



# THE DEMOCRAT

A Publication of the Allen County Democratic Party

Keeping Indiana BLUE

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PARTY CHAIR: IT'S YOUR BOTTOM LINE TOO

Posted by Indiana Democratic Party | 03/01/2011

Today, I went to the Statehouse to address Hoosiers who were there to voice their opposition to the anti-worker agenda being pushed by Gov. Mitch Daniels and Republican lawmakers.

I was honored to stand with the working men and women who make this state's economy strong, and I want to share with you the message I shared with them: The ill-advised Republican agenda affects us all.

You wouldn't know it from the Governor's talking points, but Hoosiers are making less money than the rest of the nation – and less money than they made seven years ago.

In 2004, when Daniels berated Gov. Joe Kernan for Indiana's sluggish economy, Hoosiers earned 91 cents for every dollar earned by the average American. By last year, it was just 86 cents.

There are fewer jobs than ever before, but more importantly, those jobs are paying Hoosiers less.

And that's what Republicans want.

You may not be in a collective bargaining unit or have any experience with organized labor, but know this: Workers in states that have enacted the agenda Republicans are pushing make an average of \$5,000 less than workers here.

Could you or your family get by making \$5,000 less per year?

Why should you have to?

Collective bargaining and unions have been targeted by Republican lawmakers, but make no mistake that this fight affects us all.

We're already making less than we did seven years ago, but they want us to cut even more when we can least afford to.

Call House Speaker Brian Bosma and tell him you've had enough. Tell him to take this destructive agenda off the table and negotiate with Democrats to prevent Hoosier workers from losing even more money.

You can reach Speaker Bosma at 1-800-382-9841.

He needs to hear from as many people as possible that Hoosiers are fed up with Republicans pushing a divisive agenda that moves our state backward and lowers our incomes.

I was proud to stand up for our workers today. Please stand with me.

Daniel J. Parker  
Chair





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## LETTER FROM OUR STATE REPS TO EDUCATORS

Dear Friends,

Since last Tuesday, we have received hundreds of communications regarding the recent actions at your Indiana statehouse. Whether you support or oppose our decision, as a constituent and public school educator, you deserve to know why we felt compelled to slow down the consideration of a legislative agenda that will have a long-term impact on Hoosier families, Hoosier workers and Hoosier students.

### **“Why did the House Democrats leave?”**

This session began with a great hope of working with our colleagues across the aisle to develop a plan for job creation, move our public schools to the front of the class and draft a fiscally responsible state budget. Although there were promises of working in a bi-partisan manner from the House Republicans, the recorded votes on the House floor and in the standing committees did not reflect those actions.

Please understand that Democrats did not cross our arms and say “no” to everything that was proposed by our Republican colleagues. Even if we disagreed on a bill, positive and compromising alternatives were offered to improve and/or moderate the consequences if we felt they were harmful to our districts and our constituents. Most times those ideas, offered in good faith, were summarily dismissed. In fact, over 7 out of every 10 votes cast so far this session were made along party lines. Amendments offered by Democrats were rejected time after time, and

in some cases were even denied the opportunity to be presented.

Over the last couple of weeks the barrage of controversial and critical bills, put on the calendar at the last minute, hampered the ability of legislators and the public to understand the details of these bills much less consider their long-term consequences. Although the “Right to Work” (RTW) bill has been depicted as the primary reason for the “time out”, it was a whole list of concerns. This time out has given the public and legislators the time to learn about the content of these bills.

Legislators and the public were not fully educated on several bills that were moving like a runaway freight train. As can be noted by the thousands of citizens who have demonstrated at the statehouse and rallied in their communities, the public is becoming more aware of these issues, and they are speaking up. The focus of this time-out should not be the absence of the House members but **the potentially damaging impact of these bills.**

### **“You walked off the job for which you were hired.”**

We have been given the great privilege of serving the citizens of Districts 80 and 81, and do not take lightly the trust put in us to represent you and your families. We have great respect for our legislative institution and its rules, and the choice we made to slow down the House action is an understood part of the process. To remain out of the House chamber should be used rarely and done only after careful





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consideration. We know that Speaker Bosma and other House Republicans understand this, because when in the minority, they used this Constitutionally-granted ability in 2001 and in 2004.

