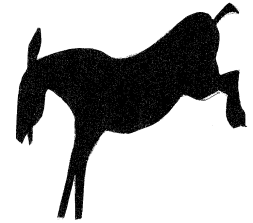


The *Benzie Kicker*

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

Fall—2008

Visit our Web site: www.BenzieDemocrats.com

Volume 12 Issue 4

Executive Board

Ray Nichols, Chair, 882-4790
raynick@charter.net

Susan Pyne, Vice Chair, 882-5721
supine@charter.net

Carroll Volpe, Secretary 325-6692
mcvolpe@centurytel.net

Phyllis Crowell, Treas. 383-4030
phylliscrowell@usa.net

Sally Smeltzer, Records 882-9367
sallysmeltzer@excite.com

*Anne Damm—882-9081
annedamm@sbcglobal.net

James Dulzo—882-1314

Nancy Kasperzyk—882-0355

Chloe McGehee—882-9446

*Kathy Ralston—231-342-2155
kathy@kathyalston.com

Dick Robb—352-9069

Karen Roberts—352-6579

Mary Robling—882-9912

Kathy Ross—882-5913

*Jeff Sandman—651-9403
chachiarcola@hotmail.com

Bob Sauer—231-357-3849

*Tiyi Schippers—231-775-7977
tiyischippers@hotmail.com

*Dan Scripps—231-386-7000
dan@danscripps.com

James Sheets—882-4358

Joyce Skinner—275-2553

Diane Wilbur—378-4362

Ralph Williams—352-7863

During the countdown, you count!

As I write this, there are only 56 days left before the election. By the time you read it, there will be even fewer, so it's not too early to remind you what a difference the efforts of ordinary people can make in the outcome of any local, state, or national election. You already know how important this election is for the future of the USA; locally we also have an opportunity to vote for more Democrats than ever before.

As of last spring, the voter list for Benzie County identified 4,685 voters as Democrats, Republicans or Independents, and by far the most numerous, **7,775** were unidentified.

Since then some of your fellow Benzie Dems have been out canvassing neighborhoods and townships, going door-to-door and talking with people in an effort to let them know that the local Democratic Party is interested in what they think, and to identify those "unknown voters" who are Democrat or likely to vote for Democratic candidates. There's more work to be done on this project before election day, and there's also the get-out-the-Democrat-vote on **Tuesday, November 4**, so your help is needed. Even if you can donate only a few hours, stop by the Democratic Party headquarters in Beulah (by the post office) and sign up to canvass, call, or work on election day.

Here's another project you can do on your own. You've heard of adopting a foreign child or a homeless pet—this year consider **Adopt-a-Voter**. You probably know several other people who are likely to vote for Democrats this year. You do not have to send monthly checks, or write letters, or stock up on pet food. Simply check in with one or more of these people: make sure they're registered and if not, help them get registered; if they want info on candidates, get some for them at our office; if they need an absentee ballot, make sure they get one in time and send it in; remind them to vote and if they need a ride to the polls, offer it.

In these final days before the election, with it's deluge of expensive, cheap-shot, negative Republican messages and general media hype, it's hard not to be cynical about how our leaders are chosen. But in the long run, it's what you and your friends and neighbors do at the ballot box that counts, and we'll be happy to see you there!

— Doreen Fitzgerald

Judge Diane Marie Hathaway....TOUGH. FAIR. IMPARTIAL.

As a prosecutor, Diane Hathaway took on drug dealers and put hardened criminals in jail to keep out community safe. She's prosecuted drunk drivers, sex predators and scam artists who prey on our parents and grandparents.

As a Circuit Court Judge, she's been fair and impartial, always putting the law above special interests and those who would endanger our families.

Daughter of a Detroit Police Officer, Diane Hathaway learned the values of hard work and integrity. She wants to restore fairness and integrity to Michigan's Supreme Court, which has been ranked the worst Supreme Court in the nation.

Instead of siding with big insurance companies and polluters, she believes we need a fair and impartial court that stands up for middle class families. The wife and mother of five children will be a voice for us, instead of big corporations. **Vote All the Way - Vote Hathaway! Vote for Supreme Court in the Non-Partisan Section of your ballot.**

News from the Chair

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

**Remember to vote a
Straight Democratic Ticket!**



FROM THE VICE CHAIR

I don't know about you, but I have spent a lot of time the last two weeks listening to politicians. At times I found myself talking back to the TV the way my dad used to do many years ago. At times I felt pride in and joy at the diversity of our party and of our intelligent, articulate leaders. When I felt despair, I reminded myself that this crazy, loud, red, white and blue system somehow works. In fact our American two-party system still works pretty well; with broad participation it can work even better.

