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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

## Convention Notes: Voting for Barack Obama in Charlotte by Lauren Beth Gash

Standing just a few feet from the podium at the Democratic Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, surrounded by the cheers of 20,000 other people, I had never felt so inspired.

Never has our party articulated its vision so clearly: Democrats believe in an America where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules.

Never has it felt so good to stand with



*Lauren and Michelle Obama talk to volunteers.*

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# Tenth News

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

OCTOBER 2012 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 9, Edition 10

## Tenth Dems Stages Convention Watch Party

We couldn't all be in Charlotte on September 3-6, but the night of the 6th -- when the Vice President, the First Lady, and the President addressed the Democratic National Convention -- a large crowd of Tenth Dems gathered to watch these speeches together.

This Convention Watch Party provided a chance for Democrats to mingle

with one another and with candidates for local offices. Candidates also had the opportunity to address the gathering.

The evening culminated with all present viewing the events in Charlotte on big screen TVs. Although we were more than one thousand miles away, the energy in the room was palpable.

As President Obama concluded his speech accepting nomination for a second term, the crowd spontaneously rose to give him a standing ovation.



*More photos from Charlotte, Convention Watch Party, and other Tenth Dems events. Also, Steve Sheffey talks about Charlotte.*

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# Convention Notes: Voting for Barack Obama in Charlotte

(continued from page 1)

a party so firmly committed to making a difference in the lives of working families by fighting for equality, choice, healthcare, the environment, and economic opportunity for all.

I've attended conventions since 1980. I have personally known President Obama for more than 15 years since we served together in the state legislature. I've heard him speak in small living rooms and in big arenas. But I still did not expect the rush of pride I felt in casting my vote for him as the Democratic Party's 2012 presidential candidate.

That night I felt more optimistic and more confident than ever about our country's future, even as we face enor-

mous challenges in the years ahead – because I knew that so many others shared my deep conviction that Democrats have the vision, values and determination to lead us toward the America we believe in.

But the truth is that as soon as the speeches ended and the thousands of us in the crowd returned to our communities, the real work began. The only way we can realize that vision of a stronger, more inclusive America – where success is possible for anyone who works hard and plays by the rules – is if we elect Democrats up and down the ballot for every federal, state, and county office. And the only way that will happen is if every one of us directs

all the time, energy, and resources that we can spare to electing all of our Democratic candidates.

As inspired as I felt that night in Charlotte, I am equally confident that, if we work together, the America Democrats believe in will become a reality.



Lauren during Presidential Nomination Roll Call.

## National Convention Recap by Steve Sheffey

The 2012 Democratic Convention in Charlotte was a huge success. I was fortunate to represent our 10th District as a delegate, along with State Senator Terry Link and former State Representative Lauren Beth Gash. Many other 10th District residents were there, including Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, Alyssa Knobel, Josh Brown, Gregg Garmisa, and Annette Lidawer.

The days began early, typically at 7:00 a.m. with a breakfast meeting for the Illinois delegation. In addition to numerous union officials, speakers at these morning gatherings included Michael Blake (Deputy National Operation Vote Director for Obama for America), Gov. Pat Quinn, Lt. Governor Sheila Simon, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, Congressman Danny Davis, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Senator Dick Durbin, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer,

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and congressional candidates Bill Foster and Tammy Duckworth.

After the breakfasts, delegates had several options to choose from. Each day featured various caucus meetings, such as the women's caucus, the Native American caucus, the senior caucus, the African-American caucus, the Hispanic caucus, and the Jewish caucus. Some met several times during the week.

There were also events not part of the convention but timed to coincide with it. AIPAC and J Street had several forums and events as did Bend the Arc, a liberal Jewish social justice organization. The Truman National Security Project also hosted a forum.

The convention speeches were

amazing. Most of you probably saw Michelle Obama, Bill Clinton, Joe Biden, and Barack Obama. But if you didn't see John Kerry's speech, try to find it on the Internet. If Kerry had been that relaxed and confident in 2004, he might be finishing his second term.

It was a hectic few days, and all of us returned home fired up and energized to reelect President Obama, build our majority in the Senate, and restore a Democratic majority to the House.



Steve Sheffey and Lauren Beth Gash, 10th District Delegates, with Gregg Garmisa.

# CONVENTION WATCH PARTY



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# Dold Among the Most Anti-Environment Members of Congress

## Sierra Club Endorses Dold's Opponent, Brad Schneider; Dold Earns F Rating

This is the second article in a two-part series on Rep. Robert Dold's environmental votes.

