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Tenth Dems Will Remain Active After November 2

In a few days, some candidates will lose and step away from politics. The winners will put politics aside until their re-election campaigns in two, four or six years while they serve the public as elected officials. One thing will remain the same: Tenth Dems will be here, getting ready for the next election.

We are a new organization, less than a year old, but we plan to be around for a long time. We plan to continue to help the existing Democratic political organizations in Lake and Cook counties build a stronger Democratic Party, and to help our candidates win their elections.

After November 2, we will begin looking at what we did well and what we could have done better. We will continue to recruit good volunteers to help with our work. We will look for qualified people who want to run as Democrats, and give them the help they need to be strong candidates and a head-start against their Republican foes.

If you want to be a part of an organization that will be building for the next election as soon as this one is done, one that is working for the same goal that you want — to build a strong Democratic Party in our area —we hope you will join us. Membership is \$35. Visit www.tenthdems.org to join or to learn more, or call us at **847-266-VOTE (8683)**.



www.tenthdems.org

Tenth News

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE 2004 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 1, Edition 11

2004: The Year That Awakened Democrats

By James Rosen

With only a few days until the November election we Democrats should be proud of the hard work we've done and our prospects for the future. Democrats are going to make gains in the U.S. Senate, House and, of course, we are going to take back the White House and the country along with it. Illinois, considered a "safe" state for John Kerry, is awash in Kerry/Edwards bumper stickers, lawn signs, buttons, phone bankers and volunteers working hard to get every state and local Democratic candidate elected. The efforts will pay off on November 2nd.

But beyond this election cycle we Democrats can look back at 2004 as a watershed year when the foundation for continued success at the polls was built. Many people, including myself, who have been quietly but profoundly irritated at the direction the extreme right has bullied this nation into, have gotten off their couches and become involved in Democratic politics. We will not go back to the sidelines. We are going to continue the work to support Democratic candidates who will truly represent the vast middle of this nation. We are going to confront the intolerance and fear-mongering of the extreme right. We are going to get out the message that your voice does matter and that your elected officials affect nearly every aspect of your daily life. Have an issue with prescription drug prices? Health care costs? Air quality? Income tax rates? Student loan availability? Then you need to get involved and have your opinions heard. Why not you? Why not your opinions?

The larger issue of the direction of this country cries out for robust Democratic efforts on election day this November. I do not want to explain to my 20-month-old son, many years from now, that when I had the chance to work for a better future I did nothing. We must continue to work for a better future, a better America, an America that lives up to its ideals enshrined by the Declaration of Independence —no less. If 2004 is remembered for anything it should be that it awakened Democrats, energized them and gave them a noble cause to fight for.

See you on November 2nd and see you in the future.

Special Calendar of last minute events appears on page 4

Why Not Kirk?

By John Hmurovic, Columnist

I have a confession to make. Even though I have probably voted for Democrats 90-percent of the time, I'm not sure if I'm really a Democrat. I know. Some people might call me indecisive, or flip-floppy for saying that, but I think of myself as something of an Independent when it comes to voting. I'm moderate-to-liberal on social issues, moderate-to-conservative on economic issues and moderate on foreign policy. I don't like extremism on either side. I vote for the candidate, not the party.

When I moved here two years ago, I was told that our Congressman, Republican Mark Kirk, is generally pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-gun control, pro-Israel. Good, good, good, and good on my scorecard. That's just the kind of Republican I could vote for. I could cast my ballot for nine Democrats and Kirk, and still feel like an Independent.

But then there's George W. Bush.

I respect the office of the Presidency, and George Bush seems like a decent guy, but I have nothing good to say about his policies. A man who wants to throw doctors in jail for performing abortions, who is backed by the gun lobby and who is worshiped by everyone who hates environmental laws is not even close to moderate-to-liberal on social issues. A man who is running up the largest budget deficit in history and who wants to worsen the problem with even more tax cuts is not moderate-to-conservative on economic issues. A man who goes to war with no clear plan on what to do when we get there and who has alienated our friends around the world is no foreign policy moderate.

Just vote President Bush out of office, you might say...problem gone. But he's just part of the problem. The real problem is the Republican Party.

This is not your grandfather's GOP. Moderate-conservatives like Eisenhower, Percy and Porter wouldn't fit into today's Republican Party. So how does Mark Kirk fit in? Simple. He advertises himself to us as pro-choice, pro-gun control, pro-environment, and pro-Israel. He campaigns on a slogan of "thoughtful, independent leadership." Then he votes like a Bush Republican on everything else and doesn't even mention the word "Republican" in his campaign literature. Is he ashamed of his party?

