

Utah County Democrats

The monthly newsletter of the Utah County Democratic Party

October 2007

Upcoming Events

October 20 (Saturday)

Spaghetti Spooktacular! 6:30 p.m. at UVSC Centre Stage, sponsored by the Democratic Women. Food, fun, entertainment and more! All County Democrats, friends and family invited. \$10.00 a person. There will also be book sale and a raffle for a halloween basket. Please RSVP to Lou Ann Talcott at 489-9681 or laltcott46@msn.com no later than Wednesday, October 17.

October 22 - November 6

Grassroots anti-voucher campaign led by the Education Outreach Committee. Contact stevenbaugh@gmail.com to get involved.

October 26 (Friday)

Eleanor Roosevelt Luncheon table sponsored by the Democratic Women. Cost is \$75.00 per

person. To reserve a spot at the table, contact Kena at 735-2005 or kena@hfhuc.org and send check to PO Box 542, Provo, Utah 84603.

November 15 (Thursday)

Fall County Party Social, 6 p.m. Somewhere Inn Time Reception Center, 175 N. State St., Lindon. Come join other Democrats for a nice dinner in a relaxing setting. Former Utah Senator and 2000 U.S. Senate Candidate Scott Howell will be our after-dinner speaker. Please RSVP by November 8 to hinckley@utahcountydems.com.

Each Thursday

BYU Democrats meet every Thursday night at 7:30pm in 240 SWKT. The public is invited. For more information go to <http://byudemocrats.org>.

Please send information about upcoming events to newsletter@utahcountydems.com.

Sen. Harry Reid Visits BYU



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid visited BYU campus on Tuesday, October 9 and gave a forum address in the Marriott Center entitled "Faith, Family, and Public Service." He was received by a full and enthusiastic audience of students, faculty, and general public.

Senator Reid spoke of his journey from his childhood in Searchlight, Nevada, a town of

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Message From the Chair

Richard Davis

This is not an election season in Utah involving party-affiliated candidates, but there is an opportunity to help change public policy in Utah and help our Democratic candidates in next year's election.



We need your help to defeat vouchers on November 6.

Education is the number one issue for Utah voters and the Republican legislature, including every single member of the Utah County delegation, is on the opposite side from the public on this issue. We want to defeat vouchers in Utah County and show how out of touch Republican legislators are.

Our Education Outreach Committee, in conjunction with Utahns for Public Schools, will be organizing a grassroots information campaign between October 22 and November 6. They need Democrats who will be precinct coordinators and others who will walk parts of precincts to

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distribute literature and hand out signs against vouchers.

Please volunteer to help defeat vouchers. To do so, contact Steven Baugh, chair of the Education Outreach Committee, at stevencbaugh@gmail.com. Help the Democratic Party change public policy and show the public that Democrats, not Republicans, share their values.

Outreach Committee Seeks Student Volunteers

The Utah County Democrats Outreach Committee has a goal to motivate the youth of the county to become politically active. To reach this goal, the committee will be setting up booths to help youth register to vote, and later, to motivate them to actually vote on election day.

Another goal of the committee is to bring balance to Utah County politics. As part of an effort to achieve this goal, the committee hopes to facilitate the formation of a Democrats club at every high school and at Utah Valley University.

The committee is looking for individuals, especially students, who are willing to assist with the voter-information booths or with starting a Democrats club for their school.

To volunteer, please contact the Outreach Committee Chair, Randal Serr, at randalserr@hotmail.com.

Utah Physicians Call for Moratorium on Coal-Fired Power Plants

As reported in the Daily Herald, a group of Utah physicians and concerned parents gathered recently at the Provo City Library to voice concerns about the quality of Utah County air.

The event, sponsored by the Utah Valley Sierra Forum, took place on Wednesday, September 19. Cherise Udell, founder of Utah Moms for Clear Air, told the attendees, "Individual action is not enough. We are definitely putting pressure on legislators. We are boldly calling for a full-blown moratorium on coal-fired plants in Utah."

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only 200 people, to his present job as Senate Majority Leader. "My parents were poor, they drank too much," he said. "They were uneducated. My father never graduated from the 8th grade, my mother never finished high school. But I learned in America, it doesn't matter the education of your parents, their religion (we had none), their social status, their color, their economic status. I am an example of this. If I made it, anyone can."

Senator Reid recounted the events leading to his marriage to his wife Landra and their eventual conversion to the LDS faith. "The Church has been a blessing to us and our five children," he said, all of whom attended BYU.

Acknowledging that being a Democrat puts him in the minority of LDS Church members, Reid said, "My answer is that if you look at the Church membership over the years, Democrats have not always been the minority, and I believe won't be for long. I also say that my faith and my political beliefs are deeply intertwined. I am a Democrat because I am a Mormon, not in spite of it."



"As we learned in the man-made tragedy of September 11th, 2001," he said, "during a crisis people have only three places to look for help: family, government, and God. I say government can be our friend."



Senator Reid encouraged BYU students to extend themselves in public service. "Never forget the clarion call of

King Benjamin: 'When you are in the service of your fellow beings you are only in the service of your God.'"

Reid suggested that King Benjamin would have considered such service to include the Peace Corps,

Teach for America, working in a non-profit organization to help the poor or sick, running for elective office, and serving on appointed government boards or commissions.



"Public service is a broad field. You owe it to your state, your country, and yourself."