We now have an opportunity to end the one-party rule here in Benzie County. It is not that our Republican brothers and sisters are not mostly well meaning, hard working and honest. It is that any organization works best with different points of view and with checks and balances. This year we have the largest field of Democratic candidates ever seen in Benzie County. These fine folks have stepped forward and put themselves on the line. How can we ask others to run if we don't support our candidates?

If you believe as I do that we need a second strong voice in power to keep government working as it should, then support our candidates and vote a straight Democratic Party ticket in November. After November I never want to hear another elected official say, "Well, I'm really a Democrat but the only way in this county to be elected is to run as a Republican."

I want to also take a minute to thank the many volunteers who have contributed their considerable talents. You are the Party. We are going into the home stretch and need you now more than ever.

Finally, a note about our fearless leader. Ray Nichols bypass surgery went well and he is recuperating at home. Cards are nice; visits still tire him. He can't stop talking and asking about how WE are doing! We always knew he had a big heart.
Susan Pyne

Join us for the Debates at Headquarters

Friday, September 26th at 8 p.m. - Presidential Debate

Thursday, October 2nd at 8 p.m. - Vice Presidential Debate

Tuesday, October 7th at 8 p.m. - Presidential Debate

Bring your own beverage and snacks to share!

McCain's tax talk evades truth

According to information found on the *Atlanta Constitution* website, "McCain's Convenient Untruth," the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has made the following analysis:

Obama is not proposing to raise taxes for most Americans. To the contrary, he would triple the earned-income tax credit for low-wage earners, increasing work incentives at the bottom. He would cut taxes on people in the middle — indeed, he would do so more aggressively than McCain would. It is only the wealthiest Americans who would face higher tax bills under Obama.

Obama's plan would require the richest 1 percent of Americans to sacrifice a modest 1.5 percent of their after-tax income in 2012. By contrast, no-sacrifice McCain would award America's elite a 9.5 percent increase.

How might this impact jobs and the economy? Under Obama's plan, top earners would pay a marginal federal tax rate of maybe 46.5 percent (that includes the Medicare tax and Obama's proposed hike in Social Security taxes), considerably more than the 37.9 percent they would pay under McCain.... Higher tax rates mean a lower budget deficit.

According to the Tax Policy Center, over the course of a decade **Obama's plan would result in a national debt \$1.2 trillion smaller than you would get under McCain's plan....** Tax hikes, in other words, are not automatic job destroyers. Joel Slemrod of the University of Michigan, a top expert on this subject, says bluntly, "There is no compelling evidence that a low-tax strategy is better for the economy over the medium or long run."

Just look at the Clinton era. In 1993, the top marginal rate (income tax plus Medicare) was raised to 42.5 percent — the same rate that Obama proposes but minus the candidate's proposed increase in the payroll tax. During the rest of the Clinton period, the economy generated millions of new jobs, and careful academic postmortems find that the 1993 tax hike caused little to no damage to the incentives of top earners. So McCain's swipe at Obama's tax plan was something other than straight talk.

As a share of the economy, **Obama's plan would create an overall tax burden similar to the one that existed in Ronald Reagan's time.** It would not choke off job creation; rather, it would slow the growth of the deficit and soften inequality. But the really depressing thing is that McCain himself once knew that. He opposed the Bush tax cuts before he supported them, saying that they would deepen inequality. But, **now he touts a tax reduction that is larger and more radical than even President Bush proposed, and he slams his opponent for holding the view that he himself held until recently.**

Volunteers Needed for Election Day and GOTV

Please take a day off work and join us on Election Day, November 4th.— we need poll challengers, drivers, people to hand out slates at the polls and phoners to remind people to vote. Stop in headquarters or phone 383-4300 to help out on this important day.