We have been working at the Capitol and in Illinois every day. We have been spending days in meetings discussing and debating our lists of concerns, communicating with the public to explain the issues, and working on possible amendments or changes to bills for when we return. Like our colleagues, we have chosen to not receive my daily pay for the days our caucus is away from the statehouse.

**“So, what is your goal? RTW has been taken off the table by the Governor and Republican leaders.”**

Again, RTW has been portrayed as the reason for leaving, but it was only one bill in a list of several that raised concerns. We have serious concerns about several of the bills affecting public education. Here are six:

- **HB 1479** would allow for the immediate state takeover of several FWCS schools. This would include South Side, North Side, and Snider high schools. A for-profit management team could be appointed, teachers and administrators replaced, and a new school board to oversee each individual school. Funds for all of this would come from the state budget allocation given to the school district.
- **HB 1003** would establish a voucher program for private and religious schools, and would increase the state income tax credit for individuals and corporations who give to scholarship granting organizations. It is important to note that this same tax credit is not

available to individuals or corporations who want to donate to public school foundations or public schools. The voucher program would drain precious dollars away from existing schools, programs and improvement efforts. This is on top of the \$600 million dollars in cuts from Governor Daniels over the past two years.

- **HB 1585** would allow the State Board of Education to waive any law (or rule) they think necessary.
- **HB 1260** addresses school employee health plans and mandates certain provisions to force cost savings.
- **SB 575** limits collective bargaining to wages and wage-related benefits. It removes collective bargaining for curriculum and instructional matters,
- **SB 1** repeals the minimum salary law which provides that teacher training and experience are counted as the base pay for teacher salaries. The bill permits no more than 1/3 of a teacher's salary to be based on experience and allows NO EXTRA PAY for advanced degrees. Career teachers with master's degrees could lose more than \$10,000 in pay—and often MUCH more than \$10,000.

The letters and emails of support that so many of you have sent are sincerely appreciated. This is not an easy time and for those who remain in Illinois it has been a tremendous sacrifice.





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However, House Democrats stand united in our support for public education and for working families. We have always been willing to work in a spirit of compromise and collaboration. But it must be a two-way street.

We apologize for the length of this letter, but there is no simple and short explanation of this matter. It is our hope that through earnest discussions between Republican and Democrat leadership, an agreement can be reached, and we can return to the statehouse.

Sincerely,  
Rep. Phil GiaQuinta (80<sup>th</sup>)  
Rep. Win Moses (81<sup>st</sup>)



## VISTING VIEWPOINTS

*Karen Goldner, City Council Second District, is our guest columnist this month.*

### “What have you done for me lately?”

Nearly twelve years of Democratic leadership in Fort Wayne city government has accomplished a lot. Sometimes we take those accomplishments for granted. In an election year, we shouldn't! Here are a few of the recent high points:

1. Legacy Fort Wayne: after several years of negotiations with I&M – during which time some Republicans urged Mayor Henry to stop fighting for a fair settlement to the City Light Lease – we have a \$70 million “inheritance” that our community can now decide how to use. What other cities are having this discussion? The discussion in most cities is how to cut important services or raise taxes. But in Fort Wayne, thanks to Mayor Henry’s work to protect Mayor Lebamoff’s legacy, our far sighted Democratic mayors have provided us a real resource for our city’s future.
2. 911 Merger: for years, the separate city and county 911 centers seemed like the weather: everyone talked about it but no one was able to do anything. In 2009 and 2010, however, we were able to accomplish the merger. This will result in improved public safety and allow us to better control costs in the future. Despite bipartisan support from both City and County Councils, the merger would not have happened without leadership from Mayor Henry.
3. Basic services – the kind that we all expect – are delivered well and cost effectively. An example of this is our new solid waste contract, which has reduced fees while increasing recycling services.
4. A balanced city budget with reduced local taxes: Local tax revenue (property and income) has





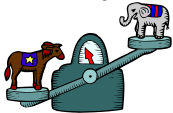
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declined by 3.6% since 2007 – even while our city’s population has increased by 34%, along with a 38% increase in Fort Wayne’s geographic size. We have a cash reserve (like a savings account) that is roughly twice what the financial markets require us to have.

