

The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 9, No. 1

www.winfielddems.org

Winter 2016

Conversations With The Township Chair

By Susan Lubonovich

WTDO Chair and Committeeman, Pct. 014

I welcome all of you to this, our seventeenth issue of The Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. We are deeply appreciative that your continued unstinting support for this publication, The Township Democrat, has permitted us to explore issues of deep concern to all of us. We encourage articles that are written from diverse Democratic points of view that we have brought together in one local publication for your consideration. Your consistently generous contributions have given us this opportunity to publish our Newsletter and we are very grateful.

When we last spoke, we discussed that our political landscape, both nationally and here in our state of Illinois, had changed dramatically. We certainly now have a better understanding of how all of those changes have and will play out. As I watch the antics of the Right, I fear our democracy is headed toward a dangerous place. I also fear we Democrats are watching this catastrophe unfold, spellbound - like deer caught in the oncoming headlights. How else do we explain the record Republican voter turnout in the early Primaries and Caucuses, while Democratic numbers have plummeted?

Our presidential system has succeeded because of its moderate consensus - A middle ground on which both major parties met in civil compromise. That middle ground is gone. Our social norms that once kept a divided government functioning are disintegrating. Do you remember it was once thought a divided government was a good thing? That it

kept everyone working toward the Common Good? Fat chance of that happening today.

Now, for the first time in history, the Senate is refusing to consider anyone this President might nominate to fill a vacant Supreme Court seat. And this threatened obstructionism is occurring in our name. Piously, the Senate Republican majority wants the American people to have a voice. Apparently, they do not understand the American people already have a voice in nominating Supreme Court justices and we spoke when we re-elected President Obama for a four year - not a three year - term. The rich irony of all of this is we are replacing a Justice who championed "originalism" - the theory that justices should look to the meaning of the words in the Constitution at the time they were written. And our Constitution is very clear: the President nominates and the Senate confirms - no exceptions for Presidential election years.

Have you noticed how the Republicans on both a state and federal level have escalated their shredding of our shared Social Compact? All the formal and informal norms that make government work are falling by the wayside. Their replacement - an incomprehensible and breathtaking radicalism headed toward what end? - a repeal of the last hundred years?

Oh, and just to be clear. President Obama is not a lame duck President; he is not in a lame duck second term nor is he in a lame duck year - regardless of how many times the Right and their pundits repeat this canard. President Obama becomes a lame duck President on November 9, 2016 - one day after the

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CALENDAR

EARLY VOTING

MON, FEB 29-MON, MAR 14

INFO: DUPAGE COUNTY

ELECTION COMMISSION

630-407-5600

WWW.DUPAGECO.ORG/ELECTION

ELECTION DAY-PLEASE VOTE

TUE, MAR 15, 6:00AM-7:00 PM

VERIFY YOUR POLLING

LOCATION

WTDO REGULAR MEETINGS

WINFIELD FIRE PROTECTION

DISTRICT, FIREHOUSE NO. 1

27W530 HIGHLAKE RD,

WINFIELD

WED, MAR 16, 7:00 PM

WED, APR 20, 7:00 PM

WED, MAY 18, 7:00 PM

WED, JUNE 15, 7:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG

OR CALL:

630-771-5551

OPINIONS EXPRESSED WITHIN ARE

NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP

DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION



Winfield Township
Democratic Organization

We Can Have a Strong Middle Class Again

by Amanda Howland

Candidate for US Congress, Illinois 6th District

When I was young, I knew that getting a college education was vital for success. Trouble was, my family wasn't going to be able to help me pay for it. But I was lucky. I qualified for a National Defense Student Loan. The revolutionary idea behind this program, created by Congress, was that students who graduated and entered certain fields would be able to "work off" their loans. The Act was intended to attract students to high-turnover professions, including nursing, special education and psychology. After a set number of years in the profession, the loans were completely paid off!

You see, Congress understood back then that an educated workforce was America's secret weapon – it was part of our "national defense." A well-trained and educated workforce made the United States the envy of the world and gave us a cadre of workers that formed the backbone of a stable and prosperous middle class.

