

# The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 4, No. 2

[www.winfielddems.org](http://www.winfielddems.org)

Autumn 2010

## Conversations With The Township Chair

By Susan M. Lubonovich

*WTDO Chair and Committeeman, Pct. 014*

I welcome all of you to this, our ninth issue of The Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. I will be brief because, once again, we are fortunate to have an issue overflowing with interesting and thought provoking articles written for you by fellow Democrats. Some of our writers are candidates who are offering you their vision and goals for our community and society.

The mission of The Township Democrat is to bring all of these diverse Democratic voices to you for your consideration in one local publication. We strive to be your local Quarterly, exploring issues, concerns and presenting to you our Democratic candidates who are asking for your support. Your support is needed and appreciated on so many fronts: canvassing, phone banking, talking with your friends and family, financial donations and most importantly, by actually voting on November 2nd. Early Voting is from October 11th through October 28th.

Please check our Website, [www.winfielddems.org](http://www.winfielddems.org) and click on "Candidates." There you will find every one of our Democratic candidates' websites at your fingertips. Learn about your Democratic candidates and then roll up your sleeves and let's go to work.

The journalist A.J. Liebling famously said, "The free press is guaranteed only to those who own one". You, our readers, own The Township Democrat. Please "Kick in for the Quarter" (see p. 4) and help us continue publishing The Township Democrat, your quarterly Democratic voice. Thank you.

## CALENDAR

**OCT. 11 – OCT. 28**

EARLY VOTING

INFO: 630-407-5600

**WED., OCT. 20, 7:00PM**

WTDO MONTHLY MEETING

WINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

0S291 WINFIELD ROAD

WINFIELD

GUEST SPEAKER: BOB SAAR,

EXEC. DIR. DUPAGE ELECTION

COMMISSION

**TUESDAY, NOV. 2**

ELECTION DAY

INFO: 630-407-5600

**WED., NOV. 17, 7:00PM**

WTDO MONTHLY MEETING

WINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

27W530 HIGH LAKE ROAD

WINFIELD

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG](http://WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG)

OR CALL:  
**630-771-5551**

Opinions expressed within  
are not necessarily those of the  
Winfield Township  
Democratic Organization

### **US Senate**

Alexi Giannoulis

### **US House of Representatives**

District 14: Bill Foster

District 13: Scott Harper

District 06: Ben Lowe

### **Governor of the State of Illinois**

Pat Quinn

### **Lieutenant Governor**

Sheila Simon

### **Secretary of State**

Jesse White

### **Attorney General**

Lisa Madigan

### **State Treasurer**

Robin Kelly

### **Comptroller**

David Miller

### **State Representative of Illinois**

District 95: Maria Owens

### **DuPage County Board**

Chair: Carole Cheney

District 6: Dave Barry

### **Forest Preserve District of**

### **DuPage County**

President: Dennis Clark

District 6: Shannon Burns

## Moving Our Economy Forward

By Bill Foster

United States Congressman, IL-14

Having lived and worked in the Fox Valley for the past 22 years, it has been an honor and privilege to represent you. We are less than 40 days out from the election and I need your help to make sure the change we have worked for will not be reversed by reactionaries like my opponent.

I guess it is fair to say that I am not a typical politician. I am a scientist and a businessman. When I was 19, my little brother and I started a manufacturing company in our basement that now provides hundreds of manufacturing jobs – with good pay and good benefits – right here in the Midwest.

We do sheet metal, painting, electronic assembly, computer hardware and software, and customer support – and we sell our products all over the world. And for years, we have kept those manufacturing jobs in the Midwest – and that is something I am very proud of.

Due to the misguided policies of the last administration, our economy has lost 8 million jobs and American families have lost more than 17 trillion dollars of net worth—the largest destruction of wealth in human history. Two years ago, the economy was in a free-fall and we were heading towards a Depression. But we stopped it, and now I am focused on creating more jobs and moving our economy forward.

As a businessman, I know that we cannot tax our way out of a recession which is why I am opposed to raising taxes on middle-class families and more importantly, why I voted to cut taxes for more than 284,000 families in our area. As a result, according to USA Today, income tax rates today are the lowest they have been at any time in the last 60 years. I also supported a thirty billion dollar tax break for small businesses so



they can start hiring again. I campaigned on a platform of lowering taxes for the middle class, and I have delivered.