5. “Buy Local” provides a leg up for local businesses in competing for city government contracts. Everybody talks about helping local businesses – it was Democrats in City government who actually are getting it done.



6. SmartGov is an on-line initiative to make local government more transparent. You can see the city’s checkbook on-line, and perhaps even more important you can register your ideas for important community projects.
7. Harrison Square: Parkview Field has been widely recognized as a wonderful attraction and a success in drawing people downtown. The last leg of the stool, the residential/commercial building called The Harrison, will be built in 2011 – delayed largely by an unprecedented turmoil in financial markets. Mayor Henry’s leadership has been critical in obtaining financing for the downtown Marriott Courtyard, as well as staying the course in pushing The Harrison forward.

I am proud to have been a Democratic member of City Council and to have worked with Mayor Henry, Clerk Kennedy, and

Councilmen Hines, Pape and Shoaff on these issues. We have a great record of success and now we need to make sure that Fort Wayne voters know it.

*(HQ closure in Feb. prevented newsletter distribution so Councilwoman’s Feb. column is being printed in this month’s issue)*

## BLAKEMAN’S TAKE

*Rachel Blakeman*

Welcome! I am honored to be one of the new ACDP newsletter columnists. I think our party has some great things on the horizon, and I look forward to being part of this adventure to elect quality and qualified candidates at the local, state and national levels and stand up for our public policy objectives of making sure every person has access to the American dreams of a good education, a good job, a safe community, and ultimately a rewarding life with that opportunity available to everyone who seizes it.

I think it’s important to share some background about myself to help you understand my perspective and where I am coming from. I have called Fort Wayne and Allen County home since I moved here after college in 1999. Currently I am a first-year law student at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis, but I look forward to coming back to northeast Indiana during breaks and after graduation. Before leaving for law school last year, I had the honor and privilege to work for Mayor Tom Henry as a public information officer in his office. I saw firsthand the good work happening in the Mayor’s office and





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the City administration to make Fort Wayne a place to attract and retain talent through big and small efforts. I look forward to volunteering my time to get the Democratic ticket into office for another four years of working for all Fort Wayne residents.

Speaking of elections and party affiliation, let's be honest for a moment. It's rare to find anyone in Allen County who is a Democrat out of convenience. Some of our candidates start out at a disadvantage in their Republican-leaning or Republican-dominated districts, but they are committed to our party's principles. However, these difficult races can be won but only with lots of connection and outreach to voters through plenty of work from the candidates and you. The candidates are the ones who are in the spotlight, and rightfully so, but those of us who are knocking on doors, volunteering in phone banks, delivering yard signs, writing letters to the editor, posting links on Facebook are an important part of the process. We can't let our perceived or real numerical disadvantage of party affiliation be an excuse. Elections are decided by the people who go to the polls, not by the people who talk the loudest.

Not every voter can meet the candidates on their ballots, however I am going to bet that if you are reading this column, you have met or know some if not all the Democrats running for office in 2011. We have a responsibility to talk to our neighbors, co-workers, family, friends (online and otherwise) and let them know why we are supporting these candidates and what good things they are going to do for Fort Wayne, New Haven, Woodburn and beyond, but only if they get elected. I often think of municipal elections as the warm-up act to next year's presidential and

governor's races. And like most things, you only get better with practice.

Let's get out there, connect with voters, stand for our principles of opening doors for all, not just the connected elite. We have seen it work in the past (2007 and 2008 come to mind), but we can't rely on past successes to bring victory in the future. I will be doing my part to help Democrats get elected in 2011 and 2012. I hope you will join me. There's plenty of work to be done.

