a man and a woman; it did not say businesses or the government should disallow negotiated workplace benefits.

**Kicker:** How do you differ from your opponent?

**Dan:** Significantly! I believe my opponent has been willing to "sell the environment" to the highest bidder. And that's because 87% of his campaign funding came from PACs! As for local voters, only 43 of them donated to his campaign. I am trying from the outset to fund my campaign through local donations.

**Kicker:** What politician has the greatest effect on you?

**Dan:** Nicol Stephen—he's First Minister of Scotland, where I lived for two years. He campaigned on local issues rather than only serving the party line. And Robert Kennedy for his mix of idealism and practicality.

**Kicker:** The greatest non-political influence?

**Dan:** My parents, for sure. Doug and Merilee. They raised me to think of others and to help others in need.

**Kicker:** Thanks, Dan, and good luck.

*Dan Scripps' Web site is [www.danscripps.com](http://www.danscripps.com)*

## News from the Chair

### Platform Work Session Held!

By Ray Nichols

Twenty-six members of the County Party met on Saturday, January 7, 2006 to brainstorm and prioritize ideas that best reflect who we are and what we envision for Benzie County. The group was made up of party officers, Executive Committee members, precinct delegates and individuals who chose to join the work session. The meeting started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 1:30 p.m.



The results of the work session ideas was given to a sub-committee to draft a platform that will be presented to the Party at the March 4, 2006 meeting, which will be held at the Benzonia Township Hall at 9:00 a.m. All Democrats wishing to attend please come; it is a great time for us to get feedback on how you feel about the platform draft.

The purpose of the platform is to give us a direction, and give those who would like to run for county commissioner a firm idea of what we stand for and what we see as important needs for Benzie County. We hope this will make things easier for those who feel they do not have enough knowledge to run.

We will follow up with a work session with experts in the areas defined by our platform. Again, this will help all party members, particularly those running for county commissioner, to be equipped to handle the job. The work session will be a half-day some time in April.

We need candidates to run for county commissioner. Please step forward and help us give Benzie County residents a choice other than the Republican Party on our county ballot.

If each of us does our part in making Benzie County a two-party county, the new year will give us a chance to make a difference this November.

Visit our new Web Site at:  
[www.benziedemocrats.com](http://www.benziedemocrats.com)

### Granholt: Preserving Our Water for the Future



*The following editorial appeared  
In the Saginaw News on Tuesday,  
December 27, 2005:*

Earlier this month, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, seven other Great Lakes states governors and the premiers of our Canadian neighbors, Ontario and Quebec, approved a much-needed pact designed to protect the Great Lakes watershed. It was an important step toward providing a critical layer of protection against diversions to the arid Southwest or other countries.

America's fresh water sits at our doorsteps. Great Lakes water is essentially the next century's sweet crude fuel. Losing it to other states and regions through diversions would come at the expense of the Michigan and the region's economic advantage. So it was past time to begin establishing ways to protect our precious liquid assets, especially as the Midwest's clout in Congress erodes with population loss.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact establishes regional standards to prohibit large-scale diversions out of the watershed and strengthens water conservation and environmental standards. The compact now goes to the respective state legislatures for approval before heading to Congress.

Water is our most precious resource, and we need to protect our regional interests in the Great Lakes before populous regions outside of the basin begin building their own alliances as they envy what is likely to become sweet crude fuel of the future.

**Join the Granholm Team at  
[www.granholforgov.com](http://www.granholforgov.com)**

## Debbie Stabenow: A Recognized National Leader

### Health care, prescription drugs

Senator Stabenow's knowledge and expertise on health care and prescription drugs was recognized early in her first term when she was named head of the Senate Health Care Task Force for her caucus. In 2002, she authored and helped lead the passage of legislation in the U.S. Senate to lower prescription drug prices by allowing states to negotiate lower prices and providing citizens access to lower-priced generic prescription drugs. Keeping her promise to fight for passage of a real patients' bill of rights to give families and their doctors control over medical treatment, the Senate also passed a strong Patients' Bill of Rights in 2001. In 2003, she led a successful effort to increase health care funding for our veterans.



### Author of first federal ban on Great Lakes drilling

With bipartisan support, Senator Stabenow successfully passed the first-ever federal ban on drilling for gas and oil in the Great Lakes to protect these waters for future generations.

