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For information or to volunteer:
 Email us at newsletter@tenthdems.org
 Or visit our website at www.tenthdems.org
 Or call us at 847.266.VOTE (8683)
 Or write to Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Chair,
 Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015

Editors: Barbara Altman, Adrienne Kirshbaum

Editorial Staff: Joan Attenberg, Lauren Beth Gash, Steve Sheffey, Allan Sperling

Contributors: Cindy Bauer, Steven Gan, Eric Herman, John Hmurovic, Terry Jones, Mark Levy, Leslie Lipschultz, Eleonora di Liscia, Kathy Rand, Sharon Sanders, Laurie Kaplan Singh

Design: Charles Troy

Distribution: Ravi Ganapathy, Glenn Stier

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Breaking News: Frerichs Elected, Once Every Vote Counted

More than two weeks after Election Day, Republican Tom Cross conceded one of the closest races in Illinois history. It's official. State Senator Mike Frerichs will be Illinois' next State Treasurer.



When the last votes were counted, provisional ballots and better-than-expected results from Lake County sealed Frerichs' win. And although

no one can say for sure, it's likely that the work of Tenth Dems volunteers contributed significantly to those results.

On Election Day, Tenth Dems' all-volunteer Voter Protection Team of attorneys and poll watchers was deployed throughout the 10th District, charged with making sure that every eligible voter who went to the polls was permitted to cast a ballot.

From before the polls opened at 6:00 a.m., until well after the scheduled 7:00 p.m. closing time (which, by court order, was extended to 9:00 p.m. for same-day registration sites in Lake County), members of this Tenth Dems legal team worked tirelessly to protect voters' rights, performing a wide variety of tasks. Early on Election Day morning, Tenth Dems volunteer lawyers brought a lawsuit that compelled the Republican Lake County Clerk to abandon extra burdens she was imposing on voters who

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Tenth News

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Congressman-Elect Dold Should Not Get Too Comfortable in His New Seat

By John Hmurovic

The Democrats lost. That's a fact. But Republicans in the 10th District should temper their enthusiasm. The numbers show that 2016 will be another close, bruising, and expensive election, and the congressional seat that soon will be held by Robert Dold could be his for only two years.

Clearly, money can buy elections. Around \$20 million was spent in the 10th District. Dold brought in \$3.2 million in donations, compared to \$4.3 million that Brad Schneider raised. But outside groups heavily swayed the money advantage in Dold's direction, spending \$8.9 million on his behalf, compared to outside spending of \$3.4 million to support Schneider. And that's probably just the tip of the spending iceberg that sank the spirit of Democrats on election night. Republican money poured into state legislative races, even ones that appeared to be longshots, all in the hope of spurring Republican turnout and helping Bob Dold to win.

Money creates motivation in politics. If you see ad after ad that strikes a chord inside your heart, brain, or gut, you become motivated to vote. The goal is to get you angry, to make you want to get out of your seat so you can "throw the bum out." In this election, Republicans in the 10th District were motivated not only by ads attacking Brad Schneider, but also by ads attacking Democratic Governor Pat Quinn. Quinn was outspent by a better than two-to-one margin by Governor-elect Bruce Rauner, with

much of that difference coming out of Rauner's own massive bank account. The nearly \$100 million spent by the candidates for governor was twice the amount spent in the governor's race four years ago.



Besides motivating supporters to vote, the other side of the money coin is that negative ads can also help a candidate knock the motivation out of an opposing candidate's voters. Day after day of negative messages about your candidate wears some voters down, causing them to lose interest and to stay at home on Election Day.

The constant attacks against Quinn worked. He managed just 43.0 percent of the vote in 10th District precincts, which was below his statewide total of 46.1 percent. It's also possible that Rauner did better in the 10th District because he's from the northern suburbs, while Quinn is from Chicago. Whatever the reason, typically, if a candidate at the top of a party's ticket does poorly, that will lead to problems for that party's candidates further down the ticket. Stoked by a few million dollars in advertising, angry, motivated

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★ SAVE THE DATE: TENTH DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 15. SEE P. 11 FOR DETAILS. ★

At Voter Protection Headquarters in Waukegan, Tenth Dems Volunteers Coordinate and Support a Team of Some 150 Lawyers and Poll Watchers



Hold Dold Accountable for His Actions

Former Republican Congressman Robert Dold won the 2014 10th District Congressional race, but not because he was honest with voters about his positions on the issues important to them.