These are tough times and everyone is doing more with less. That is why I voted to cap all non-essential spending, supported cutting my own salary by 5% and have donated my past pay raises to a local charity

Lower taxes for the middle class, responsible government spending and job creation. These are the priorities we share and I need your help to make sure these values are represented in Congress.

Elections are not won alone, that is why I need your help today and for the next six weeks. A one-on-one conversation is ten times more effective than a single piece of mail, so if you have not already done so, I need you to sign-up to volunteer to help make calls and knock on doors leading up to Election Day. And if you cannot make it to the polls on Election Day, you can always vote early during October 11th through October 28th. More information is on our website: [www.billfoster.com](http://www.billfoster.com).

I am proud to go to work for you every day and I respectfully ask for your continued support. So, please let us join together, work together and win together on November 2nd. Thank you for all that you are doing!

For more information, please visit:  
[www.billfoster.com](http://www.billfoster.com)

## My Vote is Not for Sale (And Neither Should Yours Be This November)

By Ben Lowe  
Candidate for Congress, IL-06

Political experts estimate that the Congressional seat for which I am running – IL-06 – costs \$2-3 million to win.

In such times as these, what justification is there for spending that much money to win office? Wouldn't our District be better served if I donated that sum to programs to help the unemployed, the uninsured and the poor? Aren't these the very sorts of people whom I am supposed to be running to help?

Quite apart from the obscenity of spending so much money to win office, this raises a crucial question: Why would anyone pay \$3 million to win election?

The obvious explanation is that the \$3 million does not come from a congressional candidate's personal savings, but from supporters, and especially from PACs and corporations. And in a decision guaranteed to raise the stakes even higher, the Supreme Court recently struck down existing limits on the campaign donations made by corporations. What the heck? Is our government really for sale to the highest bidder? Because if it is, then we ordinary citizens will always lose to the wealthy corporations and their lobbies.

That leads to a second question. Why are corporations and PACs so eager to finance political campaigns? Because they want to advance the cause of democratic government? God help us if we are stupid enough to fall for that.

A recent article in Time magazine may shed some light on this mystery. It turns out that the diabetes drug Avandia increases your chance of having a heart attack by 43%! One whistleblower estimates that 47,000 more diabetes patients suffered heart failure, stroke or death from taking Avandia over other medications.

Moreover, the drug's manufacturer knew about this risk and actively hid the evidence from FDA regulators. Scientists and policymakers report that such deceptions are "disturbingly common" in the pharmaceutical industry. The regulatory system is broken, reports Time magazine.

So why would a pharmaceutical company gamble with your life? Might it have something to do with the \$3 billion per year they make from selling the drug? So, what does all this have to do with political campaign contributions?

You may be interested to discover that the pharmaceutical industry is one of the top ten contributors to political campaigns, giving \$10 million so far in the 2010 election cycle.

Do you think it a coincidence that the corporations, which make huge sums gambling with your life, are among the biggest contributors to the politicians who write our country's laws? What do you suppose they are hoping to buy with their generosity?

Go to OpenSecrets.org. The website lists the industries contributing to every candidate, including me and incumbent Peter Roskam, my competitor in the Illinois 6th Congressional District. Then consider who you want writing your laws moving forward: a candidate who depends on millions of dollars in contributions from corporations and industries, or a candidate – such as myself – who refuses contributions from the corporations and industries that we are supposed to be regulating.

AIM HIGH VOTE LOWE!

*For more information, please visit:*  
[www.loweforcongress.com](http://www.loweforcongress.com)

"I propose a ban on all contributions by corporations to any political committee or for any political purpose."

Theodore Roosevelt (1905)

## Repairing Springfield

By Maria Owens

Candidate for State Representative, District 95

Our State is in a dismal financial mess.

I am not an economist by trade and I had a sharp learning curve to get up to speed on the economic issues facing our State. However, I believe it incumbent upon our legislators to know the issues and also to go to the "experts" to get information and advice on solving our State's problems.