So what happened? Among other things, we lost sight of the value of a good education. We also, as a society, began to view education as a cost center, which only contributed to rising taxes, rather than a public investment designed to create the workforce of the future. In that way, we lost the opportunity to continue to lead the world in technology education. As a result, our country often finishes near the bottom of developed countries in measures of workforce preparation for technical careers. Our people are currently less educated than China, Japan, and many European countries. Is it any wonder that American companies continue to send jobs overseas? We cannot compete in a global society if we do not become better educated, and quickly.

I am passionate about supporting the middle class and finding new ways for everyone to be successful. As a trustee at

the College of Lake County, I am painfully aware of our country's shortcomings in education and the seeming determination of the Republicans in Congress to make things worse.

I want to increase the affordability of post-high-school education and reduce the amount of student loan debt and the amount of interest paid on it. It is a shame that student loan debt recently surpassed credit card debt, creating a huge drag on the economy. If large numbers of college graduates cannot buy homes or cars or large consumer durables because they are buried in debt, the economy will grow more slowly than it should.

Students need to be able to create payment plans that fit their needs and be able to restructure loans and provide more flexible repayment options. When I was in Washington DC with the College of Lake County board in February, we met with Congressmen and our Senators to discuss several options, including free community college education for qualifying students. We also discussed legislation that would allow the negotiation of student loan rates and allow students to consolidate loans and obtain the lowest prevailing interest rate.

In addition, I suggested that a program like the National Defense Student Loan program should be revived to help train the next generation of professionals while easing their loan burdens. Every legislator in the Illinois delegation was at least interested in listening to these ideas, except for our own representative, Peter Roskam, who has refused to meet with the College of Lake County delegation for the last six out of seven years.

We must train our own citizens to perform the jobs that would otherwise be sent overseas. We must encourage colleges and businesses to work together to ensure that students acquire the skills that employers need. And we must close tax loopholes that allow companies to send jobs overseas in the first place and create incentives for companies that keep jobs here. It's the American way.

Unity

By Barry Dredze

Committeeman, Pct. 018

While the ideological purists in the Bernie and Hillary camps are drawing their lines in the sand, the Republican legislative majority is having its way with the process of appointing a new Supreme Court Justice.

If you are a supporter of one of the two remaining Democratic presidential primary campaigns and threatening or even considering leaving your vote on the table if the other candidate is the nominee, then you may be obliged to remain silent regarding issues such as campaign finance, universal health care coverage, voting rights, marriage rights and abortion rights, because those are all issues that either have recently been decided by, or presently remain at the mercy of appointments to, the Supreme Court.

News broke on Saturday morning, February 20, of the death of Justice Antonin “Nino” Scalia, creating a vacancy on the Supreme Court with eleven months remaining in the term of President Barack Obama.

An awful lot of 5-4 Supreme Court rulings have had profound impacts on countless individual lives as a result of reversing progressive public policies. The impending end to the era of a presumed conservative judicial trend of shredding a liberal legislative agenda – from voting rights to health care reform and action dealing with anthropogenic climate change – sent the Republican congressional leadership into spasms of obstructionism well ahead of any White House appointment to fill the vacancy.

For starters, Scalia was in the 5-4 majority in *Bush v. Gore* that ended the state of Florida’s required presidential election recount in 2000, clearing the path for George W. Bush to the White House.

With President Bush’s appointments, replacing Chief Justice William Rehnquist with John Roberts and Justice Sandra Day O’Connor with Samuel Alito, Scalia was in the position to vote with conservative majorities in striking down campaign finance laws as a restriction on free speech. For the better part of a generation, much more often than not, major campaign finance decisions have come down to a 5-4 majority on the Supreme Court. First, with *Citizens United* and later with *McCutcheon v. FEC*, which was the first time the Supreme Court has ever declared a federal contribution limit unconstitutional, the Court has been narrowly in favor of Scalia’s absolute originalist view of the First Amendment,

interpreting most limits on money in politics as unconstitutional violations of free speech.

