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# Join Tenth Dems now!

Membership in the Tenth Congressional District Democrats is now available to everyone and there are numerous opportunities for people to join.

Between now and the November 2 General Election, a founder's membership is available for \$1,000. Not only will a founder be publically recognized and receive two lapel pins, but founders will receive two invitations to an annual event and its pre-reception with VIPs and elected officials.

In addition to being a founder, a benefactor can earn the right to receive one lapel pin and one invitation to an annual event and its pre-reception with VIPs and elected officials for \$500 while a sustaining member receives one lapel pin for a \$250 membership.

A donor membership is available for \$100, a regular membership is \$35 and a student membership is \$10.

Donations are also welcome from anyone who does not seek membership.

All memberships and donations should be sent to the group's treasurer, Margie Rissman, 1100 Kent Avenue, Highland Park. For more information about membership, contact Lauren Beth Gash at 847-433-2878 or Nancie Blatt at 847-433-8155.

The Tenth Dems are looking for members and volunteers to help elect Democrats at all levels from the top to the bottom of the ballot within the Tenth Congressional District.



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

# Tenth News

April, 2004      Illinois Tenth Congressional District Newsletter      Volume 1, Edition 4

## Voters flock to Democrats

*Beware the Ides of March* proved prophetic for only the Republicans in Illinois as Democrats proved a mighty force in the 10th Congressional District on Primary Day, March 16.

In both Lake and Cook Counties, more people took Democratic than Republican ballots. In the Lake County portion of the 10th Congressional District, 25,000 Democratic ballots were cast, compared to 14,740 Republican. That's 63 percent Democratic versus 37 percent Republican in a historically Republican county. Cook County, as usual, showed its Democratic pedigree; 70 percent of the ballots cast were Democratic.

On the Congressional front, Democratic candidate Lee Goodman received almost 3,000 more votes in Lake County's Democratic primary than Kirk received in the Republican primary.

"Our volunteers really did come out and work and it seems to have made a difference," he explained. "The spirit of people is so high."

When it came to the Senate race, state Sen. Barack Obama led the Democratic pack by a mile. Across all of Lake County, Obama took 64 percent of the Democratic votes, compared to 53 percent statewide. State Comptroller Dan Hynes trailed with 13 percent, compared to 24 percent across the state, and Blair Hull, who reportedly spent close to \$30 million of his own money, barely hit the double digits at 10 percent, mirroring his statewide results. In Cook County, Obama won 61 percent of the vote, with Hynes taking 20 percent.

Obama ran strong along the North Shore. He won a whopping 80 percent of the vote in New Trier Township, 81 percent in Moraine, 79 percent in West Deerfield, 87 percent in Evanston (not in the 10th) and 66 percent of the vote in Northfield Township. In Wheeling Township, a portion of which is in the 10th, Obama won 58 percent. Interestingly, Maria Pappas ran stronger in Wheeling Township than she did in the state as a whole; she came in third with 10 percent; Hynes was second with 17 percent.

*Continued on back page*

### County Democrats elect Tenth Dem vice-chair



*Marjorie Rissman, treasurer of the Tenth Congressional District Democratic Organization and the Moraine Township Democrats, was elected third vice-chair of the Lake County Democrats March 29 at the group's biennial convention.*

# Will Kirk pay a price for Bush's foreign policy troubles?

By Jane Goldenberg

Prospects for Illinois Democrats in November look promising, with the news media dominated by questions about and criticism of the Bush Administration's policies on counter terrorism prior to 9/11 – thanks, in part, to the searing, eloquent testimony of former counterterrorism chief, Richard A. Clarke.

The big question: Will the administration's spin, efforts at character assassination and other truth-stretching, political doublespeak backfire, spewing a whole lot of tar on Republicans everywhere – including our intrepid local Bush apologist, Rep. Mark Kirk?

Democratic candidate Lee Goodman sure hopes so. At times it seems as if Kirk and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld step from the same briefings before hitting their respective talk shows to defend Bush's policies in Iraq, Goodman noted.

"Kirk has definitely been the spokesman for the Bush Administration for all foreign affairs issues. He and Rumsfeld are on the same page," Goodman said.

"All these attacks on the Administration's war policies have got to have an impact on Kirk," Goodman added.

Goodman's concerns echoed Clarke's assessment: "By invading Iraq, the President of the United States has greatly undermined the war on terrorism." This from a guy who says he generally voted Republican, and who served Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan, the current President and his father.

But it's not only foreign affairs that may take a toll on Kirk's popularity. Pete Couvall, vice-chair of the Lake County Democrats, notes that some parts of the 10th Congressional District have very high unemployment.

