



Perry County Democratic Newsletter

The Force

Volume 2, Issue 1: January 2006



Women's Democrat Association of Perry County www.perrycountymocrats.com email: womdem@excite.com

Women's Democrat Association

President - Kimberley Collins
Vice-President - Barbara Ewing
Treasurer - Christal Moskos
Secretary - Arvina Bozarth
 Candy Boerste, Debbie Elder, Martha Graves, Norma Jean Rogier, Dianne Rudolph
Hon. Board Member - Louise Bruce
Webmaster - Brandi Hess

Democrat Central Committee

Chair - Mary Kay Elder. **Vice-Chair** - Terry Lock, **Treasurer** - JoAnn Smith
Secretary - Don Sherry

Cannelton Democrat Board Members

Christal Moskos (President), Ed Bozarth, Arvina Bozarth

Perry County Young Democrats

Chris Coyle (President), Dr. Thomas Bailey, Emma Bailey, Adam Goffinet, Brandi Hess

Democrat Elected Officials

County

Assessor - Mendy Ward
Auditor - Debbie Elder
Clerk - Debbie Weatherholt
Commissioners - Terry Lock (President), Jody Fortwendel & Don Sherry
Coroner - Darrel Riley
Council - Pete Franzman (President), Alan Cassidy, Ryan Daum, Merle Doogs, Steve Goodson, Pat Reed
Judge - James McEntarfer
Prosecutor - Robert (Bob) Collins
Recorder - Jane James
Sheriff - Robert (Bob) Glenn
Treasurer - Martha Wooldridge
Troy Township Assessor - Brenda Powers
Township Trustees - Rebecca Hagedorn, Roger Hagman, Betty Labhart, Jeffrey Paulin, JoAnn Smith

Tell City

Council - Gerald Yackle (President), Rick Greulich, Shirley Little, Dianne Rudolph
Clerk-Treasurer - Barbara Ewing

Cannelton

Council - Bruce Myers (President), Dale Duke & Louis Scarboro

Troy

Clerk-Treasurer - Vicki Tuggle
Council - Michael Parker (President), Chester Mathena, Ed Sweeney, Darrel VanWinkle

State of Indiana

Representatives - Dennie Oxley, Russ Stilwell
Senator - Richard Young

Federal

Senator - Evan Bayh

To Recap....

Barbara Ewing of **The Women's Democrat Association of Perry County** hosted the October 20th, 2005 meeting with State Rep. Russ Stilwell, County Clerk Debra Weatherholt, and Vice-Chair, Democrat Central Committee Terry Lock as guest panel speakers. The focus was on effective campaigning and the new election laws that took effect this year. Feedback was excellent as evidenced by the surveys that were passed out at the meeting. Thank you Russ, Debbie and Terry!

A big welcome to new members **Beth Bruggeman, Doris Davis, Opal Dixon, Ramona Elder, Pam Goffinet, Kay Linne, Vickie Schaefer and Sue Rogier**. Our association is currently at 82 members! We would like many more women democrats to join - the cost is only \$10 per year - free for seniors over 65 years of age. For additional details, please contact any board member or email us at womdem@excite.com or check our website www.perrycountymocrats.com.

New officers are in place for year 2006 with Kimberley Collins as President, Barbara Ewing as Vice-President and Christal Moskos and Arvina Bozarth continuing as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Board members extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to outgoing president and co-founder Lucy Goffinet for her dedication and the great work that she carried out for the association over the past year.

The **Perry County Young Democrats** coordinated the Holiday Parades that took place in Tell City, Cannelton and Leopold. Thank you to all of the elected officials that participated - pictures are posted on our website.

The **Democrat Central Committee** hosted the annual Democrat Christmas Party at the Knights of Columbus on December 10th. Along with a great local turnout, democrats from Spencer County and Rep. Russ Stilwell and his wife Joanne, Rep. Dennie Oxley and his family, and Senator Richard Young also attended. It was great to see everyone - lots of pictures are posted on our website.