He should be. Whichever party controls Congress gets to control the agenda. You want gun control? Tough environmental laws? Forget about it if the Republicans control Congress. Their leadership won't even bring them up for a vote. But here's what they will bring up: a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage; a constitutional amendment banning abortion; a constitutional amendment to allow the Ten Commandments on public property; a ban of stem cell research; an energy policy which bulldozes the environment; and anything the National Rifle Association, the Christian religious right, the oil industry, and the pharmaceutical industry want them to bring up.

Will it matter if Mark Kirk is against all that? No. In fact, by holding this congressional seat for the Republican Party he helps make it happen. The first vote that the new Congress will cast will be to select its leadership. On that vote, Mark Kirk will not be thoughtful or independent. He will vote for whomever the Republicans tell him to vote for. He will vote for Dennis Hastert and Tom DeLay, the pair who made this past Congress one of the most right-wing in history.

Lee Goodman is pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-gun control, and pro-Israel. And if his party gets control of Congress, they will place those issues near the top of the agenda.

My decision is easy. With the Republican Party under the control of its right-wing extremists, there's no way I can endorse their programs by giving them another seat in Congress. If Mark Kirk really cared about choice, the environment, gun control, and Israel, he wouldn't be a part of the George W. Bush/Alan Keyes Republican Party. I care about these issues. I'm voting for Lee Goodman.



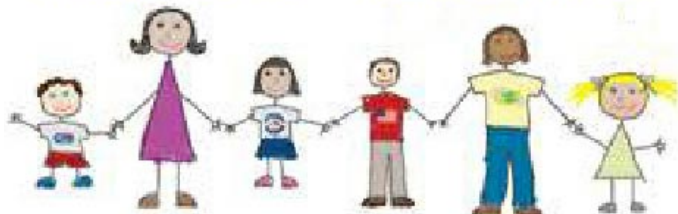
Moms For Kerry To Rally On Saturday

Mothers from across the country will gather on Saturday, October 30, to deliver a message: "Our kids deserve better. You deserve better. We all deserve better." Moms For Kerry are holding rallies on that date, including two in our area, to show their support for John Kerry and for the future of their children.

There will be a Moms for Kerry Rally in downtown Deerfield starting at 2pm. It will be near the northwest corner of Deerfield and Waukegan Roads. There will be another at 10am in downtown Grayslake at the Millennium Court, located at Seymour and Center. Both will be no more than one hour long. "One day. One hour. One chance to take back our country," the flyers to the event read.

These are family-oriented rallies. The one in Deerfield will have a patriotic arts and crafts table for the kids, music, and a patriotic sing-along. Organizers in Grayslake are encouraging kids to show up in their Halloween attire for the Grayslake trick-or-treat party that's being held after the rally. They will also have a folk singer performing. Moms, grandmothers, kids, and everyone who has a mom, grandmother, or kid is welcome to attend. Bring a Kerry-Edwards sign with you if you can—homemade ones are always a favorite.

Please come - Rain or Shine!



Michelle Obama Meets With Young Tenth Dems

As people were filing out of the Highland Park Library auditorium on Columbus Day, one woman said to another, "She's as good a speaker as her husband!" When the "husband" being referred to is Barack Obama, that is a huge compliment.

Michelle Obama may be among the first to say that the comparison is not accurate, but she left little doubt among most of those who heard her speak that she is an intelligent, thoughtful, and engaging speaker...which also happens to be a good description of her husband.



Michelle Obama complimented the parents in the crowd at the Highland Park Library for bringing their children and teaching them at an early age the importance of politics and government.



Gail Schnitzer, the chair of Young Tenth Dems, and a 17-year-old student at Highland Park High School, introduced Michelle Obama at the Columbus Day event.

Ms. Obama was in Highland Park at the invitation of the Young Tenth Dems. The newly formed branch of Tenth Dems has chapters in existence, or in formation, in a dozen local high schools. There were about 80 people in the audience, a mix of all ages, but Ms. Obama directed most of her remarks to the Young Tenth Dems, most of whom are still too young to vote.

"Don't think you're too young to make a difference," she told them. "There is nothing more impressive to adults than to see a young person who has passion for what they believe in."

Echoing many of the themes her husband has been articulating in his bid for a U.S. Senate seat in Illinois, Ms. Obama stressed the responsibility that we all have for helping one another.