Keenly aware that his values and priorities are out of sync with the majority of the district's voters, Dold resorted to a host of deceptive tactics—including doublespeak, ambiguous sound bites, and blatant distortion of facts—to mislead voters into believing he aims to protect their interests. He used his website to depict himself as

Rep. Bob Dold's *Extreme* MAKEOVER



an "independent" leader who "puts people before politics and progress before partisanship." But as readers of this column know, Dold spent his first term in Congress voting in virtual lockstep with his party's extremist leaders, helping the radical

right attempt to turn back the clock on decades of progress on women's rights; the safety net of Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security; healthcare reform; and environmental protections.

Here's just one case in point. Dold's campaign ran a television commercial featuring his sister, Kristie Dold-Bennett, an OB-GYN, who told viewers: "Patients deserve the freedom to make their own choices. Bob understands this isn't the government's business. From disease prevention to family planning, these are personal issues. Washington shouldn't limit the choices women have in their own healthcare. Women need someone who's on their side, and I'm proud to say that's Bob Dold."

Sure seems like Bob Dold cares about protecting women's rights – including the right to choose. Doesn't it? Unfortunately, Dold's congressional voting record shows precisely the opposite. During his first term in Congress, he supported numerous legislative measures aimed at restricting or rolling back women's access to legal abortion and the right to choose. He also voted for proposals aimed at allowing insurance companies to discriminate against women (by raising premiums or denying coverage); weakening environmental laws that protect pregnant women; and eliminating women's access to maternal and preventive care. A detailed discussion of the anti-women legislation supported by Dold in his first term in the House of Representatives can be found here: <http://www.tenthdems.org/2012/10/robert-dolds-anti-women-voting-record/>.

Dold's willingness to deceive voters about his positions on the major issues facing our nation strongly suggests that he lacks

the moral compass to represent the values of the 10th District—a privilege he surely would not have regained if more progressive voters had participated in the midterm election. We'll be tracking every one of Dold's votes in the next session of Congress and reporting to you. It behooves all of us to pay close attention. If, as is likely, Dold continues to support the Republican right-wing agenda, we cannot allow him to succeed in claiming otherwise when it's time to elect a Congressman again in 2016. ■



Volunteers show their support for Sheila Simon's candidacy for Illinois State Comptroller.



Members of Team Brad strategize before heading out to canvass.



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voters come to the polls, and many of them come prepared to punish all the candidates of the party that is the target of their anger. When some of those races are close, those angry, motivated voters can tip the results of those contests.

The race for Congress was close. Schneider received 48.4 percent of the vote, which was below his 50.6 percent in 2012, just a bit below the 48.9 percent that Dan Seals received as the 2010 Democratic nominee, and a percentage point above the 47.4 percent that Seals earned in 2008. If you include the 2006 race in which 46.6 percent voted for Seals, you have five straight 10th District elections where the results were close. In this year's race, Republican motivation, created largely by a huge spending advantage from outside groups and from Bruce Rauner's personal wealth, worked to Dold's benefit.

Voter turnout is always lower in non-presidential election years. In every precinct in the 10th District there were fewer voters this year than two years ago. However, the turnout dropped 24 percentage points in Democratic precincts in the 10th, compared with a 20 percentage point drop in Republican precincts. Republicans showed up to vote more than Democrats did. That gap in turnout was large enough to make a difference in the close 10th District race.

The key role of turnout is also evident from the fact that the "blue/red" map of the district was not much different this year than it was in 2012. In 2012, Schneider won seven of the 18 townships that are at least partially in the 10th District. This year, he won six. The only one that flipped from blue to red was Avon Township, which includes parts of Hainesville, Grayslake, Ingleside, Lake Villa, Round Lake, Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Heights, Round Lake Park, and Third Lake. Avon went just 46.4 percent for Schneider in 2014 compared with 50.6 percent in 2012.

Still, what hurt Democrats the most was that their drop in turnout was greatest in some of the strongest Democratic precincts. The ten strongest Democratic precincts in the 10th District are in Waukegan and North Chicago. Those ten precincts, which cast 81 to 96 percent of their vote for Brad Schneider, saw drops in turnout from 24 to 38 percentage points. By contrast, the ten most Republican precincts in the 10th District, which are mostly in Lake Forest, saw drops in turnout in the range of only 15 to 20 percentage points. Those precincts cast 76 to 80 percent of their votes for Bob Dold.