*(HQ closure in Feb. prevented newsletter distribution so Ms. Blakeman's Feb. column is being printed in this month's issue)*

## **2012 INDIANA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION IN ALLEN COUNTY**

*Dan Parker on Indems.org 12/17/2010*

I wanted to share some exciting news. After extensive discussion and debate, our Committee voted to hold the Democratic State Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana on June 15th and 16th, 2012.

This decision represents a significant commitment from our Party to reach out to Democrats across our great state. By selecting Fort Wayne as the location of our convention we are making a significant investment in North East Indiana for the 2012 election and into the future.

The decision to move our biannual party gathering was due in no small part to the efforts of Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry,





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3rd district chair Carmen Darland and Party Secretary Sofia Rodriguez-Mirwaldt. Their tireless work to organize a successful bid with the city of Fort Wayne and lobby Democrats across the state about the benefits of holding the convention in Fort Wayne should not be understated.

While the convention is still a long ways off,



we are excited to make this convention a draw for Democrats across the state. In addition to the traditional party business that will be conducted during the state convention we are also planning activities and events that will highlight the great attributes of the state's second largest city, Fort Wayne. I am very excited about the new direction that we have chosen to take our convention and know that it will be an event not to be missed.

Stay tuned for more information as the process moves forward and we begin planning the exciting 2012 convention. Down the road we will announce the launch of a Fort Wayne 2012 website.

## ACDP LUNCHEON CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Allen County Democratic Party's hugely successful Luncheon Club held elections on Wednesday, Feb. 23 to select their new slate of officers. This popular and hard working group has chosen a great slate of officers whose terms take effect immediately. New ACDP Luncheon Club officers are:

**Jack Spindler, President**  
**Bob Doerr, Vice President**  
**June Moord, Secretary**  
**Jane Borge, Treasurer**  
**Randy Schmidt, Sgt. at Arms**

Congratulations all!

## THE DEMOCRAT NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCES NEW FEATURES

The ACDP Democrat Newsletter is pleased to announce exciting changes to the ACDP Democrat Newsletter.

Beginning this month, we welcome our new feature writer, Rachel Blakeman. Her first monthly column begins on page 5. We are excited to have the talented Ms. Blakeman on board!

Also new this month is a column called Visiting Viewpoints. Each month a guest writer will pen a column for publication. Karen Goldner took on the inaugural spot-please be sure to read her column beginning on page 4!

The monthly Democrat is now avail via website [www.allencountydemocrats.org](http://www.allencountydemocrats.org)

Have an idea or news? Think you would like to write an article? Have an event update or a suggestion? Please contact Newsletter Editor, Deb Morrone, ACDPDEB@gmail.com





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## 2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTION DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TICKET

Please note there are some ballot vacancies that can be filled after the Primary. Please contact the Party at 260-478-8239 if you have an interest! It's going to be a great year!

### Fort Wayne Mayor

Tom Cook  
Charles Eberhard  
\*\*Tom Henry

David Roach  
Frederick Stienke

### Fort Wayne City Clerk

\*\*Sandra (Sandy) Kennedy

### Fort Wayne City Council At Large (Choose Three)

Gordon W. Anthony  
George Guido  
Nick Tash  
Tommy Schrader  
John Shoaff

### Fort Wayne City Council First District

Steve Shafer

### Fort Wayne City Council Second District

\*\*Karen Goldner

### Fort Wayne City Council Third District

Open

### Fort Wayne City Council Fourth District

Mike Avila

### Fort Wayne City Council Fifth District

Richard Cline  
Dennis Ferguson  
Maye Johnson  
Geoff Paddock

### Fort Wayne City Council Sixth District

\*\*Glynn Hines  
Michael Latham  
Leon Williams

### New Haven City Council District One

\*\*Michelle (Mickey) Hill

### New Haven City Council District Two

Open

### New Haven City Council District Three

\*\*Roger Clayton

### New Haven City Council District Four

Open

### New Haven City Council District Five

Steven McMichael

### New Haven Clerk Treasurer

Open

### New Haven Judge of the City Court

Open

### Woodburn Mayor

\*\*Richard Hoepfner

### Woodburn Council at Large

\*\*Michael Mason

### Woodburn Council First District

\*\*Clarence Reichhart

### Woodburn Council Second District

Rex Bowen

\*\*James Norden

### Woodburn Council Third District

\*\*Robert Zimmerman

### Woodburn Council Fourth District

Raymond Abbott

\*\*Ron Clegg

### Woodburn Clerk Treasurer

Lynn Rorick

\*\*Denotes INCUMBENT





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## Wisconsin Sheriff Stands Up for Democracy