Year 2006 promises to be an eventful year in that all of the County, House of Representative and Congress seats and half of the State Senate seats are up for re-election. In addition, Precinct Chair Committeepersons must register for the primary. These elections are extremely important. For example, Republicans in the Senate are just one-seat away from having a super majority, which would allow them to conduct business whether Democrats are in the chamber or not. Good luck to everyone and see you at the polls!

School Board Election - Cannelton

168 out of 250 voters elected to adopt the Cannelton Democrats' petition, which called for a five-man, elected school board in Cannelton. A total of four plans were presented to the Cannelton voters with Plan number 4 receiving 55 votes, the second highest number. Congratulations to all of the democrats in Cannelton that worked so hard to effect this change.





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Precinct Committee Chairs & Vices

Cannelton 1 - Arvina Bozarth, John Yaggi
Cannelton 2 - Pat Reed, Morris Graves
Tell City 1 - Bill & Dolores Goffinet
Tell City 2 - Kenny Elder, Jayne Glenn
Tell City 3 - Albert Faulkner, Kathy Tsantis
Tell City 4 - John Little, Jenny Brunner
Tell City 5 - Jeremy Yackle, Shelly Sherry
Tell City 6 - Steve Austin
Tell City 7 - Mary Kay Elder
Tell City 8 - Shirley Little, Jennifer Little
Troy Township 1 Tom Hagedorn, Cathy Hagedorn
Troy Township 2 - Marshall Terry, Cindy Feedback
Troy - Michael Parker
Anderson - Hubert Hagedorn, Dorothy Lagrange
Clark 1 - Bill & Phyllis Crocket
Clark 2 - Hilbert Denu
Oil - Robert Flamion & Janie Flamion
Leopold - Curtis & Sue Rogier
Tobin - Pam & Terry Lock
Derby - Noah Steve Howell & Pat Howell
Rono - Charlie Goffinet

A big welcome to new Chair and Vice **Tom & Cathy Hagedorn**, Troy Township 1 and new Vice **Jennifer Little**, Tell City 8! More volunteers are needed. If interested, contact Chair Mary Kay Elder 547-2557

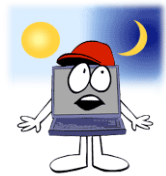


Calendar of Events

Friday, February 17th - deadline to sign-up for primary elections
Monday, April 3rd - Voter registration ends
Monday, April 24th - deadline for Circuit Court Clerk to receive mailed or faxed absentee ballot applications from voter who requests to vote by mail.
Tuesday, May 2nd - Primary Election Day
Monday, June 19th - annual Perry County Democrat Golf Tournament

Perry County Democrat Website

Webmaster Brandi Hess, reports that we are getting an average of about 7 hits a day to our new website. Since initiating this endeavor, more updates and photos have been added. For example, State Senator Richard Young wrote a superb 'Letter to The Editor' that was published in the Perry County News this month. It listed the top 10 New Year's resolutions that Gov. Mitch Daniels should carry out. It's a must read article that we've made available on our website. We will continue to update, so please check back frequently.



NOTE: If you have an electronic photo of yourself that you would like to add to your profile on our website, please email it to brandihess@gmail.com or womdem@excite.com.

2006 Elections - by Dan Parker, Indiana State Chair

(State Chair Dan Parker has been actively involved in the Indiana Democratic Party since 1992. Dan helped the Indiana House Democrats win 11 new seats and re-capture a majority in the legislature when he served Speaker John Gregg as Caucus Director in both the 1996 and 1998 elections. In 1999, Dan coordinated Mayor Bart Peterson's ground campaign and the elections of Indianapolis City-County Councilors. Dan also served as Senator Evan Bayh's State Director for three years from 2000 - 2003. Prior to being elected Chair in November 2004, Dan was the Party Executive Director.)

>>>As election years go, I can promise you that this is going to be an exciting one for Democrats in Perry County and across Indiana.