Springfield is broken. I think we can all agree with this premise. What can we do to fix it? We need to start by cutting the waste. We need a complete audit of all contracts and every agency must account for every dollar spent. This cutting of waste must be coupled with an additional revenue stream to get us out of this mess. Many experts agree that Illinois' problems cannot be fixed without a combination of the elimination of wasteful spending, cuts and new revenues.

Illinois is notorious for waste and political patronage. The elimination of both must be a top priority. We have multi-million dollar prisons that sit virtually empty for decades. We are the State with the most government agencies. Some of these agencies serve no other purpose than to provide jobs for cronies. We need to close the tax loopholes that allow individuals to "beat the system." Like many of you, I am tired of picking up the burden that this puts on the rest of us. When the wealthy do not pay their fair share, the rest of us pay it. Illinois citizens are tired of paying a "corruption tax." Cutting waste and corruption is the first step to becoming more efficient, fair and frugal.

However, cutting waste will not get us out of the hole we are in. It is going to take more revenue. I have

struggled long and hard with how to do this, with the least amount of impact on the poorest among us. Some people believe we need to increase the state income tax. However, if we are going to do this, we need to insure that it is not an unfair burden on lower and middle income working people, and that includes homeowners. We can do this by increasing the residential property tax credit (that will alleviate some of the education burden on homeowners) and the earned income tax credit, along with a tax credit for working families. Currently, the tax rate for our poorest taxpayers is double the rate of our wealthiest taxpayers. (Center for Tax & Budget Accountability) This is not fair.

We need to look at a speculation tax for all derivatives and other speculative loans and trades originating in Illinois-based financial exchanges, charged at the clearinghouse level. Experts have estimated that has the potential to bring in billions of dollars yearly to create jobs and reduce the deficit. New York implemented this with great success.

Springfield is broken, there is no doubt about it. I cannot fix this myself, but I also know that doing nothing is not an option. Our legislators need to work together with input from EVERYONE. We need to hear from the largest corporations, the factory workers and everyone in between. We did not get into this mess overnight and we will not get out overnight. We have had decades of poor leadership and band-aid fixes. To fix this, it is going to take a lot of people willing to roll up their sleeves and work for what is best for the people of Illinois.

For more information, please visit:  
[owensforillinois.com](http://owensforillinois.com)

## Kick In for the Quarter

Show your support for WTDO, your LOCAL Democratic organization and Democratic candidates. WTDO has regular expenses for meetings, website cost, publication and postage for The Township Democrat and meeting notices, campaign material and other publicity. We hold candidate forums, appear in several township parades 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's 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@winfelddems.org](mailto:info@winfelddems.org))

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

## Tightening The County Belt

By Carole Cheney  
*Candidate for DuPage County Chair*

The responsibility of a public servant is to provide the highest possible level of service for the lowest possible cost. Unfortunately, career politicians -- like my opponent -- do not have a record of keeping costs down. I pay taxes in DuPage County, just like each and every one of you. And just like you, I want to make sure every dime is spent efficiently, that our government is accountable and that County government takes responsibility for how our tax dollars are spent.

For nearly two decades, I have been a partner at one of the largest law firms in the world. I have represented small businesses, Fortune 50 companies and virtually everything in between. My corporate experience has taught me something that government and elected officials are not particularly well known for: the need to stay within a budget and respect the bottom line. At my law firm, I serve my clients' needs while staying within a budget. That is exactly what we need to do with DuPage County government -- serve the needs of County residents, while staying within a streamlined budget.

Fiscal responsibility begins at home. That is why I will leave my partnership at the law firm and dedicate myself full time to serving the taxpayers of DuPage County when elected DuPage County Board Chair. My opponent, in contrast, has stated that -- despite an approximately \$130,000 salary, along with a pension -- he will be a part-time Chair and will continue with his private law practice.

On a broader level, DuPage County has previously balanced its budget by raiding the coffers of other governmental bodies -- such as \$75 million from the Water Commission, through legislation sponsored by my opponent. The County has balanced its budget with new taxes -- such as the RTA tax, which my opponent supported. This is not fiscal responsibility. I will demand a zero-based budgeting system and will not tolerate budgeting that simply tailors last year's budget

for a new fiscal year. Fiscal accountability means more than cost-cutting goals; it also means establishing performance goals. Under my administration, all departments will be required to set not only specific cost-cutting goals, but also specific service-providing goals as well.