"Kirk ran on local issues," he explained. "He hasn't fulfilled any of his promises... I think the Democrats, Kerry and Obama, are going to win big in Lake County," Couvall said. "That makes Kirk very vulnerable."

Let's hope these 9/11 hearings yield productive results when the final report is released this summer—and the Republicans pay the price for their errors on Election Day.

# Tenth Dems take streets of Libertyville

Democrats filled the streets of Libertyville on the Saturday, March 13, before the Primary as about 50 volunteers went door-to-door in a handful of Libertyville Township precincts encouraging residents to vote.

Organizer Tom Jurgens, who chairs the Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) Committee of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats, said the GOTV drive was only the beginning. His committee is making plans for a much larger effort in the fall that will cover a greater portion of the Tenth Congressional District.

Jurgens, a Libertyville precinct committeeman, chose his home region for the GOTV drive to let Democrats know that they are not alone. Libertyville Township has traditionally voted Republican. But just a few days after the GOTV drive, more Democrats than Republicans showed up at the polls in ten of the 31 Libertyville Township precincts that are in the Tenth District.

The door-to-door volunteers played a role in that. Carrying campaign literature for any Democratic candidate who provided material, they saturated over a dozen precincts with information. For many of the volunteers, it was their first door-to-door political campaign, but it won't be their last. Jurgens said that many indicated they would be back in the fall campaign and appreciated receiving a good day's worth of on-the-job training.

Several candidates also gained some campaign experience and used the opportunity to meet voters. Congressional candidate Lee Goodman, state Rep. candidate Nancy Shepherdson, Lake County Clerk candidate Margo Nelson, and County Coroner candidates Richard Keller and Sophia Schild went door-to-door with the volunteers.



*Tom Jurgens, organizer of the GOTV event in Libertyville Township, prepares volunteers to go door-to-door to tell voters about Democratic candidates.*

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# "Teach-In" generates enthusiasm

A "Teach-In" organized by the Tenth Congressional District Democrats, drew about 70 Democratic precinct committeepersons and volunteers.

It was the second political training session over the past few months for Lake County Democrats. The first one, in November, drew 65 precinct workers.

"Many of these people are newcomers to the political process," said Lauren Beth Gash, chair of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats and Tenth Congressional District Central Committeewoman. "The fact that so many people came out on a warm and sunny weekend morning shows the tremendous amount of enthusiasm this year."

State Sen. Terry Link (D-Vernon Hills), chair of the Lake County Democratic Party, opened the training session by saying that this is an exciting time for Democrats.

State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) also spoke to the gathering. She said that opposition to the policies of President Bush is bringing more Democrats into the political process, and that will have a positive impact on the campaigns of local Democrats.

The Eighth District Democrats and Independents co-sponsored the "Teach-In." Nancy Shepherdson, who both chairs that group and is a candidate for state representative in a district that includes Libertyville, Mundelein, Grayslake, and Lake Zurich, conducted part of the training. A large part of the two-hour session was devoted to advice on how to conduct a precinct level campaign to bring out more Democratic votes.

With more people volunteering to end Republican control in Washington, the Tenth Congressional District Democrats are already making plans to conduct more precinct committeeperson teach-ins in the months ahead.

# Tenth Dem helps Obama landslide

Barack Obama's impressive primary victory for the Democratic Party nomination for U.S. Senate on March 16 came as a result of hard work by numerous volunteers. Those volunteers invested many hours making phone calls, organizing local campaign events and other activities.

And leading those volunteers locally was Steve Sadin, a Tenth Dems executive committee member and political consultant, who was the coordinator for the Obama campaign in southern Lake and northern Cook counties. He was responsible for recruiting volunteers and assigning them to various tasks like phone banking. The efforts culminated on Election Day when an intensive get-out-the-vote effort was in full swing.

"We had a target list of Democrats who expressed strong support for Obama," Sadin said. On Election Day, the campaign made sure that as many of those supporters as possible made it to the polls. Statewide, Obama got 51% of the primary vote in a seven candidate race. In the area Sadin was responsible for, the Obama vote was 74%.

Sadin, who worked in Bill Bradley's 2000 Presidential campaign as well as the targeted 2000 Congressional race of then state Rep. Lauren Beth Gash (D-Highland Park), began his involvement with the Obama campaign a year ago. He was very impressed with the state senator from the south side of Chicago when he first met him.

"Barack has the ability to be the kind of senator that Paul Simon was" Sadin said. "He is brilliant and has a grasp of history and many issues. And he is down to earth and laid back."



*Steve Sadin and Ellen Beth Gill, members of the Tenth Dems Executive and Steering Committees, generated excitement at a meeting of a group of Obama volunteers before the primary.*

Sadin is very optimistic about an Obama victory in November. "He got his message out during the primary and he will continue to do so." He believes Obama will be able to raise money needed for the fall campaign.