Despite his lofty promises and "average Joe" demeanor on the campaign trail, Gov. Mitch Daniels has proven in his first year that he is completely out of touch with average Hoosiers.

The state lost thousands of jobs last year, and the jobs that remain here are decreasing in quality. Meanwhile, the Governor is focused on selling off our state assets at breakneck speed. And don't even get me started on the time zone debacle, which pitted counties against one another yet did little to simplify the confusion surrounding the issue.

But Daniels hasn't acted alone in pushing his agenda. He's had the help of the Republican-controlled Indiana House and Senate. Time and again over the past year, lawmakers have rubber-stamped the Governor's proposals even when they'd promised voters they wouldn't.

Fortunately, we live under a political system that allows for checks and balances. This November, Hoosiers across the state will get their chance to check and balance the power at the Statehouse. They'll have the opportunity to tell those rubber-stamp legislators that they should think more about their constituents back home than about the Governor's wrong-track ideas.

I have a great deal of faith in the candidates we've recruited to run against incumbent lawmakers, and I want you to know that we are working hard to field legislative candidates in every district.



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Photo ID Required To Vote

If you are voting in person at the polls, or voting an absentee ballot in the county clerk's office, you will be asked to present proof of identification before voting. This ID must: (1) show your photograph; (2) include your name, which must conform to your name on your voter registration record; (3) have an expiration date after November 2, 2004; and (4) be issued by the U.S. government or the State of Indiana. You may obtain a free photo ID from the BMV if you do not have an Indiana driver's license. Mailed absentee ballots do not require a photo id.

Baron Hill



Is looking for people to host "house parties" later on in this quarter. Basically, a bunch of people meets at someone's house and Baron does a conference call to all of the parties across the district. If interested in hosting one, please email: info@bringbackbaron.com

*"For success you plan your work & work your plan."
 "It doesn't take a lot to get something done – just a dedicated few".*
Smokey and Martha Graves –Jan. 18th Special Cannelton School Board Election

Did you know...

Health insurance coverage of Hoosier children has declined from 80% in 1999 to 69% in 2004? In 2004, 700,000 or 11.6% of Indiana's population lived in poverty?

Our top priority in 2006 is to win back control of the Indiana House, and we're going to do our best to pick up seats in the Indiana Senate with the eventual goal of winning back control of that chamber.

We also are working hard to complete our statewide ticket by finding qualified, impressive candidates for Secretary of State, Treasurer and Auditor.

But none of this would be possible without you. Politics, as they say, is almost entirely local, and we rely heavily on our grassroots network to get the word out about important issues and to promote our candidates.

Accordingly, we will be looking in 2006 to have more contact than ever before with county chairs and local activists who want to know what we're doing. We will be distributing daily news updates, talking points on major issues, sample letters to the editor, press releases and other message-related tools.

If you'd like to become part of our statewide communications network, or if you have suggestions for how we can make local efforts easier, please contact IDP Communications Director Jennifer Wagner via e-mail at jwagner@indems.org.

As always, I am indebted to you and to all Hoosier Democrats for believing in our vision for a stronger, better Indiana. We're going to work hard this year, and I believe we'll come up victorious in November.

Dan

Upcoming legislation – Dennie Oxley

Lawmakers have returned to the Statehouse the 2006 10-week session of the Indiana General Assembly to confront a number of major issues. The chief concern will be property taxes. The state budget approved by the majorities in the House and Senate and signed into law by the governor last year contained large **property tax increases** and cuts in funding for public schools. Now members of the majority have seen the error of their ways, and want to reduce property taxes for families and business owners.

House Democrats want to use some of the \$255 million collected from the recent tax amnesty to cut property taxes. The governor wants to use that amnesty money to build up the state's budget surplus. I think it seems fair to use some of it to help well-deserving Hoosiers who have paid their taxes on time, but have seen their property taxes go up.