Turnout was not a complete disaster for Democrats. The drop in the Democratic precincts of Glencoe was only around 13 percentage points, 18 points in Highland Park, about the same in Northbrook, around 20 percentage points in Deerfield, and just

slightly higher in Buffalo Grove. Schneider won in all of those communities. Interestingly, in those areas where Democratic turnout was best, Schneider actually did better in this election than he did in his victorious 2012 race. He ran 0.4 points higher in Northfield Township (Northbrook), West Deerfield Township (Deerfield), and Moraine Township (Highland Park), and 0.8 points higher in Glencoe. Democrats in those communities were motivated and were supportive of Brad Schneider's candidacy.

In every other township, Schneider received a lower percentage in 2014 than he did in 2012, including a drop of 4.0 percentage points in Waukegan Township, 4.2 points in both Maine Township and Avon Township, and 6.3 points in Zion Township. He carried three of these four townships in this election (55 percent in Maine, 57 percent in Zion, and 68 percent in Waukegan), but these were also the three townships with the lowest voter turnout in the entire 10th District (38 percent in Maine, 37 percent in Zion, and 36 percent in Waukegan). Those who voted in those communities liked Brad Schneider, but too many of their neighbors were not motivated enough to cast a ballot in this non-presidential election year.

A closer look at the numbers, in fact, shows that Dold's victory was mostly a result of motivation, not a triumph of ideas. In Moraine and West Deerfield Townships, and the small part of New Trier Township that is in the 10th District, there was a good deal of ticket-splitting. Voters chose Schneider even more strongly than they did two years ago, but they also rejected fellow Democrat Pat Quinn. If you look at just the Democratic/Republican vote in the governor's race and exclude the third-party vote so you can get a better apples-to-apples comparison, Quinn ran eight points behind Schneider in Moraine Township and West Deerfield Township and a massive 13 points behind him in the 10th District portion of New Trier. With higher-than-average turnout in those areas, what you had were motivated voters willing to split their tickets who embraced Schneider's leadership and ideas over Dold's by an even greater margin than they had two years earlier.

By contrast, there was not as much ticket-splitting in other parts of the district, at least in the races for governor and Congress. Voters in Lake Forest and other Republican areas chose both Rauner and Dold. Likewise, Democratic voters in Maine, Waukegan, and Zion Townships did not do a lot of ticket-splitting. They voted for Quinn and Schneider in the range of 55 to 69 percent. They clearly did not reject the Democrats. But they did lack the same level of motivation that the millions of dollars of ads created in the Republican precincts of the 10th. As a result, Brad Schneider lost, not because of a rejection of his ideas or leadership, but because the Republicans succeeded at exploiting their massive money advantage.

In 2016, if voter turnout returns to its usual presidential election year levels, there will be more Democratic votes in the 10th District. That makes it more likely that Democrats will recapture this congressional seat. But there is no evidence to suggest that the outside groups that made this one of the most expensive congressional elections in the country and propelled Bob Dold to victory will stop donating in 2016. In fact, their success this year makes it likely that they will spend even more the next time. That means only two things are guaranteed for 2016: No matter who wins, it will be close; and as long as there are no caps on election spending, this will again be a very expensive congressional election. ■

Experiences at the Door: Reflections of a First-Time Canvasser

by Mark Levy

I knew for a long time that I wanted to work as a volunteer in a meaningful capacity on Brad Schneider's campaign for reelection to Congress. I had never done anything like this before and I did not know what to expect.

To get started, I found my way to Schneider's Northbrook headquarters for a meeting with Kim Kargman, the campaign's Field Director. In sports parlance, I was a "walk-in," and Kim assigned me to canvass and phone bank in Highland Park. Since I recently retired, I was skeptical as to whether that would be a good match for the skill set I could bring to the campaign. Little did I know that a part of my background would match very well.

Kim explained the campaign's hope that I and other volunteers could reach into the community and recruit more volunteers from people we knew. After this initial meeting, I had no inkling of how exciting I would find these voter-contact activities.

Kim introduced me to Alyssa Zavislak, soon to be a Regional Field Director. I would refer to the two of them as "my bosses," and I was not kidding! Kim and Alyssa provided excellent leadership to a group of volunteers with varied backgrounds. They were always calm in explaining our roles amidst the inherent tensions of the campaign.

Under our organizational theme, I became a member of Team Brad Highland Park, along with Nelson Armour and Sharon Narrod, two more experienced volunteers from whom I sought advice in the early weeks of the summer, until I found my bearings.

