



THE DEMOCRAT

A Publication of the Allen County Democratic Party

Keeping Indiana BLUE

CHAIRMAN DAN PARKER ON HOUSE DEMOCRATS RETURN TO THE STATEHOUSE

Posted by Indiana Democratic Party | 03/28/2011

INDIANAPOLIS –

Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker issued the following statement on House Democrats returning to the Statehouse today:

“The Republicans called us names, threatened us with fines and tested our resolve, but in the end, compromise and negotiation trumped their radical agenda. This timeout gave thousands of Hoosiers the chance to take part in the process and have their voices heard by Republicans. “Is this the perfect solution? No. But it is a solution that protects Indiana’s middle class from the GOP plan to lower wages and eliminate worker rights.

“I can only hope that Republicans will conduct the rest of the session in a tempered, moderate fashion instead of trying to ram their agenda through.

“I want to personally thank House Democrats for standing up for Hoosiers and forcing the GOP to listen.”



INDIANA DEMOCRATS COMMEMORATE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

INDIANAPOLIS —We mark the one-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, signed into law by President Obama on March 23rd, 2010. In recognition of the occasion, Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker issued the following statement:

“One year ago today, President Obama signed the historic Affordable Care Act into law. In the 12 months since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, many new patient protections and benefits have already taken effect – insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions or take away individuals’ health coverage when they need it most; all new health plans must offer free preventive care that will help Americans to stay healthy; and young people can stay on their parents’ insurance until age 26, while they look for a job or finish school. Those provisions will save Hoosier lives, save Hoosier money and give Hoosiers more control over their health care.

“However, despite the clear benefits of this law for the people of Indiana, Republicans in Congress continue to





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challenge health care reform in Congress and in the courts. Repealing or even defunding the Affordable Care Act would put the many benefits of health reform at risk and add over a trillion dollars to the national deficit.

“It is critical that we continue to protect the Affordable Care Act and prevent Republicans from rolling back new health care benefits for Hoosiers. I applaud President Obama and Democrats in Congress for their leadership in making tough choices to improve America’s health care system, and I look forward to celebrating the passage of this historic law far into the future.”

VISTING VIEWPOINTS

Technical Difficulties have delayed this column. Look for guest columnist Jim Reeder’s recount of the March 10 Indianapolis Labor Rally in next month’s newsletter.

BLAKEMAN’S TAKE

Rachel Blakeman

I am sure many of you joined me in writing our Republican state senators – sadly Allen County residents are not yet represented by any Democrats in the state senate – in opposition of H.J.R. 6, the so-called gay-marriage state constitutional amendment. While I believe that civil marriage is a civil right, I know that not all Democrats agree with me. However, I think we can all agree that our state is underperforming economically and our legislature should be doing all it can to encourage growth of current and future Hoosier employers. And oddly enough, that’s where gay marriage comes in.

Both Eli Lilly and Cummins, two highly regarded Indiana employers, spoke out against the proposed constitutional amendment, even threatening to reconsider future investments in the state with a policy that says some people don’t deserve the same rights as others. Richard Florida of “The Creative Class” fame who spoke in Fort Wayne about eight years ago about the economic value of having welcoming social diversity in a community recently wrote a piece for TheAtlantic.com about how the social conservative policy bent of state legislatures is not a political issue but an economic one. He wrote, “This ideological state of affairs advantages the policy preferences of poorer, less innovative, and productive ones.” Think what you may about the coasts, but they have been where the growth and innovation have been in the last two decades. What have they been doing from which we can learn?

Northeast Indiana and the entire state desperately wants to attract and retain young talent, people with college degrees in their 20s and 30s who will put down roots, start high-growth businesses, run for office and become the next generation of leaders. This is a generation of Americans for whom gay marriage not only doesn’t sound ridiculous but sounds right. These people are going to move somewhere, but I am afraid it won’t be in the Hoosier Heartland if we continue to have legislation that sends a message of exclusion rather than innovation. For some, gay marriage is a difficult moral issue because of their faith





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(Cont from previous page)

traditions or the unexpected shift in cultural attitudes. I understand that allowing same-sex couples to marry shatters notions of what marriage looks like. But every time we have expanded legal protections for rights to our fellow Americans, our country has become better. I see no reason why that won't occur with gay marriage. As Democrats, we believe in respect and opportunity for all Americans. The gay and lesbian couples I know look don't look out of place with what we expect from a married couple. They are working. They own a house. They go on vacation. They may be raising a child or two. They join friends out for dinner. They dote on their pets. It's essentially married life, except without the legal protections marriage affords.