"It's a mistaken belief that if our lives are okay, then everything is great," she said. "It's not enough for our kids to go to a good school if the kids next to them can't read." She said that one way to combat crime and terrorism is to find ways to bring the poor and disenfranchised into our society, so they have something to lose by trying to steal from it or tear it down.

Ms. Obama is the executive director of community affairs at the University of Chicago Hospital. She is a graduate of Princeton, and of Harvard Law School.

What Counts Most? **Your Vote**

We may be awash in blue in Illinois, what with the Kerry-Edwards ticket considered a favorite and state Sen. Barack Obama a shoe-in for the U.S. Senate, but that doesn't mean we should sink into complacency. For one thing, Sen. John Kerry needs every vote he can get to ensure he wins the popular vote in the presidential race.

First and foremost: Get out and vote on November 2. Participate in Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) efforts. Call five friends, tell them to call five friends, send e-mails, go to your local Democratic headquarters to call voters, sign up to be a poll watcher, head over to the Kerry calling center in Buffalo Grove.

As Anne Wedner, the volunteer coordinator for the New Trier Democratic Organization, notes, "We need to make sure Sen. Kerry gets every vote possible."

If you know people who can't get to their local polling place, line up some rides. We also need to make sure that our local candidates get every possible vote. Some are in very close races and need your help.

People can vote absentee at their local village hall until 5 p.m., November 1. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 2 to be counted. But why wait? If you know you must vote absentee, get those ballots in the mail as soon as possible.

In this extremely tight presidential race, use your extra time and head over to the Kerry-Edwards calling center in Buffalo Grove, where people are calling voters in swing states, such as Wisconsin. The address is 1275 Barclay Boulevard, which is near Aptakisic Road, one block west of Milwaukee Avenue. The center is open 6 to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. If you want to help Kerry in Wisconsin in the final days of the campaign, call Steve Sadin at 847-460-8689 for an assignment. But don't forget our local candidates, including Barack Obama and Lee Goodman. Call 847-266-VOTE (8683) to give them the help they need.

Don't just keep your fingers crossed and pray. Get to work! And vote.

Last Chance To Help

Here's a fact: the other guys are going to keep working until the end. If Democrats win on November 2, it will be because we worked **harder and smarter**.

If you've helped some candidate on this campaign, thank you. But don't let your hard work go to waste. In a close election, the last days and hours can make a difference in the outcome. Your help is needed...one more time.

The calendar below isn't exact. All the candidates need help with every task that is listed. If you want to distribute literature at a Metra stop on election day, for example, we'll find a candidate close to home who needs that help. Give us a call now, at 847-266-VOTE (8683). Don't wake up on the 3rd wishing you had done more.

This is it.

*This is just an **example** of what help candidates might need in the final days. Call us at 847-266-VOTE (8683) for their exact needs.*

October 30 Saturday

- Attend Moms for Kerry Rally in Deerfield or Grayslake
- Stuff envelopes for Julie Hamos or Michelle Bromberg
- Walk door-to-door with Nick Chrisos and Dan Pierce
- Tell a friend to vote for Mary Ellen Vanderverter
- Volunteer for Margo Nelson or Eugene Moore

October 31 Sunday

- Put up yard signs for Barack Obama and Ellen Flannigan
- Make phone calls in Buffalo Grove for Kerry/Edwards
- Deliver literature to precinct workers for Richard Keller
- Contribute to the Eddie Washington campaign
- Help in Susan Garrett's campaign headquarters

November 1 Monday

- Walk door-to-door for Nancy Shepherdson
- Help blitz a precinct with literature for Sharyn Elman
- Help Elaine Nekritz organize her election day plan
- Put a Karen May bumpersticker on your car
- Greet commuters with Mike Jacobs or Dorothy Brown

November 2 Tuesday

- VOTE!** Try to get your voting done first thing.
- Hand out literature at Metra stop for Lee Goodman
- Poll watch for Kathy Ryg or Richard Devine
- Attend Tenth Dems Party at 7pm at Stash's in Highland Park (see below)
- Celebrate our victory and hard work!

Victory Celebration!!

November 2, 2004

Celebrate with the Tenth Dems at Stash's in Highland Park

Watch election returns and cheer on your candidate. Stop by as you party-hop to other candidate celebrations.

Stash's is in Port Clinton Square (SW corner) at 610 Central Ave., Highland Park

We will supply the TV, the internet connection and hors d'oeuvres. You buy your dinner, drinks, etc. (beer and wine available)



Tenth Congressional District Democrats

Tenth Dems
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