My indoctrination started off with organizational meetings on several Saturdays. There was a gathering in Grayslake for a regional office opening. There was a planning meeting (staff called it a "party") at the Moraine Township Democratic Organization's (MTDO) office, and an educational meeting for all regions in Gurnee.

Then our weekend canvassing began in earnest.

Once I started working door-to-door, I enjoyed discussions with voters more than I could have predicted. Door-to-door discussions have a predictable range of outcomes. But on each canvass outing there was at least one extraordinary discussion that lasted more than a few moments and left me believing that I was persuading a voter who had not yet decided.

These exchanges were a mixture of serious and humorous.

My favorite voter discussion was with a gentleman who began by telling me that he had no use for either candidate. Just as I thought the conversation was over, he sat down on his front stoop and told me of his personal frustration that his Medicare reimbursements did not cover all of his costs, and he was unable to figure out how to obtain insurance for 20 percent of his medical expenses. He needed someone to intercede for him. I opened my field pack to the talking points about Brad's position on different issues. I mentioned



at least two points that were relevant to his situation. It was clear that Brad Schneider was the candidate for this voter. I tore out the talking points from my field pack and gave them to him for Election Day.

This positive experience at one door early on increased my enthusiasm for canvassing for the entire election season. It left me confident that I could persuade voters who had not yet made up their minds. My working colleagues at MTDO were glad to assign new canvassers to join me, and I began to share responsibility for training other canvassers on Sundays.

Another favorite story occurred at an apartment building landing with doors to four apartments. At the first knock I met an elderly gentleman. After I described Brad Schneider's position on issues, he said he would support Brad, and he seized the initiative to knock on his neighbors' doors for me. One younger neighbor responded that she and her husband vote Republican, if at all. He "instructed" her that she would go to the polls with him this Election Day and she would vote for Congressman Schneider. The next neighbor responded that she would vote for Brad, of course. I had the impression she was familiar with her neighbor's gruff persuasion technique, and she quickly complied. I invited this gentleman to join our group of volunteers, but he would not venture beyond his own apartment building.

Some of my conversations were somber. In one encounter, a caregiver invited me into a home where I found an elderly woman sitting in a reclining chair. The woman told me she was critically ill and taking treatments. But for her health insurance, medical bills would have caused the loss of the house and everything else. I was empathetic and wished her well with her treatments. I left vote by mail (VBM) applications for everyone in the house. She promised to fill them out after I left. I hope she received the VBM ballot and voted, because she was an example of the type of person Democrats are trying to protect.

Toward the end of the campaign, our field work was assisted by Hannah Stonebraker, our talented Highland Park coordinator who joined our team for the final weeks and who led our Get Out The Vote efforts.

Summer turned to fall and to the disappointment of Election Night. The results were surprising to both volunteers and staff. Brad Schneider was steadfast and optimistic about the future in his remarks, saying he knew the important work each of us committed to would continue. The results of the election reinforce our resolve to elect a candidate who best reflects the values of voters in our district. Alyssa commented, "We put up one hell of a fight."

I am reminded by these experiences of an author who spoke about people's stories. We all have stories to tell—sometimes humorous and sometimes serious, but always interesting. My discussions with voters at their doors enabled me to see a snapshot of their stories. Despite my disappointment at this election's results, I hope to use my interest in people and their stories to try to persuade voters in a future election. This was an enriching experience! ■

A First-Time Volunteer Joins Sam Yingling's Campaign

By Cindy Bauer

"Sometimes you need to do something outside your comfort zone," my daughter said when I mentioned I would be volunteering for State Representative Sam Yingling. Helping on a political campaign is something I've never done before, and my daughter, an actress and educator in her 30s, is always encouraging me to push my limits.

From the moment I walked in the door, everyone was very welcoming. There was a real sense of common purpose.

I thought a campaign for state representative might attract a handful of volunteers but, to my surprise, there were always at least a dozen people working when I was. I was also struck by the diversity of the staff and volunteers. There was a broad spectrum not only of ethnicities, but also of ages. In my sixties, I thought I would be the "old lady." But this was not the case. Other volunteers were my age, and even considerably older. Still, the majority of volunteers were in their twenties.