Before getting involved with the Obama campaign, Sadin was the communications director for Highland Park Mayor Mike Belsky's successful 2003 campaign, and in 2002 Sadin worked on one of only two campaigns nationwide where a Democrat ousted a Republican incumbent when now Rep. Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.) etched out a 3,000 vote victory.

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# Tenth Dems march on Washington

A large local contingent including several members of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats will participate in a pro-choice demonstration April 25 in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the *Roe v Wade* Supreme Court decision giving American women the right to choose an abortion.

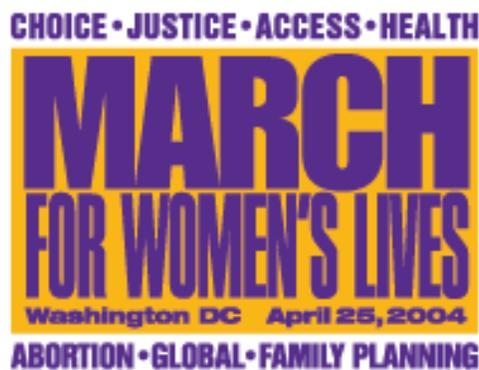
This demonstration is titled "March for Women's Lives". It is sponsored by numerous leading women's rights organizations.

Five members of the Tenth Dems Executive Committee, Lauren Beth Gash, Carol Jones, John Hmurovic, Marcie Maller and Nancie Blatt, plan to join the march with family members.

The April 25th March is jointly sponsored by, among others, JACPAC, the American Civil Liberties Union, Black Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Organization for Women, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Other groups, including local area organizations, have joined as co-sponsors and are organizing buses. Illinois Planned

Parenthood is organizing buses to Washington for the weekend of April 25. For further information on Chicago area buses and carpools contact: [http://www.geocities.com/mfwl\\_nwchi/gettingt here.html](http://www.geocities.com/mfwl_nwchi/gettingt here.html)



One of the main purposes of this March is to protest legislative initiatives of the Bush Administration and its backers in Congress who are trying to deprive women of their right to choose.

The latest passage by the U.S. Senate of the

"Unborn Victims of Violence Act" is another bill in a series of Republican legislative initiatives aimed at restricting choice, which were backed by Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), who voted with the conservatives 254-163 on the House version of the bill to give a human fetus the same legal rights as the mother when a federal crime is committed. Kirk also voted to reject a Democratic-sponsored bill that would create a new federal crime of assaults on pregnant women without conferring legal rights on a fetus, provoking a strong reaction from local pro-choice leaders.

"I think people were shocked that Mark Kirk, who claims to be pro-choice, voted with the anti-choice lobby on legislation that is so important to the citizens of the 10th District," said Lauren Beth Gash, Chair of the Tenth Dems organization and Kirk's 2000 opponent who received 49 percent of the vote. She said Kirk has yet to answer to the pro-choice community to explain his support for that legislation.

This March has been getting more interest locally than any other pro-choice project in the recent past. Details are available at the official website: [www.MarchForWomen.org](http://www.MarchForWomen.org)

Primary, continued from cover

In Waukegan, a potential swing district, Blair Hull ran far stronger than he did elsewhere, getting 30 percent of the vote in precinct 400, for example, and usually placing second to Obama, who received between 50 percent and 60 percent of the votes in many Waukegan Township precincts. Obama swept the field in others, winning 89 percent of the votes in precinct 402 on the south side of the township.

According to Pete Couvall, a precinct committeeman and first vice-chair of the Lake County Democrats, "Hull was the only candidate to open an office in Waukegan; he really worked the township."

By contrast, Hull managed fewer than 3 percent of the vote in New Trier Township.

Obama came late to Waukegan, but he ran very well all across Lake County, Couvall noted.

With Obama's big win, he took a giant step onto the national stage. The New York Times reported he received calls from the man at the top of the Democratic ticket, Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Tom Daschle and Terry McAuliffe, the Democratic national chairman. Now, we'll have to see how powerful a set of coattails Kerry and Obama are sporting.

# Jurgens to co-chair Libertyville Democrats

Tenth Dems member Tom Jurgens has been elected co-chair of the Libertyville Township Democrats. He will work with Mary Maillard, who nominated Tom to join her to lead the Libertyville group. They were elected to their posts by the Libertyville Township precinct committeemen.



*Tom Jurgens and other GOTV participants relax over pizza after a day of door-to-door.*

"We are going to be a very active group," Tom said about the Libertyville Township Democratic organization. Before the primary, Tom organized a grassroots door-to-door campaign in several Libertyville precincts. As chair of the Tenth Dems GOTV Committee, he is already working on similar events in Libertyville, as well as in other parts of the Lake and Cook County portions of the Tenth District.



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