Many other cost-savings opportunities exist. For example, more than 60 county positions have been vacant for more than six months. I would eliminate these positions. A position that has been vacant for this long is unnecessary. Further, the County Board recently passed an initiative I supported -- upgrading the County's technology system. The County currently operates on a main frame. I recently met with the County Auditor, who agrees that technological upgrades are necessary and will result in significant cost savings. These cost savings include the eventual elimination of 18 positions, the increased productivity from automated rather than manual entry, reduction of serious and costly errors from manual entries -- and an annual savings of \$700,000 to \$800,000.

DuPage residents are tightening their belts at home, making sure that every dollar spent is spent wisely. I pledge to make sure that DuPage County government does the same.

*For more information please visit:*  
[www.electcarolecheney.com](http://www.electcarolecheney.com)

"Never ascribe to malice that which can adequately be explained by incompetence."

Napoleon

## Efficiency & Fairness

By Dave Barry

*Candidate for County Board Member, District 6*

I am Dave Barry and I am a candidate for the DuPage County Board, District 6. It is large area with a diverse group of men and women who face varied challenges in their attempt to make our County a better place to live. District 6 not only takes in Winfield and West Chicago, but also, all or parts of Bartlett, Carol Stream, Bloomingdale, Wayne, Hanover Park, St. Charles, Wheaton, Warrenville, Glendale Heights, Roselle, Naperville, and Aurora.

It is a regular practice of mine to attend the County Board meetings to learn my neighbors' stories and to watch the County Board conduct its business. As a result of these sessions, I want to implement the following changes as a member of the County Board:

- Institute the use of performance audits throughout county government. We need to know that the County is using the best possible practices when it spends our money.
- Restrict the use of no-bid contracts for professional services. Too many of the same people are receiving these contracts over and over again.
- Make sure District 6 receives its fair share of County resources to solve our stormwater flooding problems.

I recognize that there are many important matters that come before the Board, but these issues will be the central points of my term in

office. I made this decision after listening to many complaints that the Republican-controlled County Board acted in a heavy handed and secretive manner when it tried to ram through a proposal for land development in favor of a Fortune 500 company and against a group of homeowners who were afraid of industrial pollutants. This same County Board was the focus of complaints that it did not properly oversee the Water Commission, so the Commission misused over \$100 million of our money without any permission. On the issue of stormwater flooding, many homeowners complained that the County's policies were the direct causation of regular flooding on their property and that the current policies were not solving the problem.

As an attorney since 1992, I have represented ordinary people when they face the many legal situations that arise in our society. I have listened to my clients' problems, analyzed the facts and the law and then worked out a solution within the legal system to best suit their needs. My ability to forge solutions will be paramount as I work to make things right for District 6 taxpayers.

I look forward to working with all Board members to make the County Board accountable to the citizens. I ask you to vote for me on November 2nd, 2010 along with all the other great Democratic candidates on the ballot.

You may contact me at  
**electdavebarry@gmail.com**,  
P.O. Box 8058, Bartlett, IL 60103, or  
630-229-5422 with ideas, questions, and support.

**"Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you will be criticized anyway. You will be damned if you do, and damned if you do not."**

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

## Why I Run

By Dennis P. Clark  
*Candidate for President of the  
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County*

Many people ask me everyday: Why are you running for an elected office and what would you change?

My concern for the forest preserves runs deep. I spend a considerable amount of volunteer time supporting this belief by working at the Forest Preserve, Morton Arboretum and with The Conservation Foundation. This fall, I will have completed all of the rigorous requirements to earn the designation of Certified Woodland Steward from the Morton Arboretum. This training has given me even greater insight into woodland management, invasive species control, wetland restoration and development and prescribed burn techniques. No one on the current Board has these skills and I believe they are necessary to provide effective and efficient management of this organization.

