

Benton County Democrats Executive Committee

10/4/2021

Meeting called to order 6:32 pm

Present: Richard Reuther, Carl Baker, Kitty Tominem, Regina Speer, Julie Soderquist, Kurt Conrad, Kendall Miller, Chris Tracy, Sebastian Malachar

Adopt Agenda

Added to agenda under new business- John Christenson has requested access to VoteBuilder. Motion to approve amended agenda, seconded, approved by all.

Secretary's Report / Minutes (Julie)

No report. Motion to approve minutes as presented, seconded, approved by all.

Treasurer's Report & Communications(Durga)

Not present, no report

Question PAC presentation

Charles Wiegand scheduled to make presentation but is not on the call.

Chair (Richard)

There was an outpouring of sympathy regarding Mat Tomaskin at the state committee meeting. Congressional and legislative redistricting maps are out, with some odd results, encourage everyone to take a look. Coming up on some tax town halls to discuss a more fair tax structure - October 6, 13, 20, 27, & Nov 3, with afternoon and evening options for each date.

Elections (Justin)

Ballots should show up very soon. Voters' pamphlets have already arrived and can also be viewed online. TC Herald editorial board is conducting zoom candidate interviews, will publish their recommendations around Oct 13 and will make the video recordings available online. League of Women Voters is recording candidate forums this week, will broadcast the week of Oct 11. Lof WV also sponsors Vote 411 where you can read about races across the country. Several local races have become contentious--particularly concerned about efforts to discredit Chaune Fitzgerald for Richland City Council and Liz Vann-Clark for Richland School Board. Candidates still need financial contributions, social media engagement, letters to the editor, and volunteer canvassing.

1st VC & Organizing (Allison)

Not present, no report

2nd VC (open)

Election notice for this position will be set 10 days prior to next general meeting.

SCM 1 (Regina)

Attended state meeting. Tina Podlowski is asking for testimony on redistricting. Cautioned to

identify yourself as a resident of a city or county, not as a democrat. We passed all resolutions.

SCM 2 (Sabastian)

Also attended state meeting. Giving testimony can be a written letter, which could be very helpful if and when redistricting goes to the state supreme court.

Resolutions (Kitty)S

Received additional useful data for resolutions, working on editing the resolutions down to two pages. Still working on agrivoltaics.

Labor (Jessica)

Not present, no report

Events & Tri City Dems (Carl)

I-1362 (single payer health care) initiative drive has folded but the sponsoring group has remained active and is considering their options . TC Dems next meeting is October 8, via zoom. Climate action protest held on 9/24 was well attended. Women's March on Oct 2 was well attended. DEI group to be included with November TC Dems meeting. Hoping to participate in Veteran's Day parade.

8th LD (Chris)

Next general meeting is in November, probably on the 18th. Bob Ferguson was in town briefly for a press conference and did some fundraising on the side while here. FYI regarding Matt Boehnke--he is a major fundraiser. Last election cycle he gave more than \$52,000 to a Republican legislative group that bankrolls candidates. Have been working on educating unions that any money given to Matt may end up with a group the union does not support. Encourage comments on legislative redistricting maps.

16 LD

Not present, no report

Franklin County

Not present, no report. Franklin County is experiencing issues over commissioner redistricting.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

To implement diversity and inclusion, get ideas from school librarians and purchase books on diversity for high schools. Coretta Scott King awards may provide good examples. Richard will research with school librarians. Be ready to suggest the idea and a dollar amount at the October general meeting.

Purchase zoom account for the organization or continue to borrow members' personal zoom accounts. Cost to purchase would be \$120-\$150 for the year. Kendall will confirm whether this is a budget item.

John Christenson asked for list of likely democrats from BFD#1. The state would like us to be cautious about disseminating this information. These types of requests must go through the state party.

Good of the Order

Need letters to the editor for campaigns and letters to the redistricting committee.

Motion to adjourn 7:41 pm, seconded, approved by all