“It took the case and decided it at a time when it was still a big election issue,” O’Connor said in an interview with the *Chicago Tribune’s* Editorial Board in 2013. “Maybe the court should have said, ‘We’re not going to take it, goodbye.’” The *Tribune* reported that O’Connor added that the case “stirred up the public” and “gave the court a less-than perfect reputation.”

While O’Connor has been increasingly clear about her disenchantment with the work of her successors, the damage had been done.

“She has been harshly critical of the Court’s decision in *Citizens United*, which revolutionized the law of campaign finance,” wrote Jeffrey Toobin in a profile of O’Connor for *The New Yorker* magazine. “Indeed, her major outside activity since retiring has been to try to persuade states to have a system of appointed, as opposed to elected, judges. A primary reason why O’Connor opposes judicial election is because of the influence of campaign contributions—which is, of course, precisely the kind of spending allowed by *Citizens United*” (“Justice O’Connor Regrets,” by Jeffrey Toobin, *The New Yorker*, May 6, 2013).

The pattern of the Court was set for a powerful trend to govern for the sake of narrow private corporate interests at the expense of the broader public interest.

“On June 25, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a key provision of the Voting Rights Act,” the Brennan Center at the New York University School of Law reported, “removing a critical tool to combat racial discrimination in voting. Under Section 5 of the landmark civil rights law, jurisdictions with a history of discrimination must seek pre-approval of changes in voting rules that could affect minorities. This process, known as ‘preclearance,’ blocks discrimination before it occurs. In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Court invalidated Section 4 — which determines the states and localities covered by Section 5 — arguing that current conditions require a new coverage formula.”

Besides the dozens of congressional votes to defund and essentially repeal the Patient

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Protection and Affordable Care Act through legislation and budget amendments, there have been three significant challenges to the law that have reached the Supreme Court, including the infamous 2014 Hobby Lobby decision that ruled in favor of for-profit companies' objections to providing certain contraceptives. Last November, the court announced that it would hear arguments from the Little Sisters of the Poor and other religious non-profit groups against the Act's requirement of group health plans to provide a full range of contraceptive coverage to women at no cost.

Back in 2010, as legislators crafted the bill for President Obama's signature policy priority of health care reform, in what would be the Affordable Care Act, Tea Party Patriots volunteer Bob MacGuffie wrote and distributed a memo detailing how conservative activists should successfully disrupt Democratic health care town halls. The memo urged activists "to rock-the-boat early in the Rep's presentation, watch for an opportunity to yell out and challenge the Rep's statements early..." and advised that "The goal is to rattle him, get him off his prepared script and agenda. If he says something outrageous, stand up and shout out and sit right back down. Look for these opportunities before he even takes questions."

The Hartford [Connecticut] *Courant* reported that MacGuffie had even met with FreedomWorks chief and former Texas Republican Congressman Dick Arney for a strategy session.

A simple exercise in comparison-contrast between the behavior of Tea Party activists during the debate over the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and Donald Trump on the campaign trail tells us everything we need to know about the opposition. When protesters showed up at town hall meetings meant to discuss and explain the implementation of a health care reform policy, they were given wide latitude to disrupt those meetings where they decried Obamacare as socialist tyranny. When protesters show up at Trump rallies they are beaten and ejected and it is just another part of "Making America Great Again."

Please do not leave your vote on the table in November and, no matter who prevails as the Democratic nominee for President of the United States, take this knowledge into the voting booth with you.

Money in Politics

By Jim Walz

*Candidate for US Congress,
Illinois 14th District*

We, in the middle and working classes, are woefully underrepresented in Washington to the point that we are not represented at all. It seems as though only the big, moneyed interests receive any and all of the attention and that does not seem quite fair in my estimation. Far too much power has settled into the hands of a few. Our system of democracy is under attack. The disastrous Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United*, which allows unlimited, undisclosed amounts of money to be funneled to Super PACs for the express purpose of influencing public opinion about an issue or helping determine the outcome of elections, needs to be overturned. The country was founded of, by and for the people; NOT of, by and for the corporations. CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE AND MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH!!!