Once elected, there are three initiatives I plan to accomplish:

### 1. **Honest and Fiscally Astute**

**Government.** Although environmental issues are a major concern, fiscally astute government is the number one issue. After digging through the Forest Preserve's operational files, reviewing their audited financial statements, obtaining data from Freedom of Information requests and attending the weekly Board Call and Planning meetings for over a year, it is obvious the Citizens of DuPage County deserve better management of their Forest Preserves. The routine use of no-bid contracts, the blind approval of change orders and the campaign contributions received from a majority of the vendors clearly speak of a Board that does not understand fiscal stewardship.

**2. The Environment.** The Forest Preserve is in a transition mode from buying land to management of existing holdings. This takes a different set of skills. Forest Preserve Board members, especially the Board President, should have an understanding of the objectives, techniques used and maintenance requirements needed to provide guidance and fiscal decisions for the District. The knowledge required about the various needs of forest, woodlands, savanna, prairies and wetlands and the living communities of wildlife that inhabit each of these different areas are very diverse. An appreciation of the geology of the area and its role

in the successful development of each of these areas is crucial. Understanding watershed management is essential in order to have a significant impact on the quality of water entering our rivers, streams and wetland areas. Clean water is pivotal to having a vibrant and sustainable environment. The Forest Preserve Board should work closely with organizations throughout the County to develop logical procedures that would enhance our land use and water quality. Wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world and should be at the very core of the forest preserve restoration plans. These areas act like a sponge for pollutants, sediments, organic waste and inorganic nutrients. The creation of additional wetlands could have an immediate impact on the quality of water, biodiversity and flood relief within the County.

Many areas of our current forest preserves are not receiving adequate attention. Management of the 26,000 acres is a constant task, because if problems persist too long, they can overcome the staff as they quickly multiply throughout the land holdings. Emphasis on the Board's obligation for hands-on stewardship must be a top priority.

### 3. **Transparency with the Tax-Paying Public and Efficiency of the Organization.**

The Forest Preserve is substantially supported with property taxes and, therefore, has a significant accountability to the public. Issues such as leaking landfills, the proposed Blackwell fleet service building, the proposed Woodland Hawk trail, the closing of Mallard Lake forest preserve and dog park, the Salt Creek watershed home purchase program and the secrecy surrounding a recent land sale ... have all left the public wondering if anyone at the Forest Preserve is listening to their concerns. The public deserves much more! Under my leadership, all projects will be planned and executed only after proper due diligence has been conducted and full disclosure has been made to the public. An integrated public record system, with agendas, minutes and audio/video recordings, all archived, cross linked and searchable by keywords, based on open data standards and digital documents, will be introduced. This change to electronic media storage will improve transparency for the public as well as increase the efficiency of the Board and staff. The posting of all RFP's, contracts, change orders with justification and account records will all become the standard.

*For more information, please visit:*  
**[www.electdennisclark.com](http://www.electdennisclark.com)**

## Reclaiming The Mission

By Shannon Burns

*Candidate for Forest Preserve Board, District 6*

Beyond enjoying it, most of us do not think about the wonderful bounty of Forest Preserve land that we have in DuPage County. Twelve percent of DuPage County is protected Forest Preserve land. And 50% of this space is located in District 6!

In fact, the Forest Preserve District – and the Forest Preserve Board – play a large part in County Government. But, in part because people do not realize that the District is an integral part of the County system, there are problems with the District and the Board that could have a far-reaching, negative impact on the open space that we enjoy today.

I have been attending Forest Preserve Board meetings for over 18 months. As a result, I can summarize District 6 issues into four main problem areas: Mission, Accountability, Money and Ethics.

Under the current Board's leadership, the District has lost site of its Mission. Evidence of this is obvious: Planning to build a Maintenance Garage within 200 feet of the McKee Marsh is just one example. Under the current Board's leadership, the District has not been accountable to the public: Taking up to one year to approve meeting minutes does not speak to open government. No-bid contracts of up to \$350,000 are not good business practices. Failure to discuss a responsible bidder ordinance, after months of promising to pass such an ordinance, does not foster public trust.

It is obvious that the Forest Preserve District spends too much money. More property tax dollars go to the Forest Preserve than to the County Board! No-bid contracts total hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. The current Board says that the District is fiscally sound, with a AAA bond rating. This is true. But at what cost? Fiscal solvency based on increasing property taxes in four of the last eight years is not genuine fiscal stewardship.