VOTER SLATE – NOVEMBER 5th
“BE EMPHATIC – VOTE STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC”



* Indicates Incumbent Candidate

BARACK OBAMA/JOE BIDEN – President/Vice President

***CARL LEVIN – U.S. Senator**

FRED JOHNSON - 2ND District Congress

DAN SCRIPPS - 101ST State House

***KATHLEEN STRAUSS & *JOHN AUSTIN - State Board of Education**

DIANE BYRUM & DIANE WOODWARD - MSU Board of Trustees

***LAWRENCE DEITCH & DENISE ILITCH - U of M Board of Regents**

***PAUL MASSARON & GARY POLLARD - Wayne State Board of Governors**

BRANT DOWNING - Benzie County Sheriff

MICHAEL L. SMITH - Benzie County Prosecutor

ERIC PYNE - Benzie County Drain Commissioner

DELORES DUDDLES-BERTA, Co. Comm. #1; Almira Township

PHILLIP KITELEY, Co Comm. #2; Crystal Lake, Lake, Platte Twps.

KRISTEN HOLLENBECK, Co. Comm.. # 3; Frankfort/Elberta, Gilmore Twp.

***ANNE DAMM, Co Comm. #4; Benzonia Township**

KATHY RALSTON, Co. Comm. #5; Homestead Township

DONALD R. TANNER, Co. Comm. #7; Blaine, Joyfield, Weldon Twps.

JILL KIMBALL, Almira Township Treasurer

***DIANA NOLAN, Almira Township Trustee**

***JIM SHEETS, Benzonia Township Supervisor**

MARY ROBLING, Benzonia Township Trustee

GAYLE RICE, Benzonia Township Trustee

***MIKE MOORMAN, Colfax Township Supervisor**

***SUE BESEY, Colfax Township Clerk**

LAURA DRAEGER, Colfax Township Treasurer

JACK RICHTER, Colfax Township Trustee

SHELLY RODAL, Crystal Lake Township Treasurer

***CARL NOFFSINGER, Gilmore Township Supervisor**

***SHARYN BOWER, Gilmore Township Clerk**

***LAURA MANVILLE, Gilmore Township Treasurer**

***RONALD BEYETTE, Gilmore Township Trustee**

***DOUGLAS HOLMES, Gilmore Township Trustee**

***CATHY DEMITROFF, Homestead Supervisor**

FRANK PELKY, Homestead Clerk

ROSALIE PELCH, Homestead Trustee

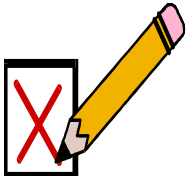
***PAUL BEECHRAFT, Inland Supervisor**

SHERRI A. OCKERT POULISSE, Inland Treasurer

***JAMES WEBBER, Lake Trustee**

***MARCIA DAVIS, Platte Trustee**

SUSAN LAVENDER, Platte Trustee



NON-PARTISAN BALLOT

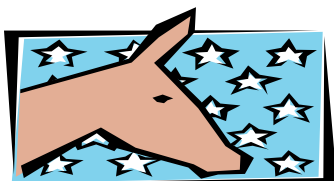
DIANA M. HATHAWAY - Supreme Court Justice

“VOTE ALL THE WAY - VOTE HATHAWAY”



BENZIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
P O BOX 44
HONOR MI 49640

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



BENZIE DEMS DATEBOOK

September 26, 8 p.m. Presidential Debate Party at HQ,
BYOB and snacks to share

October 2, 8 p.m. Vice Presidential Debate Party at HQ
BYOB and snacks to share

October 4, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting at HQ

October 7, 8 p.m. Presidential Debate Party at HQ, BYOB
and snacks to share.

November 1, 9 a.m.: Regular Monthly Meeting at HQ

November 4, General Election

November 8, 9 a.m.: County Convention to elect Executive
Board and Party Officers at HQ

December 5, 6 p.m.: Christmas Party at Gathering Place
bring a dish to pass.

Democrats and Friends:

Are you supporting our local, state and national candidates?

They need your financial help and your help to contact
other voters. Make a donation today!

Are you talking to your families and friends and urging
them to vote a straight democratic ticket? Make sure that
they have a ballot - vote absentee if possible.

Help us to make a difference after years of Republican rule!

Help Wanted

Volunteers for campaign activities! Want to get
involved? Contact Carroll at **325-6692** or e-mail at
mcvolpe@centurytel.net or stop in or call **Cam-**
paign Headquarters at 383-4300 at 254 S. Benzie
Blvd. Beulah, next to Beulah Post Office.

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.*

The Benzie Kicker Newsletter Staff

Doreen Fitzgerald - Carroll Volpe
Please let us know what you think! Send us your com-
ments and suggestions! Call Carroll at 325-6692 or e-
mail her at **mcvolpe@centurytel.net**. If you no longer
wish to receive the newsletter—send a note.

Benzie Democrats, P.O. Box 44, Honor, MI 49640