Last month this column highlighted 10<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Robert Dold's use of doublespeak and other ploys to craft an image of himself as an environmentalist. His voting record reveals a very different story. Although Dold occasionally has voted the environmentally correct position—usually on closely-watched, high-profile legislation – far more often he has voted contrary to the environmentally responsible position.

An analysis of Dold's voting record during the first session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, when the House Republican leadership waged an unprecedented assault on the environment, shows that Dold voted the anti-environment position on 142 out of 167 measures, or 85 percent of the time. Excluding failed measures, the frequency with which Dold voted against protecting the environment jumps to 96 percent.

(See <http://www.tenthdem.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/201209NL.pdf>)

The more than 100 anti-environment legislative proposals that Dold supported in his first term in Congress include:

**H. R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act:** This radical piece of legislation proposed to open most of the nation's coastline to dangerous offshore drilling.

**H. Amdt. 467, Scalise of Louisiana Amendment:** This amendment proposed to bar the Department of Agriculture from implementing a plan to work with farmers, the agriculture industry, and forest managers to address the threats to the forests and food sources caused by climate change.

**H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011:** This bill would give oil companies a free pass to pollute by allowing them to sidestep critical Clean Air Act protections and avoid common-sense air pollution limits on their offshore drilling operations. The bill proposed to exempt these companies from requirements to apply available pollution control technology to vessels used in offshore drilling and waive permit reviews by the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board.

**H. R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act:** This bill would expedite approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline across six states to carry tar sands—the dirtiest oil on the planet—from Canada's boreal forest to an international shipping point in Texas. The pipeline would threaten the environment with far more global-warming pollution than conventional crude oil and jeopardize surrounding communities, ecosystems, and watersheds.

**H. R. 2681, the Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011:** This bill proposes to eliminate previously-finalized standards to clean up mercury and other toxic air pollution from cement plants, the second largest industrial emitters of mercury pollution, which can impair a child's ability to think, talk, read, write, and learn. The bill would delay a new set of standards for at least four-and-a-half years, while eliminating any deadline for cement plants to comply with the standards. Every year the standards are delayed means an additional 2,500 premature deaths due to cement plants' harmful emissions.

**H. R. 2250, EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011:** This bill proposed to indefinitely delay long overdue air pollution control standards for industrial boilers and incinerators, which act as small, in-house power plants and emit toxic air pollution including mercury and cancer-causing dioxins. As noted above, mercury is a potent neurotoxin with especially dire consequences for pregnant women and children. Industrial boilers and incinerators are the nation's third largest source of mercury emissions. Every year the standards are delayed means up to an additional 18,000 premature deaths, 52,000 asthma attacks, and 5,100 heart attacks.

Even after voting for these egregiously anti-environment measures, as well as many others, Dold has had the gall to campaign as a pro-environment candidate. The Republican congressman has been using tax dollars to mail voters colorful postcards in which he portrays himself as an "independent" and an environmentalist. This deception marries Dold's complete lack of responsibility for our planet and disdain for public health to his utter disregard for speaking truth to his constituents.

Judge Dold by how he has voted over the past two years, as documented in this column and earlier issues of the *Tenth News*, not by what he says he's done. Judge Dold by how he has represented the residents of this district and not by how he represents himself. Then go out and cast your vote for Democratic challenger Brad Schneider, a man 10<sup>th</sup> District voters can count on to protect our precious environment.



# CONVENTION WATCH PARTY



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# CONVENTION WATCH PARTY



# Obamacare Forum Corrects Myths by Stephen Ark

Close to 100 people attended an Obamacare forum on September 11 in Lincolnshire featuring an expert panel of medical professionals. The event, hosted by the Tenth Dems University, presented an in-depth examination of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the groundbreaking health-care reform law known as Obamacare.

The panel's purpose was to correct myths about the law and showcase the positive effects the Affordable Care Act will have on everyday Americans. It was moderated by Dr. Mark Rosenberg and included three other distinguished medical professionals: Dr. Ram Krishnamoorthi, Michael L. Millenson, and Jillian Phillips.

Dr. Rosenberg is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He has a Masters Degree from Loyola University in Healthcare Ethics. He is an advocate for improved access and quality healthcare for all of America's children.

Dr. Krishnamoorthi, a medical doctor who also holds a Masters in Public Health, is a representative for Doc-



tors for America, a nonprofit organization made up of physicians and medical students working for quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.