In spite of a 1992 Ordinance that requires the Board to have an ethics review mechanism in

place, there has never been an ethics committee and criteria for ethical decisions do not exist. Such a review committee might have said no to the automatic three percent annual pay increases for the current Board.

These reasons alone are enough to argue for a change in leadership at the Forest Preserve Board. But there is another compelling reason to vote for me as Forest Preserve Board Commissioner in District 6: DEMOCRACY. America differs from dictatorships because our Country is founded on choice. When there is no choice – as there has not been in over 20 years for the position of Forest Preserve Commissioner in District 6 – there is no genuine Democracy.

Change is not easy - but most people understand that change is necessary and good. When I talk to voters – from both parties - they agree. In fact, while canvassing recently, I ran into a Republican precinct committeeman who was also canvassing. Even he agrees! He told me that “single party politics are never good and that the Forest Preserve needs a fresh approach”.

My opponent is a 20-year veteran on the Forest Preserve Board; he should be appreciated for his service. Now, it is time to move forward and I am ready for the job: In addition to attending Board meetings, I have been canvassing for 14 months and meeting with District 6 residents to hear their concerns. I completed the Morton Arboretum's 100+ hour Woodland Steward certification program. Once elected, I plan to take specific and concrete action to begin addressing the problems I see within the Forest Preserve District. I will publically post my voting record. I will host regular meetings with the community. I will do whatever it takes to form an ethics committee. I will not support budget increases and I will work hard to form intergovernmental relationships that will save tax dollars. I will develop relationships with organized labor and work to adopt a responsible bidder ordinance. You can be sure that a vote for me is a vote for the future of the Forest Preserve!

*For more information, please visit:*  
**[electshannonburns.com](http://electshannonburns.com)**

## Capital and What It Buys

By Doug Henk  
*Committeeman, Pct. 007*

What I heard during the last Presidential campaign: I heard talk about health care, I heard talk about what our health care system could be and the work it would take to correct its course. I did not hear political promises. I was not looking for someone to promise me anything. I was looking for someone who would lay out the plan and was willing to work. I believe I made the right choice. This is the road we are on and we cannot stop here. Our health care did not become a tangled mess of paperwork and hoops for the sick and infirm to fill out and jump through overnight; and these problems are not going to disappear overnight with a single piece of legislation.

I am discouraged that the private sector does not want to follow along. They want to call it profit and keep the money and sit it out. The health care system can only work if profit is realized only after product. Unless the insurance companies can be made to do their job before they cash in, the system does not work. We have been sold a bag of shells no one "needs," namely Health insurance. Our need is Healthcare; insurance is a means to that end. The insurance companies have failed at their jobs and profited greatly. How does any free market capitalist justify this? Without rules, failure is inevitable.

When I heard the President campaign on the economy, I heard him lay out a plan and if he did promise anything, it was more work. Although Wall Street had failed to manage our money well, they were given another chance.

Again, the private sector has let us down. They have not done their job. The stock market is once again the big casino, not a place for your retirement savings to grow while providing money needed to produce goods and services. This is what happens when you take away the rules. Profit before product: failure is inevitable.

Every year of the Bush administration the value of my house increased by double digits. The interest rates kept going down; although I was skeptical the tax assessor was thrilled. The government was hand in glove with the banks. They had already had a dry run of this scam back in the 80's with the savings and loan debacle. They knew it would work and this time they knew how to walk away

with the money. You do not need money; you need what money buys. The answer to the financial crisis is a robust set of rules and enforcement. Yes, these rules will make it harder to make a profit. These rules need to force the mortgage industry to do their job. Product before profit, if not, failure is and always will be the inevitable result.

Those that wanted your health and your money are not stopping there. They also want your vote. They will tell you any lie to get it. These people are not Republicans or Democrats. They chose the Republicans because they were the easiest. These people do not want to work for our money. They already think it is theirs. If you want to call yourself an Independent, they have a plan for you too – to grind you down until you think there is nothing left and no reason to do the work. You will just stay home and let them keep your health and your money.

I would ask you just one thing: look at the candidates – are they listening to you or telling you what to think? Have they defined the work they need to do or are they just standing in the way? Your informed vote matters.