We need a Constitutional Amendment to directly strike down *Citizens United* and make it clear that the Constitution only permits human beings to vote or contribute to campaigns.

We need more transparency around the funding of elections. We need to prohibit the foreign influence in our federal elections and establish disclosure requirements for contributions. We need to move toward the public funding of elections that would allow for a more level playing field so that all Americans can participate in our democracy. We should do all that we can to encourage people to participate in our democracy by making it as easy as possible to vote, not more difficult.

Winfield Fire Protection District Seeks Needed Public Funds

By Andrew Martin

Winfield Fire Protection Dist., Firefighter/Paramedic

The Winfield Fire Protection District is proposing Resolution 103 on the March 15th primary election ballot. Resolution 103 is a tax referendum that will allow the fire district to place a second ambulance in service at Winfield's fire station two. Station two, which is already in existence, is located at the intersection of Winfield Road and Roosevelt Road (the south side of the railroad tracks). Although some slight remodeling is needed, the district's trustees have set aside funds to complete these renovations. By placing a second ambulance in service at fire station two, which would be staffed 24 hours a day by two firefighter/paramedics, the fire district will be better equipped to cover its thirteen square mile district that extends as far south as Mack Road.

The current operating fire station (fire station one), located at the intersection of High Lake Road and Winfield Road (the north side of the railroad tracks), is responsible for responding to all emergency requests throughout the district. Timely response to these emergency service requests can be a challenge at times, mostly due to the railroad crossing at Winfield Road, which creates a separation between the north and south sides of the fire district. According to the Department of Transportation, the Winfield Road train crossing averages about 108 trains per day, approximately 5 trains per hour, making the potential for delayed emergency response/transport to the hospital a true concern. Due to the division that the railroad crossing creates, average response times may be as much as 8 minutes or more on the south side as compared to approximately 4 minutes on the north side. The Winfield Fire Protection District has also seen a 30% increase in emergency calls over the past five years, making the ambulance at fire station one very busy. In fact, many of the emergency requests (44% in 2015) received for the ambulance at the current fire station

one are located on the south side of the railroad tracks or within other towns that the fire district provides mutual aid to. This leaves the Winfield Fire Protection District residents reliant upon other towns' emergency response teams.

Winfield Fire Protection District's tax levy is the lowest in DuPage County at 0.4092% and will continue to be the lowest, even with the passage of Resolution 103. Resolution 103 would increase the tax levy by a miniscule .1227% per \$100 of assessed value. This raise in the levy would cost the average fire district residence \$0.30 per day to put an additional staffed ambulance into operation at fire station two. A second operating ambulance reduces response and transport times for residents experiencing medical emergencies on both the north and south sides of the railroad tracks. So the true question on March 15th will be: What is your health and safety worth?

Official Ballot Question on March 15th

Resolution 103: "Shall the limiting rate under the Property Extension Limitation Law for the Winfield Fire Protection District, Winfield, Milton, Wayne, Bloomingdale Townships, DuPage County, Illinois, be increased by and additional amount equal to .1227% above the limiting rate for the 2015 levy year and be equal to .5319% of the equalized assessed valuation of the taxable property therein for the 2016 levy year?"

"Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation."

Margaret Chase Smith

(Cont. from p. 1)

General Election and the new President is waiting in the wings to be inaugurated. Not until then.

We have not touched on state issues in this conversation. We are all fully aware of the crises occurring in our own state. How the new Administration wants to turn around Illinois and how it wants to do it - on the backs of the middle and working class. The means? Hold the budget hostage until its Legislative agenda is accomplished.

What to do? Well, we have a General Primary coming up March 15th. For a welcome change, we could try turning out to vote for our strong and dedicated Democratic candidates who share our Democratic values, our ideals and who support our Common Good. From the top to the bottom of the ballot we have a roster of quality Democratic candidates committed to the work of building a more Perfect Union for us all. These candidates have earned and deserve our support.