I'm a Democrat, therefore I'm not one to easily give up hope. In order to become law, the amendment will need to pass a separately elected statehouse and then appear on the statewide ballot, likely in 2014. My hope is that either the Supreme Court will have struck down anti-gay marriage amendments as unconstitutional or that societal values will continue to move in a direction for civil marriage to all via the ballot box (hey, a girl can dream).

As I wrote in my e-mails to Fort Wayne's state senators: This is a bill that solves no problem but instead sends the message that Indiana is not a state to grow your business, attract talent or raise a family. This is not a message Indiana can afford.

SAY IT AINT SO, SENATOR LUGAR

Posted by Indiana Democratic Party | 03/15/2011

There's a sad thing happening in Indiana Republican politics right now: the self-inflicted destruction of a moderate U.S. Senator.

Veteran statesman Dick Lugar, facing a challenge from Tea Party candidate Richard Mourdock, is doing everything he can to shed his reputation for tempered, rational decision-making.

Instead, he's embracing the right-wing rhetoric that everything President Obama does is bad, and there's no room for moderates at the table.

This week, Lugar issued what he described as a "harsh statement against Obama" on a proposed no-fly zone in Libya, a policy option that's currently under consideration with support from Obama, former President Bill Clinton, Republican U.S. Senator John McCain and independent U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman.

Lugar's political posturing is the kind of zealotry we expect from the likes of Mourdock and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, who today announced that he's perfectly willing to let our government shut down to prove a political point.

But you, Senator Lugar? Not you.





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(Cont from previous page) You've always been willing to reach across the aisle, listen to the other side and come up with solutions that you believe reflect our Hoosier values, not the latest GOP talking points.

In the past, Lugar has offered support for pro-choice Supreme Court justices, stem cell research and the New START agreement. He's opposed to a reckless House Republican proposal to cut federal funding for Planned Parenthood and public broadcasting.

These bipartisan decisions and his devotion to civility in politics are why Hoosiers have elected Lugar so many times.

The question now is whether he's still committed to that brand or whether he'll sacrifice his moderate reputation to avoid standing tall against fringe activists who'd rather hijack the process than be part of it.

JUNE 18, 2011 SAVE THE DATE!



Please save the date-Saturday, June 18, 2011 for a very important event! We will be holding a Tribute and Roast for outgoing City Councilman Tim Pape at Cerutti's on Ludwig Rd. This is sure to be a fun-filled exciting fundraiser so mark your calendars and watch for ticket information!

THE DEMOCRAT NEWSLETTER INVITES GUEST COLUMNISTS AND WELCOMES INFORMATION

The ACDP Democrat Newsletter invites Democrats to submit articles, questions and news. Please contact newsletter editor, Deb Morrone at ACDPDeb@gmail.com

2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTION DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TICKET CORRECTION

Fort Wayne City Council At Large (Choose Three)

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

*Incumbent
LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER FAILED TO IDENTIFY COUNCILMAN JOHN SHOAFF AS AN INCUMBENT. We apologize for the error.





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DNC CHAIRMAN TIM KAINÉ'S STATEMENT ON THE MARCH JOBS REPORT

Posted by DNC Press on Frida April 01, 2011

This morning, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the March jobs report. According to that report, American employers added 216,000 jobs in March, while the unemployment rate fell to 8.8 percent, the lowest in two years. In response, DNC Chairman Tim Kaine issued the following statement:

"In March, employers continued a strong trend of hiring, with signs of new economic growth across the country. In fact, private sector employers have now added jobs for 13 consecutive months, illustrating a clear positive trend toward sustained economic recovery. We still have a ways to go to reach that goal, but we are getting closer every month.

"And this much should now be clear: a straight line can be drawn from the continuing improvement in the jobs numbers to the policies that President Obama and Democrats adopted over the past two years – tax cuts for small businesses and families, investments in job creating infrastructure and clean energy, health reform that is providing health care certainty to millions of Americans – all policies passed with

virtually no Republican votes.

"While Republicans continue to talk down the progress being made in the economy and reflexively oppose the President's economic agenda to achieve their political ends – all while refusing to offer legislation to create jobs – the President and Democrats are fighting to win the future by doing what it takes to out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build our competitors around the globe. It's time for Republicans to stop the partisan fighting and join with President Obama and Congressional Democrats to move this important work forward."

WHAT WE STAND FOR

VOTING RIGHTS

Democrats have a long and proud history of fighting for voting rights that continues to this day. One of the most important rights of American citizens is the right to vote—the right to have a say in who our leaders are and how our government should work. But the path to full voting rights for all American citizens was long and often challenging, and for far too many people, obstacles to voting remain even today.

