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10th

Check Out www.tenthdems.org!

Every political event worth going to can be found on www.tenthdems.org. At least that's our goal.

A recent look at the web page of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats would have told you about the Community Speakout in Highland Park, a documentary on the War in Iraq in Arlington Heights, a lecture by a Nobel Peace Prize nominee in Evanston, and an opportunity to have lunch in Mundelein with Illinois First Lady Patti Blagojevich.

If your group is sponsoring a political event, go to our web page, click on "Events" on the left side, and then on "Submit an Event" on the top of the new page to send the information. The Tenth District Dems will be happy to publicize events of interest to Democrats.

If you've been to our website before, there are at least three good reasons to return for another visit.

One of the features added is a larger version of the Tenth District Map. Click the map on the home page to get a better look at the district boundaries. Another new feature is a list of every Democratic officeholder in the district. You can find that, and a link to their web pages, simply by clicking on "Elected Officials."

We're also giving Democratic candidates a chance to campaign on our website. Check out the candidate banner at the top of each web page. If you're a candidate, contact us if you want to see your banner on our site.

Congressional District 10



The new district map at www.tenthdems.org



www.tenthdems.org
Tenth News
February 1, 2004 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Newsletter Volume 1, Edition 2

Citizens "Speak Out"

From expressing anger at the Bush Administration to supporting Democratic candidates and issues, more than 80 people braved the cold and snow to share their views with candidates and elected officials at a Speakout Tuesday night sponsored by the Tenth Congressional District Democrats and the Moraine Township Democrats at the Highland Park Community House.

After hearing from elected officials and candidates for office, the voters themselves stood to share their own concerns over the disastrous effects of the current Republican Administration and what the Democrats can do to change that. People bemoaned the loss of America's standing in the world because of its handling of the war in Iraq. Growing budget deficits, the loss of jobs and the lack of health care for all citizens were among the concerns of those who spoke.

"I haven't seen this kind of enthusiasm from people in a long time," said former state Rep. Lauren Beth Gash (D-Highland Park) and the founder of the Tenth District Democrats. "With the growing grassroots strength demonstrated tonight, Democrats will have a strong showing in November. Bush will join the millions of people who he helped become unemployed during this Administration."

State Rep. Karen May (D-58, Highland Park) opened the evening by motivating "Democrats to get more involved" and introducing elected officials in attendance. State Sen. Susan Garrett (D-29, Lake Forest) as well as County Board members Anne Bassi and Carol Spielman also spoke to the crowd. Michael Simkin, Moraine Township Democrats chair, then introduced candidates for office.

Lee Goodman, the Democratic candidate for Congress from the Tenth Congressional District was the first candidate to speak, followed by Margo Nelson running for Lake County Circuit Court Clerk, competing Lake County coroner candidates Richard Keller and Sophia Schild as well as former Highland Park Mayor Dan Pierce, who is seeking a seat on the North Shore Sanitary District Board.

Goodman stoked the crowd's dissatisfaction with the current Administration when he reminded everyone that Rep. Mark Kirk (R-10, Highland Park) votes with the President 87 percent of the time. "He's there for Bush, but not us," said Goodman.



State Rep. Karen May (D-58, Highland Park)

Executive Committee Formed

Lauren Beth Gash, Tenth Congressional District State Central Committeewoman, will serve as Chair of the Tenth Congressional District Democratic Organization.

The Executive Committee was chosen at the last meeting of the group's Steering Committee. Bill Crowley will serve as Vice-Chair, Marjorie Rissman will serve as Treasurer and Marcy Maller as the Secretary.

The other members of the Executive Committee, John Hmurovic, Steve Sadin, Ellen Gill, Nancie Blatt, Carol Jones and Chuck Knight, are representatives from each of the organization's standing committees. The committees are administrative, communications, finance, membership, political and research.

The Executive Committee may change from time to time as it works closely with the steering committee.

Kirk is No Porter

By Gregory Mysko

Though it is rare these days to hear common sense spoken by a Republican, that is exactly what happened recently when former Tenth District Congressman John Porter (R-Ill.) participated in a Brookings Institution Seminar on the huge budget deficits created by the Bush Administration.

Porter trash-talked the Administration's economic policies, but at least it was polite trash-talk.

"Now that Republicans are in power, deficits don't seem so important to us any more," he said. "I think we are in denial. I suspect we will be in denial until after the election. The important question is what will be done in early 2005 to come to grips with this serious problem for America."