But most are running unopposed. Not good enough, folks. We have talked before about how important a strong turnout for an individual candidate is in attracting support from many groups who would otherwise automatically assume that the incumbent has it all sewn up. Besides, we do have contested Presidential, Senatorial and Congressional races. That should be enough of an incentive for a committed citizen of our democracy to vote. Stop allowing the few to decide for the many.

We are a robust citizenry who have a

wonderful country, flawed and free, carrying the highest political ideals of humanity, always capable of hope and healing. But we need to vote to beat back the tide of cynicism and radicalism of the Right. Let us exercise our voting muscles and participate in our communal civic responsibility and privilege on March 15. Support our Democratic candidates. Our future and the Common Good of our Society depend on it.

"A blind and ignorant resistance to every effort for the reform of abuses and for the readjustment of society to modern industrial conditions represents not true conservatism, but an incitement to the wildest radicalism."

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908

Kick-In for the Quarter

Show your support for WTDO, your LOCAL Democratic organization and our Democratic candidates. WTDO has regular expenses for meetings, maintaining our website, printing and postage for *The Township Democrat*, campaign materials and other organizational costs. We hold candidate forums, appear in several Township parades (with candy!) and other events to inform the public. We try to reach Democratic voters throughout the Township in many ways, but none of them are free.

Support YOUR Winfield Township Democratic Organization with a donation each quarter. "Kick In for the Quarter" is a regular gift. You choose the amount. Making a regular gift allows the board to budget spending annually.

Return to

Winfield Township Democratic Organization
PO Box 224
Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

Here is my gift to WTDO of \$ _____ for this quarter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send me meeting announcements via email
(or send email to info@winfielddems.org)

WTDO will not sell, exchange or use your email address for anything other than official WTDO mailings

Try Voting, and While You're at It, Try Voting Democratic

By Frank Malley
Committeeman, Pct 015

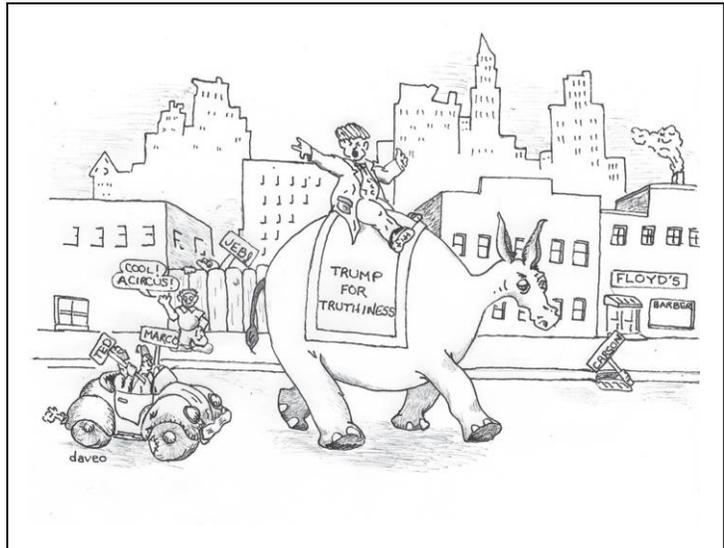
Over any given period of four years, Democrats—who speak grandiloquently about politics—may perhaps mosey out to vote in a November presidential election but are largely nowhere in sight in any of the many other elections in their precincts. Democrats achieve distinction by having only 20% or even as little as 11% of their number bothering to vote in off-year elections, school board elections, municipal elections, even the presidential primary elections.

Democrats have crushes on candidates and repeat catchy slogans. Election after election they fail to act on their love; they fail to put their ideals in the form of a vote. They do nothing to protect the public weal and, indeed, the public coffers by studying the candidates and judiciously selecting people who can properly be entrusted to have the vision and integrity to govern. Our young men and women die defending rights that Democratic constituents squander. The smaller the voter turnout is, the less representative our government is. Some Democrats seem to miss the point that if they aseptically stay in their home libraries, there will still be an election, and someone will take the reins of power.