The Daniels Administration has made no secret about its desire to sell some programs and operations – such as the Indiana Toll Road, state hospitals and parks – to private companies, many from outside Indiana and the U.S. It also wants to build the Interstate 69 extension from Indianapolis to Evansville as a public-private partnership, with that road also being paid for by tolls.

The merits of **privatization** remain to be discussed on the floors of the Indiana House and Senate, and I will refrain from offering my support until I am educated about the safeguards that the administration intends to have to protect Hoosiers from fee and toll increases for these services. There are legitimate concerns that privatization will result in lost jobs and state tax dollars leaving Indiana.(Contact Dennie at 1-800-382-9842 or www.IN.gov/H73).



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Mitch Daniels is among the 10 least popular governors in the country, according to the survey.



New data from SurveyUSA show that Gov. Mitch Daniels continues to be unpopular among Hoosiers. The survey, conducted Dec. 9-11, revealed that Daniels' approval rating dropped two points to 42 percent; his disapproval rating held steady at 51 percent.

Indiana led the nation in job loss in November '05 with a decrease of 2,800 jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS previously reported that Indiana lost 12,000 jobs in October.

The Facts:

- In his first full day as Governor, Daniels ending collective bargaining for state employees
- Republicans rejected a one-year tax increase on higher-income Hoosiers in order to balance the budget.
- He pushed through daylight saving time and sparked a statewide debate that hasn't ended yet.
- He stood by Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commissioner who closed 27 license branches, drawing the wrath of lawmakers and motorists.
- Daniels is pushing hard for leasing the Indiana Toll Road possibly to a foreign company.
- Widely expected to call for the elimination of some political fields such as township assessors.

Why I Am A Democrat

On January 20th, 2006 I became a citizen of the United States. It's been a long process with much paperwork and numerous visits to the immigration office in Indianapolis. As many of you are probably aware, I married Bob Collins in September 1999 in Buffalo, New York. Prior to moving here, I lived in Montreal, Canada but was born in New Brunswick, Eastern Canada. My son, Derrick remains in Montreal and comes here for visits once or twice a year. The rest of my family, Mom and Dad and four sisters, reside in New Brunswick.

It was with great pride that I took this Oath of Allegiance for I love Perry County and even more, I can now vote. I look so forward to pulling that democratic ballot on May 2nd, 2006 and having the privilege of personally doing my part to ensure that our best democrats, who I know will make decisions that are progressive and right for Perry County and the State of Indiana, get elected.

My husband is an elected democratic official but my reasons for being a democrat go much deeper than my marital status. One of my earliest questions after settling in Tell City was, what is the difference between a Democrat and a Republican. Over a period of time and after much research I've concluded the following:

- ✓ Republicans are more for big business and the upper class; democrats are more for the average working family in America.
- ✓ Republicans give song and dance to Christianity only in the name of politics. After the election is over, you don't hear much about this issue any more.
- ✓ Democrats believe in looking out for each other while the Republicans believe every man for itself.
- ✓ Republicans want to remove a woman's right to choose. As the old saying goes - 'walk a mile in my shoes and then some'.
- ✓ Democrats tend to be more concerned about environmental issues; Republicans just don't seem to care too much as evidenced by their desire to drill for oil in traditional safe haven wildlife national parks such as those in Alaska.
- ✓ Democrats generally believe in more balanced budgets while notably acknowledging and addressing the impact on lower and middle class Americans - Republicans are more concerned about any negative impacts on the upper class and subsequent declining contributions to their own campaigns. (Democrats are the only party to have balanced the budget in America in the last thirty-eight years).
- ✓ Republicans tend to favor a go it alone policy while the Democrats believe in working with others to achieve what is best for America.
- ✓ And finally, I like the Democratic agenda that focuses on and emphasizes the importance of security of our nation, strong economic growth, affordable health care for all Americans, retirement security, honest government, and civil rights.

Kimberley A. Collins



'The Force' is a quarterly publication of the Women's Democrat Association of Perry County that is edited by President Kimberley Collins. Send us your comments, ideas and concerns to womdem@excite.com. Website: perrycountymocrats.com.