The diversity extended to political ideas and even party affiliation, and everyone's views were encouraged. As we stuffed envelopes or did some other chore, there was always friendly conversation, and everyone was included. Sometimes the conversation became quite spirited. Often our conversation was triggered by one that a volunteer had recently had with a voter and would evolve into a discussion about a specific issue, like the minimum wage, for example. I came to realize that the people who volunteered for Sam—and the overall attitude of the campaign—were a reflection of Sam: inclusive, open, and independent.

I committed to coming in twice a week after work and was encouraged to try different tasks. My gift of gab landed me a regular assignment making phone calls – phone banking. When I first heard "phone banking," I thought it would be like telemarketing, that I would be selling Sam like others might sell vacuum cleaners. Happily, this was not the case. Although I was given a script, I was encouraged to improvise, and the most important element was making a connection with the potential voter. I would always start by explaining who Sam is, what he has done, and what he stands for. In many cases, the voter knew Sam or had met him: "He knocked on my door and we had a conversation" was a common thing to hear. I found it encouraging that in a short period of time Sam had touched so many people. I also began to understand how personal contact is the lifeblood of any good campaign.

This personal contact went both ways. We asked everyone we called what issues were important to them. Although most people mentioned extremely high property taxes, I heard—and learned—about many local issues and personal concerns. In turn, Sam or the campaign followed up on everything, even if it wasn't the responsibility of a state representative. If Joan Smith was having trouble getting her sidewalk fixed, the campaign would call the municipality.

Even though Sam is a Democrat, we talked to everyone, even dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. I quickly realized that a "D" or "R" could mean very little. Aside from those extremists that would shut down a conversation after hearing the word "Democrat,"

more often than not the "R" was just a regular person like you or me who wanted to know Sam's position on taxes or education or the environment. I learned that it's naive to have pre-conceived notions about what people believe or how they vote and that being "independent" is more than a catch-phrase.

On election night, as the returns started coming in, we saw how poorly most Democrats were doing. Naturally, many of us worried. But I remembered what my daughter had said, and I thought about how every day the campaign put all its effort into contacting voters, spending a lot of time talking to people outside our comfort zone. Sam won, and so did my diverse group of new friends from the campaign. ■



Supporters gather in Sam Yingling's living room awaiting featured speaker, Lisa Madigan.



Supporters of Governor Quinn take a photo-break from door knocking and phone banking.

Confessions of a Volunteer

by Kathy Rand

When I went to bed on election night, I was totally disheartened. I made the decision that I was done with politics. The next day I refused to read the newspapers, watch TV, or read anything political on the Internet. I was done.

But by the following morning, I decided to read a few things written by progressives and watch a few liberals on TV. And before I knew it, I was forwarding posts and articles to my progressive partners in crime.

And despite the painful losses of our candidates in the 10th District and across Illinois, I was grateful for one thing: at least I tried. I made phone calls to voters and I knocked on doors. I stood outside of polling places in the cold and handed out voter guides as people came into the polling places. I assisted with the election protection efforts: I helped set up meetings for the volunteer lawyers, and I helped staff the office for the legal effort. I drove people to the polls. I did lots of errands and small tasks that were all focused on making sure that everyone's vote counted. I worked hard to encourage registered voters to get out and vote. And, of course, I voted – early.

And I had the pleasure of doing all that with a whole lot of people who felt the same way I did about the issues – and who are as committed as I am to making the world a better place.

Unfortunately, my efforts did not result in success for Brad Schneider or Pat Quinn or many others running for statewide and countywide office. But I kind of wonder if things might have been different if more people had been willing to give their time. Already the leadership of Tenth Dems is getting calls from people saying how guilty they feel and how sorry they are that they didn't do anything.

Feel guilty? The issues and causes are still there and we will continue to fight for them in the years ahead. So volunteer your time and talents; together we'll change the world.

In the words of Elizabeth Warren: "The game is rigged. We can whimper, we can whine, or we can fight back. Me? I'm fighting back."

Me, too. Join us. ■



It's So Simple to Get the Word Out

By Steven Gan

It was indeed demoralizing to lose the Senate in the midterm elections last month. But the terrible shock came when our own 10th District Representative, Brad Schneider, lost to Bob Dold. For a few days after Election Day, probably like many of you, I was walking in a fog, asking myself how it was that we could lose so many important elections. Looking honestly at myself, I came up with the answer. It was partly my fault, and I have to take responsibility for my share of our loss.

Now you might be asking yourself, "How could Steven Gan have any direct responsibility for the midterm election losses, especially those in races out of his district and in other states?" Sure, I voted (early). I wrote for our monthly Tenth Dems newsletter. I contributed as much money as I could afford and attended as many Democratic political events as I could.