Then, of course, there are Democrats who take a crafty approach. In the primaries they will request a Republican ballot with the Machiavellian intent of manipulating the Republican contest. Gee, this worked so well in the Illinois 2014 primary. The Illinois Education Association urged its members and progressive voters to take a Republican ballot and vote for Kirk Dillard, the opponent of the dreaded Bruce Rauner. Vote for Kirk Dillard, whose regressive policies are barely distinguishable from Rauner's! So we ended up retaining Pat Quinn? Pat Quinn, whose job-creating, small business nurturing, and unstinting protection of the consumer were buried by tons of

Dave O

By Dave Oliphant



Republican mud. Or perhaps we elected Kirk Dillard, ironically viewed as the lesser of two evils? Well, no, Illinois elected Bruce Rauner, who in his first year as governor has lived down to our expectations. I even know liberal Democrats who attempted to cleverly influence the 2012 Republican presidential primary by requesting Republican ballots—with the same pathetic result we saw in the 2014 Rauner election.

The Illinois Education Association in 2014 said that “no harm” would be done by Democrats taking a Republican ballot to vote in effect against Bruce Rauner. First of all, the massive diverting of Democratic votes left Governor Pat Quinn standing solitary in the public eye, looking as if no one supported him. Secondly, the IEA failed to acknowledge how voting records work in Illinois. If a voter takes a Democratic ballot in a primary election, the state of Illinois classifies him as a Democrat for the next two years. Damningly, too, if a voter takes a Republican ballot, the state lists him officially as a Republican for the next two full years. That person cannot serve as a Democratic election judge or a Democratic precinct committeeman. If that person signs a Democratic candidate's petition to be on the ballot, he opens the candidate's petition to being challenged. There was very real harm in the IEA's crafty strategy.

Just a piece of advice for you: if you value Democratic ideals, then vote. . . and vote Democratic.

Winfield Township Democratic Organization
Post Office Box 224
Warrenville, IL
60555-0224

Return Service Requested

Letter to Democrats

By Ken Christy

President of the Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers

I am retired from the Post Office. I was a Letter Carrier for 33 years. I also have served as the State President of the State Association of Letter Carriers for the last nine years. I am also the Democratic Aurora Township clerk and President of the Aurora Postal Credit Union. So, retired life is full of many different jobs.

Before serving as a local President in Aurora for the Aurora Letter Carriers Union for 25 years, I was a Manager of a very large grocery store. I have experienced a lot of changes in my life.

My former National President of the Letter Carrier Union, Vince Sombrotto, made a statement I will never forget. He said, "We must adapt to change." He further said that the largest animal to inhabit the earth was the dinosaur. One of the smallest was the cockroach. So who is still around? As I have said before, we all have been changed in our lives.

So here are some changes I do not understand:

Go into a store and purchase something. The cashier says, "There you go!" Not "Thank You." They cannot make correct change without looking at the cash register to tell them how much change to return. Plus, they do not know where anything in the store is located. Drivers on the road, for the most part, are not polite – cut you off, flip you off, and you do not know if they have a gun.

We take the nightly news in stride and accept the every-day deaths, by guns, as matter of fact. News stories are not necessarily the truth, as we find out later on page 20 of the newspaper.

Even in our Political scene, the opinions of most Americans do not matter to Politicians. Example: Gun Background Checks. It seems those Politicians and their supporters, who have the most money, and shout the loudest, prevail and make the truth out of a lie.

Also, the best the Republicans can do is a Trump, a Cruz, a Rubio or a Carson...? Unless you want to be like the dinosaur, we must all stand up against the changes that are no good for Americans. HOW DO WE DO THIS? IT IS EASY! If you were attacked, or your family was attacked, you would defend to the death. This Country is not ruled by the Religious Right. This country is ruled by our Constitution. So, I say to all who read this, "GET UP EARLY AND ORGANIZE!" Register to Vote. Work to elect candidates who support us, not the chosen few. If we do not stop these changes, it is possible we will be stuck with the Rauners, the Trumps, the Cruzes and the other radicals who want to destroy our great Country and its middle class that really built this Nation.

SO, LET'S MAKE OUR AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Letters, opinions, jokes
(keep'em clean, folks!)



WTDO

PO Box 224
Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

info@winfielddems.org