Mr. Millenson is the president of Health Quality Advisors, LLC, and a nationally recognized expert on quality of care improvement and patient-centered healthcare delivery. He is a former health reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* and author of the critically acclaimed book, *Demanding Medical Excellence: Doctors and Accountability in the Information Age*.

Ms. Phillips is the Chicago-area organizer for the Campaign for Better Health Care, Illinois' largest healthcare advocacy coalition. CBHC has been working for comprehensive health reform at the state level since 1989.

The panel addressed a variety of issues of concern to citizens in Illinois, including incentives built into the Affordable Care Act to encourage preventive care plans by insurance companies for both women and men; to increase accountability for doctors, hospitals, and medical providers; and to build a standard-

ized exchange of understandable insurance plans that would provide a baseline of care for the American people. Central to the discussion was the idea of patient-centered care—care in which those being treated have a clear voice in their relationship with their doctors, thus encouraging doctors to improve their practices to better serve those they care for.

At the close of the panel discussion Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Tenth Dems Chair, stressed the importance of getting the word out about the Affordable Care Act: "We start by talking to you," she told the attendees, "and then you talk to your friends and neighbors about what this important legislation will do to improve peoples' lives."

"I encourage you to become the go-to person for understanding healthcare reform in your community," said Sharon Narrod, who helped organize the event for Tenth Dems. "Citizen advocacy for the Affordable Care Act can launch a meaningful debate about the real implications of healthcare reform for America."



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Corporate contributions are not allowed.

# TENTH DEMS SPONSORS SUCCESSFUL VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE By Eleonora di Liscia

While Republicans fight to block the 47 percent from voting, Tenth Dems is doing its part to make sure voter rolls stay healthy and full of eligible voters.

Vivek Bavda has been helping organize Tenth Dems' voter registration drive this fall. Tenth Dems has sponsored about 150 Deputy Voter Registrars, trained by the Lake and Cook County Clerks' offices. More than 30 volunteers then registered voters at a host of locations throughout the district, including area churches, colleges, and grocery stores. Registrars also signed up friends and neighbors individually.

The result has been many hundreds of new voters.

"We've had first-time voters tell us how excited they are to be able to vote. One woman was very happy she would get to vote, and so happy we were there to register her," said Bavda. "You have people coming up and saying: 'You're doing a great job. We're glad to see you out at this event.'"

As required by law, Tenth Dems offered registration as a service to all voters, and registration was conducted in a non-partisan fashion without

party signage. The registration drive has been a fun time for Tenth Dems volunteers to socialize while making a difference.

**Registration for the November election ends October 9, 2012.**  
If you are interested in volunteering for voter registration drives or want to register to vote, email us at: [volunteers@tenthdems.org](mailto:volunteers@tenthdems.org).

*Early voting begins October 22.*



## YES, WE DID! THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

**Lyrics by Eleonora di Liscia** (with a nod to Bob Dylan)

*View video performances of song parodies at [www.tenthdems.org/2012/09/original-parody-song-1-world/](http://www.tenthdems.org/2012/09/original-parody-song-1-world/) and [www.tenthdems.org/2012/07/right-wingers-let-me-vote-to-the-tune-of-cecilia-come-on-home/](http://www.tenthdems.org/2012/07/right-wingers-let-me-vote-to-the-tune-of-cecilia-come-on-home/).*

*More videos coming soon.*

Oh come all ye Democrats, listen up well.  
Obama's done good things, too many to tell.

He took out Osama, pulled out of Iraq;  
Enforcement of EPA rules is back.  
And don't forget Lilly of equal pay fame,

*Because the times, they are a-changing.*

So come all Progressives, it's time to be proud.

Real change has occurred, so sing it out loud.  
When your insurance was no longer there,

Obama passed Affordable Care,  
Supported gay marriage, gave DOMA a pass,

*For the times, they are a-changing.*

Oh come all Democrats, there's more to be thanked --

Like consumer safety and passing Dodd-Frank.

Republicans refused to step cross the aisle.

Still, we raised gas standards by many a mile;  
And students can get loans that won't break their bank,

*For the times, they are a-changing.*

Now here is my message, sit up and take note:

Our only salvation lies in your vote.  
Get out to the polls and bring all of your friends,

Or all of these good things will come to an end;

And we'll go back to zero and maybe below,

*For the times need to keep changing.*

# DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



Of 20,000 people, 7th Row Center!