Was it enough to make a difference? With a little self-reflection, my answer is a resounding NO, and in view of the upcoming 2016 election, I have decided to step up my efforts and try to make more of a difference.

For example, I would characterize my political presence on social media as being rather lackluster. I'll post a link to the Tenth Dems newsletter on my Facebook page and engage in debates with those who take exception to what I have written, but one little link to promote the *Tenth News* on my Facebook page is embarrassingly lame. So one area in which I have decided to make more of an aggressive effort is to promote the *Tenth News* and Democratic Party news, ideas, and information more widely on Facebook and other social media, which we all know can be done very easily. Aren't all of us already glancing at a variety of news sources, reading through articles and even posting a comment here and there on a regular basis? How easy it would be to click on the Facebook and Twitter share buttons to send our friends, relatives, and associates (and in my case, the many lost souls from high school and college who have migrated to the Republican side) the articles, news, and comments that support the Democratic Party. Instead of just posting the occasional link on my Facebook page, I now intend to post and share the links to articles, comments, opinions, and information that I come across on the dozens of sites that make up my daily and weekly reading.

The midterms are over and there's no use dwelling on the outcome. All that we can do now is go forward and make a more assertive effort to educate, inform, and motivate those individuals already in our circles by disseminating the principles and goals of the Democratic Party as widely as possible. ■

Just My Opinion...

By Sharon Sanders

Well, it seems to me we have several problems we Democrats must face in order to take back this country. If we look at what's causing these problems, the solutions should become obvious.

- The activist Supreme Court majority in both the *Citizens United* and the *McCutcheon* cases just about wrapped up the control of our elections by the one-percenters. Today, candidates have to spend most of their time raising money and running for office. That's why we need to advocate and work for campaign finance reform. We desperately need to be able to impose limits on campaign spending, as well as limits on how many months prior to an election candidates can actively campaign.
- One of the other major obstacles to Democrats winning elections is a news media that answers only to corporate sponsors. Consequently, much of the public has no idea what's being done behind closed doors in Washington and state capitals. The public is pacified with "reporting" about reality shows, who had an affair with whom, and the Kardashians, along with endless commercials and infomercials. Since the less people know the better Republicans do, it's become the voter's job to research proactively. The real news is out there, but we need to find it and discriminate between what is news and what's not. Even NPR, which is now funded to a large extent by the Kochs, Gates, Exxon, and other corporate foundations, is no longer a reliable source of information. Meanwhile, massive corporations like Comcast, Murdoch, Clear Channel, and a few others that have been allowed to buy up the Internet, cable, movies, and TV channels can control the message and restrict our voices. No matter how many events or rallies or forums we have, we are dealing with media that are deaf to our message. Our regulators have become pawns of the very same industries they're supposed to regulate.
- We also now have a shadow government at all levels run by the Koch Brothers and ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council). They have the funds to buy up every politician in this country, at least those who can be bought, and to write all the legislation they want with templates that they hand to their puppets in legislatures to pass.
- Another problem is that some of our Democratic candidates fail to stand up for Democratic values. Some of those who did speak out, like Alan Grayson and Al Franken, won reelection. We Democrats need to have the courage to fight for what we believe in. We need to say that Democrats believe in a strong middle class, fair wages and benefits, equality of opportunity for all, a free or affordable public school education from preschool through college, and an end to secret free trade agreements that just use people as slave labor and destroy regulations that protect our food, air, water, and products. Democrats need to stand up for the middle class, which is the backbone of a democratic society, as well as push for clean, renewable energy, an end to fracking, quality healthcare for all, government incentives for students to go into primary care

medicine, and help for small businesses that are being abused and stepped on by their bigger and more powerful corporate competitors. We need to enact a decent minimum wage so workers don't have to work three or four jobs just to pay basic bills. Big corporations that hire as few people as possible and pay them as little as possible are following a business model that, in the end, will fail. We need to say that unions are not the enemy; they're not perfect, but neither are the corporations that despise them and deflect the blame for all problems onto them. Workers have a right to be protected and represented.

Unless we have a strong message, unless we get that message out to everyone, unless we realize that those of us who have must help those who don't, and unless we get big money out of politics, we will have nothing as a party or as a nation. ■

Breaking News: Frerichs Elected, Once Every Vote Counted

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applied for a mail-in ballot but decided instead to vote in person, and the team disseminated the court order to polling sites across the county. When some 10th District polling sites were processing voters so slowly that long lines built up, Voter Protection Team volunteers delivered pizza and other refreshments to help the voters endure the wait. After the polls closed, Voter Protection volunteers made sure all ballots were counted properly that night, and as absentee votes came in.