"I believe that America must sail toward the shores of liberty and justice for all. There is no end to that journey, only the next great voyage. We know the future will outlast all of us, but I believe that all of us will live on in the future we made."

Ted Kennedy

## Nostalgia Ain't What It Used to Be

By Frank Malley  
*Committeeman, Pct. 015*

First class postage was three cents. A penny post card actually cost only a penny. If you were in a hurry, you could pay six cents for air mail postage. My young world was the corner we lived on complete with a large-leafed oak, which was appropriate since we lived in Oakland (Oak-land), California. My father, mother, younger brother, baby sister, and I lived in my great grandfather's huge house. Sometimes I would boldly pioneer my way a few blocks down the avenue to Stiers Drugstore or to the five-and-ten, which really did have plenty of items priced at five cents or ten cents.

What I didn't understand was that we lived in my great grandfather's house partly because my late-twenties father had had a cardiac episode. In that house my father and mother watched over my great grandfather during his eighties, and upstairs my father had a little office where he could work at the pace his health allowed.

My mother had a part-time black maid named Adele, who helped with the senior-most Malley and with the juvenile Malleys and with the cleaning of the house.

What I didn't understand was that Adele was a black college student, somewhat unusual in a time when there was a white Oakland and a black Oakland. Adele was also training to be an insurance agent. Later, one of Adele's first sales presentations was to my parents.

I came home one day from school and saw a man putting a tree of metal rods on our roof. From then on we could watch television. One of the black-and-white stories I watched featured actor Ernest Borgnine as a middle class guy who one afternoon received in the mail a magazine that good Americans would of course never read. The show did have a happy ending. In his living room Ernie swore to all his assembled neighbors that the magazine had arrived by accident. Also present, a fatherly man from the FBI assured the community that Ernie was OK.

Later, in my teen years, my parents arranged for me to have tennis lessons at a country club. My parents did not belong, but they paid the instructor to help me. . .well, at least get the ball over the net. The lessons stopped after a while.

What I did not understand was that some members of the country club had complained that a known Jew (young me) was using some of the facilities.

The vividly memorable moments from my grade school years were these. I took an old white sheet to elementary school for air raid drills. At a word from our teacher, we would kneel under our desks and pull the sheet over our back to reflect away nuclear heat and blinding glare. Then, too, my young mind drank in the weekly atom bomb maps in the Oakland Tribune showing San Francisco in the middle of a number of concentric circles. The innermost circle was utter devastation. The other circles showed the reach of nuclear flames and invisible but deadly radiation.

Adults were happy that there was no depression and that they had fought and won World War II, a good war. What they did not understand was that there was at least one little kid who was scared to death.

Today there is a solid 30% of Americans who weep, wail, and (yes) gnash their teeth in fear that they will lose the America they "know". What they don't understand is that the America they know is an illusion.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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



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## Net Neutrality & Governing in the Public Interest

By Barry Dredze  
*Committeeman, Pct 018*

If you like the internet pretty much the way it is, then you are in favor of net neutrality. If you would rather the internet become more like your cable provider, and have a corporate conglomerate such as AT&T, Comcast or Verizon determine what you are allowed to access in terms of basic and premium pricing options, then you are against net neutrality.

When the internet first gained wide public attention, it was characterized by the term "the information superhighway," an electronic information resource where users could access educational and civic data. It also had tremendous commercial potential.

Legislation like the Senator Al Gore-sponsored 1988 National High-Performance Computer Act established a national plan and helped link universities and libraries via a shared network, and the Information Infrastructure and Technology Act of 1992 opened the internet to commercial traffic, enabling public use of the Internet to fund its development.

Court action reversed a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) penalty against Comcast for deliberately slowing down BitTorrent traffic on its network, because broadband internet service is classified as a Title I (or unregulated) Information service under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Reclassification of broadband internet service as a common carrier is the potential means by which the FCC would maintain the authority to enforce rules governing internet providers.

Meanwhile, Tea Party organizations openly advocate for the private corporate interests of AT&T, Comcast and Verizon. As reported in the congressional newspaper *The Hill* on August 13, "A coalition that included 35 Tea Party groups sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Wednesday [August 11] urging the agency not to boost its authority over broadband providers through a controversial process known as reclassification."