These deficits are largely created by the President's massive tax cuts for the wealthy, enthusiastically supported by Porter's successor, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-10, Ill.), and no tax revenue from more than two million people who have lost their jobs since the President took office and were removed from the tax rolls, much to their dismay. Not only did Kirk support the President's tax cuts, but he has voiced no opposition to the Administration's proposal to make them permanent, which is striking alarm in Porter.

"I represented one of the most affluent districts in America, and as I went through my district asking about tax cuts, people would say to me, 'I don't need my taxes cut. We need to solve the problems of this country. Don't talk about a tax cut.'" These lessons seem lost on Kirk who is losing touch with his district while Porter still has his hand on its pulse. Porter knows his former constituents are not stupid. Kirk is selling them short.

Unlike Kirk, who has voted down the line for all the Bush tax cuts, Porter would have taken a completely different approach in Congress.

"If I were still there, I would have voted no on the tax cuts. I think the messages from the White House may be good politics, but I don't think, frankly, they are good policy."

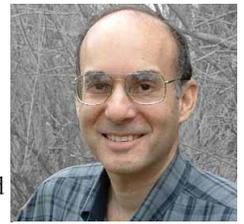
As to what can turn things around in the future, Porter bleakly said, "In my judgment, major reform of any type in this country is virtually impossible. We have entrenched sophisticated, well-financed, politically savvy lobbies protecting most everything." This sounds like the thoughts of an independent or words in a Democrat's stump speech. Hearing it come from a Republican is refreshingly odd.

Many voters in the Tenth Congressional District thought they were getting another Porter when they chose Mark Kirk. Instead they got a George Bush clone who supports much of the right-wing agenda. He has not learned much from his white-haired mentor, judging from his voting record.

If voters want someone like Porter in Congress, the better candidate is Democrat Lee Goodman. The two of them have more in common than Kirk and Porter.

State of Bush's Union Dim

Democratic Congressional candidate Lee Goodman thinks the President's ideas as outlined in the State of the Union address will only make bad policies worse.



Lee Goodman

Topping the list is the economy, on which the President, supported by the Republican majority in Congress, has shown himself sorely out of touch with this moderate-leaning district.

"Every day high-paying jobs are being lost, good jobs are being sent abroad, and the President just wants to make it worse," Goodman said. "He wants to open our borders to people who will not become citizens—just a permanent underclass of visiting workers. This will reduce wages and take away jobs from other Americans." The economy has already lost more than three million jobs since the President took office.

On health care, Goodman notes the president helped pass a Medicare prescription drug plan that "keeps people from getting prescription drugs. Now he wants to put forward purchasing groups for insurance that have proven not to work, and he wants health savings accounts that say to people instead of having insurance, you're going to have to pay the bills yourself."

Goodman was also critical of the Patriot Act.

The Patriot Act has proven to be a wrong-headed approach to protecting domestic security. "Instead of having the protections that are guaranteed in the constitution that people won't be arrested and held without bond and held in secret and spied upon," Goodman said, the President wants to expand those powers. "The lessons he's learning from Iraq are the wrong lessons."

Tenth District Dem Gets a Political Education in Iowa



Ellen Beth Gill (second from left) and other volunteers with Sen. John Kerry in Iowa

If John Kerry is the one who boots George Bush from the White House, thank Ellen Gill, a member of the Executive Committee of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats, for helping to make it happen.

Ellen was part of the army of volunteers that invaded Iowa to help Democrats who were vying for that state's convention delegates.

"It was a real education in the political process," she said. An education that Ellen is putting to use as a member of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

A Deerfield resident, Ellen made several trips to Davenport to do grassroots work key to any successful campaign. As a "Kerry Traveller," she canvassed neighborhoods to identify likely Kerry voters, made follow-up phone calls, and helped run events, including appearances by Kerry and Ted Kennedy in Davenport and Cedar Rapids.

Committing time to the Iowa campaign wasn't easy for someone working full-time in Illinois as an attorney. It became harder when Kerry was down in the polls and was given little chance of winning. But, two weeks before the Iowa caucus, Ellen sensed a shift in the public's mood.

"Voters wanted to know more about Kerry," she said. "They were even thanking us for calling and for giving them more information."

Besides putting her grassroots skills to use in the Tenth District to help elect a new Congressman, Ellen hopes to complete her political education this year as a candidate. She's on the ballot as a delegate in the Tenth District, and hopes to cast her vote for Kerry at the Democratic National Convention.