The slimness of Frerichs' victory underscores the truth of the adage, "Every vote counts." We can be proud that the Tenth Dems' volunteer Voter Protection Team played a significant role in ensuring that every one of those votes was not only cast, but also, in fact, counted. ■



Tenth Dems leaders pose with the State Treasurer-Elect in August, following his Tenth Dems University Meet the Candidates presentation.

Carol Sente: An Effective Campaign for an Effective Legislator

By Eleonora di Liscia

Amidst a lot of bad news, the reelection of State Representative Carol Sente to the Illinois House 59th District was one of the bright spots within the 10th District.

Rep. Sente fought a tough reelection campaign against a well-funded Republican opponent while coping with family tragedy. Rep. Sente faced Leslie Munger, a Republican precinct committeewoman who had party organizations working diligently on her behalf. Munger boasted a business background and many strong connections to anti-Democratic forces.

But Rep. Sente's hard work as a campaigner and a legislator paid off in the end.

"We had a very organized campaign strategy, but I think it's bigger than that," said Sente.

Sente believes her hard work in office made a difference to her constituents. She also credits the help of Tenth Dems.

"Tenth Dems is always there," she said. "Knowing there is an organization like Tenth Dems to support all Democrats is very reassuring. Their expertise and guidance as a resource meant a lot to me in this campaign, personally, more than anything. People who started with Tenth Dems worked on our campaign as volunteers and staff. That made a huge difference."

In some ways, Rep. Sente said, this race was her most difficult.

"This was a hard campaign because of the anti-Democratic wave, the competitiveness of the 10th District race, and because many people, even Democrats, felt Democrats had not done a good job. What happens at the top of the ticket very much influences my race. And the opponent herself had retired from the business sector. She was not un-credentialed in areas that are important to Illinois voters. Plus, my mom was in hospice and died during the campaign," she said.

In her years in the state legislature, Rep. Sente has been unusually accessible to voters. During the campaign, she walked her district seven days a week, meeting voters at their front doors. Besides addressing constituent concerns, Rep. Sente answered email and held countless coffees and events.

Rep. Sente considers herself very strongly pro-environment, pro-business, pro-education, and pro-union. She has been extremely effective in bringing people together and taking a bipartisan approach in getting things done. One example is her legislation requiring all Illinois coaches and high schools to obtain concussion certification, which raises awareness about preventing and treating concussions in high school athletics.

"The first year I brought up the bill, everyone was against it. All the coaches hated it, but it was a good, important topic. What I did was meet with opponents, get ideas from them and not give up, and we passed it. I do that repeatedly and honestly; that is one of the things I'm proud of," she said. "I build relationships. You have to build relationships with people who are very different, and they might be more liberal than me and they might be Tea Party, but hey,



State Representative Carol Sente with some Tenth Dems interns at Stevenson High School following a signing ceremony for a bill she sponsored that allows 17-year-olds who will attain age 18 by Election Day to vote in that cycle's primaries.



I have to deal with them and bring them together."

Proof of Rep. Sente's effectiveness lies in the many legislative awards she has garnered from such groups as the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, American Institute of Architects, Small Business Advocacy Council, Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, LeadingAge Illinois, Illinois Farm Bureau, and many more.

She has been endorsed by groups such as the Illinois Sierra Club. According to its website, "Carol Sente is an experienced environmental activist, demonstrating her concern and care through her membership on the Green Caucus and her position as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Health Committee. She supports bills that encourage water conservation measures, electric vehicle usage, and clean energy. Sente's background, as an architect who specialized in LEED certification, has made her a natural leader on issues like clean energy and a champion of energy efficiency."

One example of her environmentally friendly approach is her recycling bill, which streamlined the process for Illinois recyclers. The bill yields more money back to the recycling program by making recycling more practical and easier.

For her upcoming term, Rep. Sente said she is looking for "a lot to crystallize and happen. I actually hope there will be increasing pressure for bipartisan action, which is one of my priorities. Many of my priorities are good government priorities. A pressing issue in Illinois is to continue to grow our economy. We are starting to be on a good path to recovery. The house had a lot of hearings last year and this year. It's time for action." ■



for Democrats: Surviving the 2014 Election

By Eleonora di Liscia

Ever since the year 2000, I dread elections. Each time, my stomach is in knots. If things go well, the elation is fabulous. If they do not, it's like someone died.