AFL-CIO Now Blog -- Recent News Stories



**Sheriff David Mahoney**

Dane County (Wis.) Sheriff Scott Mahoney is a man who respects the Constitution and the right of people to protest. Mahoney pulled his deputies from the guarding of the Wisconsin Capitol building entrances this week after Gov. Scott Walker and his aides tried to crack

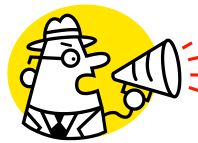
down on dissent by closing the building. Walker was trying to stifle the mass demonstrations by working people who were protesting his plan to take away bargaining rights for state employees. As Mahoney said during a press conference on March 1:  
When asked to stand guard at the doors that duty was turned over to the Wisconsin State Patrol because our deputies would not stand and be palace guards. I refused to put deputy sheriffs in a position to be palace guards. In an article on TheNation.com, John Nichols profiles Mahoney and asks why he would refuse to act as the governor's palace guard. Mahoney's straightforward response: He believes it is important to respect the Constitution and maintain a free and open space for honest debate and dissent. "I smile every day at what I am seeing take place in this building," Mahoney says. We're an example to the world about how to run a democracy.

## CALENDAR -CALENDAR MARCH

- **ACDP Breakfast Club Meeting:**  
*March 12, STATE OF THE PARTY ADDRESS AND OPEN HOUSE AT NEW HEADQUARTERS!*  
*@ Dem HQ-7301 Old Decatur Road. Coffee/Donuts 8:30, program 9:00*
- **ACDP Luncheon Club- March 23rd.** *Speaker, Geoff Paddock, 11:30. @VFW Jim Eby Post #857 2202 West Main (at Leesburg Rd) Dues \$5/yr-everyone is welcome!*
- **Third District Democrats Breakfast-March. 26, 8:30am @ Brevins Restaurant, Churubusco. \$5 @ door, breakfast on your own. Featured Speaker, updates, info on Indiana's Third District**
- **ACDP Women's Club-March 30th**  
*Dem HQ, 7301 Old Decatur Rd. Meeting begins at 5:30. Dues just \$5/yr and everyone is welcome.*

## APRIL

- **ACDP Breakfast Club Meeting:**  
*April 9, 8:30, 7301 Old Decatur Rd, Speaker, Glynn Hines.*
- **ACDP Luncheon Club, April 27**



### NOTE:

**Third Dist Dinner--  
APRIL 30TH. MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS !  
TICKETS AVAIL NOW !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**





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**INDIANA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
PRESENTS....**

## **25th Annual Third District Dinner Featuring NE Indiana Mayors**

**Saturday Night, April 30th**

**Eagle Glen / Eagle's Nest Event Center, 125 Eagle Glen Trail, Columbia City, Indiana**

**Social Hour at 6 p.m.**

**Dinner at 7 p.m.**

**This event is always a full house, so please get your tickets early. Be a part of our 25th year!**

**Tickets are \$35 each. Sponsorships range from \$30 to \$1,000.**

**Buy your tickets and sponsorships online at [www.indems3.org](http://www.indems3.org).**

**Or**

**Send checks payable to "Third District Democrats" to 4129 Winterfield Run, Fort Wayne, IN 46804**

Paid for and authorized by the Third District Breakfast Club, Carmen Darland, Chair. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. Contributions are not tax deductible and will be used in connection with federal elections and are subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the FEC. Corporate and Labor Union donations will be deposited in the state election account.