James Taylor



Lauren Beth Gash and Dr. Ram Krishnamoorthi, who spoke the next week in Illinois at a Tenth Dems U event on healthcare



Lauren and Gregg



DNC Military Service Project



Lauren Beth Gash and Rev. Jesse Jackson



Sen. Durbin



Chicago Police Officers in Charlotte



Speaker Mike Madigan, Lauren and Attorney General Lisa Madigan



President Obama

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OCTOBER ISSUE

# DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



National Jewish Democratic Council  
Repairing the World, One Election at  
a Time



Lauren Beth Gash and ..., first same-sex marriage license holder in New York



Lauren with longest-serving Lake County Board member Audrey Nixon



Lauren, Rep. Karen May and  
Sandy Stein



Michelle Obama from the balcony



Convention Floor



Lauren and DNC Chair  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Lauren and Gov. Quinn



Illinois Roll Call Scrum



Sandy, Sen. Terry and Susie Link,  
Karen May and Lauren



President Clinton from the balcony

# Reality Jokes from the 1950s by Jack Altschuler

Q. What do you call couples who practice the rhythm method of birth control?

A. Parents

Q. What do you call teenagers who are taught abstinence as the only form of birth control?

A. Parents

Amazingly, according to the Republican Party platform, only abstinence is to be taught in our schools to instruct our teenagers in birth control. That ignores both the slam-dunk certainty of human behavior and decades of progress in science.

We humans are remarkably resistant to changing our natural behavioral tendencies. We have certain defaults, like survival of self and survival of the species. We avoid unnecessary danger and are afraid of the unknown. And following puberty, we have sexual urges. While it is undeniably true that our behavior can and usually is curbed by societal norms, our urges remain and, in certain circumstances, societal norms are all but forgotten.

For example, we all know that killing is wrong, but we kill one another with

steadfast consistency. We all know that lying and cheating are wrong, and those happen, too. And, while kids know not to have sex, they've always done it and will continue to do so. Leaving them with nothing but abstinence for birth control is leaving them with pitiful tools for a difficult job.

Science has become a strange and forbidden topic for the far righties. They say and do things that suggest that they believe that nothing has been learned over the past 2000 years. Public officials spittle-spray astonishingly ignorant things and brand anyone who counters them with facts as godless. But the science exists, and we have learned much and created wonderful things that make our lives safer, healthier, easier, and better-informed. So, to paraphrase the movie, *Men In Black*, 1,000 years ago men knew that the Earth was the center of the universe. Five hundred years ago men knew the Earth was flat. One hundred years ago men knew that the only form of birth control was abstinence.

What do the far right Republicans know now? Hint: The Earth is not flat.

According to a [CDC study reported by CBS News](#), there was a 44 percent drop in American teenage pregnancies (girls ages 15-19) from 1991-2010, and there were fewer teenage mothers in 2010 than in any year since 1946. The CDC reports that the dramatic decline is due to pregnancy-prevention messages, the pill, and condoms. What that says is that talking about sex and pregnancy gives kids a better understanding of risks and consequences. It says that science (the pill) exists and is available to prevent pregnancy. That suggests that kids aren't stupid and will learn to make better choices when they are told the truth—all of it—and when they are given more powerful tools.

Ostriches are reputed to stick their heads in the sand when frightened. They may not be bright animals, but they really don't do that. The myth does suggest great metaphors, though: pretending that teen sex can be controlled by telling kids not to engage in sexual behavior or that they must not take advantage of better science is ignoring reality, much like the apocryphal ostrich with its head in the sand.

Come to think of it, that Republican platform of denying reality seems to pop up in lots of issues, like accepting the concept of global warming, needing to honor our debts, telling the truth about Medicare vouchers . . . it even extends to talking to empty chairs.

Here's the thing about reality: It always wins. We can deny reality, but that won't change what really exists. And the longer we pretend, the worse our problems become.

For example, we can pretend that outlawing abortions will prevent them, but we have hundreds of years of experience that tells us with certainty that if abortions are made unlawful, they will continue just the same. The only difference is that they will revert to what used to be called "back alley abortions," and women will be mutilated and killed in the process. That is the reality, even if some deny it.

Those jokes from the 1950s weren't funny then, and they are not funny now. It's time for some reasonable Republicans to have an injection of starch into their spines. It's time that they speak up and stand up to the radical bullies in their party who insist upon denying reality and harming the rest of us. Either that or they should put the loonies in their rear view mirrors, as Charlie Crist did, and join those of us who prefer reality.