So as I try to settle my own stomach, here are some suggestions for surviving the 2014 election:

- **DOUBLE DOWN** – I really care about the environment, and for some reason Republicans think that they don't live in it. I am going to up my contributions to my favorite causes. Turn your grief into action by giving more time or money to your favorite causes—like Tenth Dems. Donating more to Tenth Dems enables people like me to keep writing stuff like this in an effort to turn out votes. If we all gave more, the momentum would be huge.
- **TAKE THE HISTORICAL LONG VIEW** – Change doesn't happen overnight or even over four-year election cycles. This country was conceived in 1776, but it took 88 years and a civil war to abolish slavery. African Americans got the right to vote in 1870. Women didn't get suffrage until 50 years later. Surprisingly, Republicans have not tried to roll back those two Constitutional Amendments. Maybe they're still too busy with the Voting Rights Act. In any case, real progress takes a long time, with a lot of ups and downs in between. Right now, we're in one of those down in-between times, but things will cycle back up.
- **TAKE THE FUTURE LONG VIEW** – The 2014 election is over. We can't fix that. 2016 is less than two years away. We can do something about that. Get a move on it!
- **TAKE A BREATHER (ONLY BRIEFLY)** – After 2004, my husband and I went into the "No-News Zone." We did not want to know, so we did not watch. Ignorance really is bliss. Hey, it works for the low-information voter! However, we don't advocate tuning out for the long haul. We do not wish you to become a low-information voter. And nothing stops you from giving more

time or money to the cause just because you're not watching MSNBC. But sometimes it is necessary to refresh oneself in order to bring renewed vigor to the fight ahead. **WARNING: TOO MUCH TUNING OUT CAN BE DANGEROUS FOR THE COUNTRY.**

- **KEEP YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR** – I actually like Stephanie Miller, although many people don't. But that little dose of humor helps the bitter medicine go down. Likewise Jon Stewart and Steven Colbert.
- **THINK STRATEGICALLY** – Let me tell you, my husband was a mess in 2000. He saw what was coming with a clarity unmatched by anyone we knew. Now it is 2014, and he's not that worried. (Did I mention that all of his political predictions have been right for the last 14 years? Don't tell him I said that.) He assures me that two years of Republican misrule will help ensure a Democrat wins the White House. Hillary Clinton's people think their chances just got a whole lot brighter. Sometimes you have to lose a battle to win a bigger battle.
- **KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE** – Other people in other countries manage to get through even worse problems than ours. We can draw inspiration from their fight. My Australian friend Denise Goodfellow wrote this to her adopted Aboriginal daughter: "When you feel down, that's the best time to gather your strength. Daughter Crystal, remember when we went to the funeral of Celia's murdered husband in Gunbalanya, and you were worried because some of those hundreds of people had guns and spears and they were running towards us? Remember what I said? 'Don't think there will be trouble and there won't.' Meaning that when faced with overwhelming odds you don't become paralyzed with fear or dread." If Denise and Crystal can keep fighting for what is right while facing an angry mob armed with guns and spears, so can we.
- **JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP** – The name of my support group is TENTH DEMS. It's filled with fun, like-minded people who grieve with you, vent with you, and move forward with you. Get involved with them and you won't wallow in the misery for long.
- **LOOK FORWARD TO THE EUPHORIA** – Remember how upsetting the 2000, 2002, and 2004 elections were? Pain, misery, and stomach knots. Then came 2006, and Democrats swept the table, capturing both the Senate and House. That was fun! And that was followed by 2008, when Karl Rove was in the process of explaining how John McCain couldn't win without Ohio, only to be interrupted because McCain had just lost Ohio. That was even more fun! Don't worry. Highs like that only come after lows like this. Stay engaged, and we'll be having fun again next time. ■



The holiday season is just around the corner. As you make your plans, please make sure you save the date for our

Annual Holiday Membership Party

**Monday, December 15
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Trax Tavern & Grille
833 Deerfield Road
Deerfield**

Enjoy complimentary salad, pizza, and soft drinks. A cash bar will be available.
We hope to see you then.

For more information or to RSVP, email events@tenthdems.org or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683). If you will be attending and can help us with the sign-in table or other tasks, including decorating, please email volunteers@tenthdems.org or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).

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