The expansion of voting rights for millions did not happen overnight. It was the product of a continued struggle by many people over many years. In 1965, Democrat Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, a landmark piece of legislation that





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outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had been responsible for the widespread disenfranchisement of African Americans. This was an important step forward—the result of a long, hard struggle—but it was neither the end of discrimination nor disenfranchisement.

Even today, minority voters still encounter obstacles and intimidation at every step of the voting process, from registration to casting a ballot. And in many parts of the country, voters are underserved by a lack of polling places, outdated voting machines, and unnecessarily complicated laws.

In 1982, the Democratic National Committee fought for and successfully won a ruling that bars Republicans from using “ballot security” measures that target minority and under-represented communities for voter intimidation and voter suppression. In 1987 this ruling was extended by the courts to cover the entire nation and was again upheld in 2009.

Democrats continue to fight for voting rights year-round, and the Democratic Party has made voter protection an integral part of its work. We are making progress, but we won’t stop working to promote a system of elections that is accessible, open, and fair—one that ensures that every vote lawfully cast is counted.

THIS NEW MONTHLY COLUMN WILL HIGHLIGHT ‘WHAT WE STAND FOR’.

FUTURE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Civil Rights
- Economy & Job Creation
- Education
- Energy Independence
- Environment
- Fair Elections
- Health Care
- Immigration Reform
- National Security
- Open Government
- Science & Technology
- Retirement Security

EARLY VOTING HOURS

Any registered voter may vote early in IN. In Allen County, early voting takes place in the City County Building One E. Main St., Fort Wayne.

Please bring your valid photo ID.

HOURS:

M-F, April 4-29-8:30am through 4:30pm.

Sat, April 23 and 30-8:00am-3:00pm

Mon., May 2-8:00am-NOON

ONGOING SAGA OF





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CHARLIE WHITE

Embattled Secretary of State Charlie White just can't catch a break. He's been indicted on seven felony charges, including vote fraud; his staff members are jumping ship; and pretty much everyone in his own party has called on him to stop the bleeding by tendering his resignation. In his mind, he must believe he's still fit to be Indiana's chief election officer.

We know that's never been the case.

Last fall, the Indiana Democratic Party filed a complaint stating that White should never have been certified as the elected Secretary of State because he failed to meet the single requirement to be on the ballot in the first place: being a registered voter in the State of Indiana.

At the time, Republicans – including White's predecessor, now-Congressman Todd Rokita – said the complaint had no merit.

They were wrong then, and in light of White's indictment, it's clear now that they made a huge mistake.

White lied about his residence when he filled out his voter registration form, and that act invalidated his registration. He was never a legitimate registered voter, and he lied about his residence and registration at the time he was nominated for Secretary of State. In short, he shouldn't have been

on the ballot as the Republican candidate.

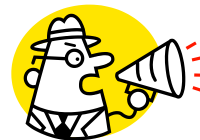
A Marion County court will hear the case early next month. Based upon state statute, if White's candidacy is ruled illegitimate, the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State should be sworn in because he received the second-highest number of votes.

The GOP will no doubt try to say that the Governor should choose White's replacement. The Governor chose White in the first place, and he now stands accused of breaking a number of laws.

Perhaps instead of more political tomfoolery, this time the law itself can take its course so we can restore honor and integrity to this important public office.

SIGN SPOTTED AT MARCH 10 INDIANAPOLIS RALLY:

**Scare a Republican Today:
Register to Vote!**



CALENDAR -CALENDAR

APRIL





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- 4th-Last day to register to vote for Primary, First day of Early Voting.
- **9TH--ACDP Breakfast Club Meeting:** 8:30 @ Dem HQ-7301 Old Decatur Road. Third District Chair, Carmen Darland Speaker. Coffee/Donuts 8:30, program 9:00
- **27th--ACDP Luncheon Club- Candidate Speakers.** 11:30. @VFW Jim Eby Post #857 2202 West Main (at Leesburg Rd) Dues \$5/yr-everyone is welcome!
- **30th--ACDP Women's Club-Dem** HQ, 7301 Old Decatur Rd. Meeting begins at 5:30. Dues just \$5/yr and everyone is welcome.
- **THIRD DISTRICT DINNER: APRIL 30TH. MAY**
 - **2nd**-Last day for early voting for Primary Election-NOON, City County Building.
 - **3rd PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**
 - **8TH--ACDP Breakfast Club Meeting:** @ Dem HQ-7301 Old Decatur Road. Coffee/Donuts 8:30, program 9:00
 - **25th--ACDP Luncheon Club-** 11:30. @VFW Jim Eby Post #857 2202 West Main (at Leesburg Rd) Dues \$5/yr-everyone is welcome!

INDIANA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PRESENTS....25th Annual 3rd Dist Dinner

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.

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.