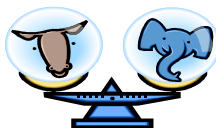
### Tax relief for job creation

A tax cut, based on Senator Stabenow's MORE JOBS bill, was enacted into law in 2004 giving manufacturers \$2 billion in immediate tax relief to create incentives for job creation in the U.S., rather than overseas.

### Leading the effort to stop Canadian trash

In leading the fight to stop the Canadian trash flooding Michigan landfills, Senator Stabenow has mobilized thousands of citizens to stop the trash. She successfully authored a law requiring that high-tech equipment be used to search Canadian trash trucks crossing Michigan's borders. Since May of 2003, this new law has resulted in trash trucks being regularly turned away at our border for carrying radioactive material, dangerous medical waste and record quantities of illegal drugs.

For more info visit: [www.stabenowforsenate.com](http://www.stabenowforsenate.com)



## Michigan Needs A Raise

A petition drive to place on the November ballot a proposal to raise the state minimum wage is organized by a coalition of community, senior citizen, religious, small business, union and political groups who believe Michigan needs a raise.

The ballot proposal will let Michigan voters decide whether or not to raise the minimum wage for the state's workers from \$5.15/hr. to \$6.85/hr. next January, and increase the minimum wage yearly as the cost of living goes up.

With the minimum wage now at \$5.15/hr, some people would make more money being on welfare. The last time the minimum wage was raised in Michigan was in 1996, and jobs in Michigan increased.

If passed, the proposal puts the minimum wage in the Michigan Constitution, where state and local politicians can't reduce it or eliminate it. Benzie Democrats are now circulating petitions. Contact 325-6692 for more information.

### Benzie Democrats' Core Values

**Integrity:** *We believe that government, as well as the Benzie Democratic Party, must operate with transparency.*

**Stewardship:** *We are responsible for caring for and nurturing our human and natural resources.*

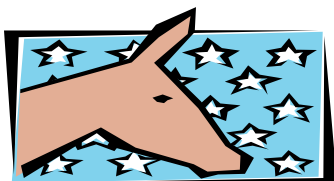
**Tolerance:** *We believe respecting differing points of view and the dignity of others are strengths.*

### Wanted

- ♦ **Democratic Candidates for County Commissioner**
- ♦ **Precinct Delegates for Blaine, Colfax, Inland, & Homestead Townships and the City of Frankfort**
- ♦ **Silent Auction Items for Honoree Dinner**

**BENZIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**  
**P O BOX 63**  
**HONOR MI 49640**

**BULK RATE**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID PERMIT #15**  
**HONOR MI 49640**



### ***BENZIE DEMS DATEBOOK***

**March 4, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Benzonia Twp. Hall

**April 1, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Benzonia Twp. Hall

**May 6, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Benzonia Twp. Hall

**May 6, 5 p.m.:** Honoree Dinner,\* Sail Inn, Benzonia

**June 3, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Benzonia Twp. Hall

**July 1, noon:** Chicken Bar-B-Que,\* Maley Park, Honor

**August 5, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Benzonia Twp. Hall

**August 8:** Primary Election

**August 26, 2 p.m.:** Coho Parade, Honor. **Grand Opening of Campaign Office immediately following Parade**

**September 2, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Campaign Office

**October 7, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Campaign Office

**November 4, 9 a.m.:** Regular Meeting, Campaign Office

**November 7:** Election Day

**November 11, 9 a.m.:** Close Campaign Office

- *Designates fundraiser*

*Everyone is welcome to attend meetings - to be on the agenda, please call Ray Nichols prior to the meeting .*

### **Stop Complaining, Start Clicking!**

We are happy to announce the arrival of the Benzie County Democrats' new Web site, and we are counting on you to help us spread the word.

The site, [www.BenzieDemocrats.com](http://www.BenzieDemocrats.com), has all sorts of fun and informational features, including a blog, a roundup of interesting news and commentary from around the nation, links to candidate, state and national party Web sites, and some pretty neat pictures of the county we all love.

We are also starting an e-mail list-serve which will update you on our site's new weekly postings. Visit us now and sign up; we promise we will not share your address with anyone, especially Republicans!

#### ***The Benzie Kicker Newsletter Staff***

Jim Dulzo - Jerry Solanics - Carroll Volpe  
After 9 years of publication, "The Voice" has a new name and face. We hope you like it; please let us know! Call Carroll at 325-6692 or e-mail her at [mcvolpe@centurytel.net](mailto:mcvolpe@centurytel.net).