The good news is that we can all stop

pretending that the Tea Parties are populist spontaneous grassroots organizations. Back in 2005, the Supreme Court's "Brand X" ruling (in a 6-3 majority led by Justice Clarence Thomas) confirmed an FCC decision to classify cable broadband as an unregulated Information service under Title I. Thus, reclassification has legal precedence and the FCC could use it to establish and enforce rules prohibiting internet providers from favoring certain internet users by limiting content available to them on the web. This is in stark contrast to provisions whereby cable TV providers may discriminate in favor of premium television content available only to users who pay a premium rate.

As Americans we can all appreciate the value of information to a healthy electorate. As Democrats we are all well aware of the peril when an industry is allowed to regulate itself.

Sumner Redstone, CEO of Viacom, the parent company of CBS, explained his endorsement of the reelection of President George W. Bush over Democratic candidate John Kerry in 2004. "Viacom is my life," Redstone said, "and I do believe that a Republican administration is better for media companies than a Democratic one."

In a statement following FoxNews parent company News Corporation's controversial \$1 million donation to the Republican Governors Association (RGA) in August, News Corp spokesman Jack Horner said, "News Corporation believes in the power of free markets, and the RGA's pro-business agenda supports our priorities at this most critical time for our economy."

The term "net neutrality" means that there are no favorites on the internet. Any user can access any content at any time at a rate that the free market will bear. We all feel the damage done by deregulation of the financial industry that allowed the trading of credit default swaps and its effects on the housing bubble and the overall economy, and we were horrified by the result of oil industry domination over the Interior Department and the destruction of wildlife habitat from offshore drilling.

Democratic voters tend to value government's role in advocating for the greater public interest over the narrow interests of corporate shareholders in private industry. Net neutrality is in everyone's greater interest.

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## Union Update

By Doug May  
*Committeeman, Pct. 001*

The AFL-CIO's voter mobilization effort, Labor 2010, is underway in Northern Illinois. Locally, we are devoting our resources to help re-elect Congressman Bill Foster in the 14th district, re-elect Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson in the 11th district, and get Dan Seals elected in the 10th district. These are seen as high priorities, as the opposition has been working to unseat both Foster and Halvorson since their election. Vast sums of money will be pouring in for media ads attacking our candidates. I suspect that most of them will be lies. That's just what right-wingers do.

The AFL-CIO is also supporting our Democratic Candidates for State office and Alexi Giannoulas for Senate. Keeping Governor Quinn in office is essential, because his opponent has a terrible voting record on labor issues, and has never voted for legislation that would benefit regular people. We have also endorsed State Rep Candidate Maria Owens in the 95th district

Since the ruling by the Supreme Court in the Citizens United case, (where it was determined that corporations have the same rights as people), big business interests have stepped up to pledge millions of dollars to defeat our candidates. The Washington Post is publishing a list of the top special interest groups in terms of spending, found at:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpsrv/politics/campaign/2010/spending/committee\\_list.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpsrv/politics/campaign/2010/spending/committee_list.html)

In a recent week in late September, the totals for that week came to over \$9 million just from the top five groups. These groups are

- \*National Republican Congressional Committee
- \*Americans for Job Security
- \*US Chamber of Commerce
- \*Americans for Tax Reform
- \*Club for Growth

It should be noted that these groups have spent this money supporting Republicans 100% of the time. Looking at the totals for the year, Americans for Job Security and the US Chamber of Commerce have supported Republicans 88% and 96% respectively. These groups do not support our issues and are a large part of the funding for the Teabag Party. Out of the top 10 groups spending money this year, seven of them gave all or nearly all of the money to Republicans. There are two Unions in the top 10 for this year: the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). They have spent their money to benefit Democrats 100% of the time.

For our part, we work to counter that spending by providing volunteer labor to contact voters either by phone or by going door to door. We make an effort to contact every Union member in the area because in almost every case, if Labor votes, our candidates win. Election Day is November 2nd. Make sure to support our candidates to insure a better future for all Illinois citizens.

*Doug May is a member of The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 825.*

