

Northwest Democrats News



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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

Apr. 16th Program: Redistricting

Don't forget to attend our Apr. 16th meeting when we will hear from Bill Owens on Texas redistricting. Maps of proposed Congressional, State Board of Education, State Senate, and State House are available online.

Visit <http://gis1.tlc.state.tx.us/> to view the maps. To access the individual maps, once the page loads click on "Select Plans" in the upper left. In the drop down menu click Base Plans. This will bring up a list of plans that are currently available for viewing.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's at Ingram Park Mall.

2010-2012

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Special Projects: Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels of San Antonio prepares and delivers hot, nutritious meals each weekday to homebound seniors living in Bexar County. With a registered dietitian on staff, our meals are often the primary source of nutrition received by our clients. Daily interaction with our volunteers and staff drivers not only combats loneliness, but provides opportunity for early intervention in life-threatening situations.

In addition to needing volunteers Meal on Wheels also accepts donations. In case you are unaware, they must purchase the food they deliver, it is not donated.

\$25 funds one week of Meals on Wheels to a homebound senior

\$50 provides ten hours of in-home companionship to a lonely senior

\$100 feeds a hungry senior for one month

Any questions, contact Adam Castillo, adamcastillo55@yahoo.com

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To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:
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A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

Lately, I find myself asking the same question – “Did all those independent voters who voted Republican in November really get what they expected from these new Republican majorities?”

If their answer is “Yes”, then our expectations from government are so different from mine, then I can really not relate to them at all. If, on the other hand, their answer is “No”, then I believe there is real hope that, by educating them on the differences in Republican and Democratic philosophies, we can bring them to the Democratic side in the November 2012 election.

Whether you look at the Republicans at the national or local levels, it is obvious that both are working hard to protect their business friends more than they are working to benefit the majority in our society.

Elected to focus on the economy, their focus has primarily been to put forward social legislation. Even in their proposed budgets, they try to enact social policy issues such as ending funding for Planned Parenthood, decreasing funding for NPR (they don't seem to find much in common with what NPR reports!), ending the new health care law and decreasing funding for education.

I can't think of a single bill they are proposing to increase jobs - unless you count the number of legal cases going through the courts providing more jobs for attorneys. And, Paul Ryan's new proposal for sending the poor and elderly to insurance companies for the coverage they now receive through Medicare and Medicaid - programs Republicans have hated from the day they were passed in 1965.

Few would deny that some changes may need to be made to keep the programs solvent, but the answer is surely not to privatize them. I just keep hearing that woman at a Tea Party rally against the health care bill saying, “Keep the government's hands off my Medicare.” (Her knowledge of government will surely put her in Michelle Bachman's presidential campaign!)

The big problem for Republicans when they get in charge is their tendency to overplay their hand. Even in preparing his proposed 10 year budget, Paul Ryan seemed to have one idea in mind – sock it to the poor and middle class but take care of your rich friends who helped to elect you. Imagine preparing budget reductions of \$5.8 billion over ten years, including in that budget a \$4 billion tax reduction for businesses and the already wealthy, thereby, reducing your savings to a paltry \$1.8 billion. That is not a small sum, but look what you did. Transferred even more money from the poor and middle class and giving it to those who already have more than any person needs.

How can people not understand that the philosophy of the Republican Party is alien to the needs of most Americans? Why do our citizens keep electing those least likely to provide for their most basic need – fundamental fairness from their government? Don't think I will live long enough to grasp their thought processes.

I have been asked several times if I plan to support President Obama in 2012. Not only will I support him, I expect to be in our campaign office every day if God leaves me here and my health allows it.

Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes

by Jacob Middleton

Last month Cassandra and Laocoon both warned of Republicans bearing budgets. And once again both are here this month to say, "I fear Republicans, even when bringing compromise."

The compromise to avoid a government shutdown is a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad compromise. This constant cutting is doing nothing but pulling us further and further down. Nationally 3 separate reports from Moody's Analytics, Goldman Sachs, and the Federal Reserve Chairman (not exactly hot beds of liberal activity) all stated that the only thing more cuts to the government will do is increase job losses and unemployment. The Fed Chairman estimates a low of 200,000. Moody's Analytics estimates 700,000. Goldman Sachs says 1 million. Locally, the Legislative Budget Board estimates that 600,000 jobs (263,500 private sector and 343,000 government positions) could be lost with our state budget cuts.

The Goldman Sachs report is particularly interesting, "A federal shutdown poses less risk, as long as it is brief: A federal shutdown can potentially occur when one or more of the 12 annual appropriations bills have not been enacted for the current fiscal year." The report goes on to note that, "The effect of a shutdown is narrower than the term implies. Even in the most protracted government shutdown to date, from November 13 to 19, 1995 and again from December 15, 1995 to January 6, 1996, the majority of federal employees kept working."

I don't know who is doing the messaging over at the White House, but they deserve an F and need to be fired. In a post at the Campaign for America's Future, Isaiah Poole noted, "The budget cuts being pushed by House Speaker John Boehner and the Tea Party-possessed House of Representatives will not put people back to work, They will put people out of work." Earth to White House, there is your one line to repeat at every opportunity: The Republicans are putting people out of work, not back to work.

If Republicans want to compromise, I've got a few items for them to compromise on: Ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and allowing ALL of the Bush tax cuts to expire. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Just two policies dating from the Bush Administration — tax cuts and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — accounted for over \$500 billion of the deficit in 2009 and will account for almost \$7 trillion in deficits in 2009 through 2019, including the associated debt-service costs."

I don't know who is doing the negotiating over at the White House, but they deserve an F and need to be fired. The tax cuts that helped get us into this fiscal mess and continue to leave us in this mess were extended for another 2 years? All the reports have said that continuing to cut, cut, cut will only do more damage, but a compromise is agreed to that does nothing but cut, cut, cut?

After all this once again I say I fear the Republicans, even when bringing compromise. Why? Because there is another looming showdown and possible compromise coming over raising the debt ceiling. John Boehner has said, "he will only support raising the federal debt ceiling if spending cuts and entitlement reform are included." If the same White House negotiators who dropped a single-payer option from the health care bill, who backed down from a public option, who gave the pharmaceutical companies a sweetheart deal on the health care bill, who negotiated the tax cut extension, who negotiated on the budget shutdown, etc...if those same White House negotiators are at the table on this issue, I fear for the future of Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.

There is an alternative budget proposal: <http://grijalva.house.gov/uploads/CPC.Budget.112th.Memo.pdf> The Congressional Progressive Caucus has outlined their budget. Among some of the items in their budget, they call for: let the upper-income tax cuts expire and let tax brackets revert to Clinton-era rates; progressive estate tax; tax capitals gains; eliminate corporate welfare for oil, gas, and coal companies; financial speculation tax; enact a public option; negotiate prescription drug payments with pharmaceutical companies; and invest \$1.45 trillion in job creation, early childhood, K-12 and special education, quality child care, energy and broadband infrastructure, housing, and R&D.

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**ASK YOURSELF THIS:
HAVE I DONE ALL I CAN
TO ANNOY THE
REPUBLICANS OR TEA
PARTIERS?**