"It is finally my plea and prayer that we will follow the teachings that we know to be true," he concluded, "and in so doing create a better world."

Later, Senator Reid met privately with the BYU Democrats and Utah County Democratic Party Chair Richard Davis, a professor of political science at BYU.

Senator Reid's address is available online at <http://byubroadcasting.org/devotionals>.

"I say government can be our friend. Some say it is never our friend.

"I say working people are the cornerstone of our economy. Some say that if you help the wealthy, they will create jobs and it will trickle down and help all.

"I say unions are responsible for the forty hour work week, decent wages and safe working conditions. Some say unions are unnecessary, that employers in an open market will take good care of their employees.

"I say global warming is here and is an environmental emergency. Some say it is only nature's cycle and our free enterprise system will deal with it.

"I say our country using 21 million barrels of oil each day and millions of tons of coal must stop. Some say it is too costly to switch to solar, wind and geothermal energy.

"I say the invasion of Iraq was the worst foreign policy blunder in our country's history. Some say this war of choice was our only reasonable alternative.

"I say our diplomatic army should be stronger than our military army. Some say the war on terror must be won militarily."

— Senator Harry Reid
BYU Forum Address, October 9, 2007

Dr. Brian Moench, founder of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, which includes 50 doctors, said that 80% of cancer is caused by environmental factors. "We are trying to tell the public that this is the biggest contribution we can make to the care and health of our patients."

Utah currently has five coal-fired power plants. 14 more have been proposed with the hope, Moench said, of getting approval under the Bush administration, as the next administration may not be so favorable.

A subcommittee of the state legislature recently declined to consider paying for more air quality monitors, which made Moench "madder than hell." Due to poor air quality, he said, life expectancy along the Wasatch Front is shortened two years on average—"about the same as smoking a full pack of cigarettes a day."

Dr. Courtney Henley said that children accumulate 50% of their lifetime cancer risk before they turn two. "I have taken care of these children that come to get radiation therapy on tumors in their brains. It's horrible to see. We don't have to take this. We can make a difference."

County Democrats Rally for Children's Health Bill

The county party held a rally for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in front of Congressman Chris Cannon's office on October 3, the same day President Bush vetoed reauthorization and expansion of the program.



The rally participants held signs thanking Senator Hatch for his support for SCHIP, and urging Congressman Cannon, who voted against the overwhelmingly popular bipartisan bill, to support SCHIP and override the president's veto.

Thanks to all those who took time out of their lunch hour to support the county party and our children's health.

Democratic Booth a Success at Latino Festival

Utah County Democrats were a strong presence at the Provo Latino-American Festival over the Labor Day weekend. According to Utah County Party Chair, Richard Davis, "The fact that the Republicans didn't show up was important, too"—it demonstrated to local Latinos which party really cares about them. Many citizens registered to vote, and many took forms to fill out and mail later.

One of the highlights of the booth was the video created by Chris Cutri, a professional filmmaker, researcher, and teacher. It featured Gloria Ruiz, Ramona Cutri, and Jose Enriquez

encouraging people to get involved in their communities, to register, and to vote. The "stars" spoke both in English and Spanish.

At the booth, tenets of the county party platform were available in English and Spanish. Bilingual flyers about voter eligibility and democratic values were also provided. Translations were compliments of Arturo Guevara of Cache County Democrats.

Chair Davis said, "We want to register Hispanic voters and give them information that will help them see that the Democratic party represents their views much more than Republicans do." The Hispanic Outreach committee invites others to join in this effort. For more information, e-mail hispanic_outreach@utahcountydems.com.

Thanks to all who helped make the Party presence at the festival a success: Gloria Ruiz, Chris and Ramona Cutri, Yasmina Vallejos, Hinckley Jones-Sanpei, Kristin Ruiz, Lynn Sorenson, Karla Sanchez, Darren Hawkins, Helen Anderson, Richard Davis, Scott Hannay (and friends Robert and Katie), Krista Ruiz, Lynn Sorenson, Heather Johnson, Amber Ruiz, Curtis Anderson.



Darren Hawkins (Orem) and Lynn Sorenson (Provo)

Please join us!

UTAH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY FALL SOCIAL

Thursday, November 15
6 P.M.

Somewhere Inn Time Reception Center
175 North State Street, Lindon

\$27 per person

Evening will include dinner and a speech by former Utah State Senator and 2000 U.S. Senate candidate Scott Howell.

This is an opportunity to leave the kids at home (if you have any, or any at home!) and enjoy a relaxing dinner. Join other fellow Democrats and hear a six-month report from the county party leadership, as well as a stirring speech by Senator Howell.

Please RSVP by November 8 to Hinckley Jones-Sanpei at (801) 356-0290 or hinckley@utahcountydems.com.

COUNTY-PLATFORM
CORNER

Families

As Utah County Democrats we believe the family is the basic unit of society. It is through the family that we support and care for each other, and share values from one generation to the next.

We believe we cannot expect our county, our state, or our nation to rise above the level of our families, and that as we support the family we build the community and safeguard society.

Yet many families struggle today. Often two or more incomes are required to meet daily economic needs. Too many families are without basic healthcare. Many of our elderly face difficulties caused by poor health, poverty, or restricted services.

We call for supporting families with high standards of morality, a clean environment, reasonable taxes, recreational opportunities, affordable housing and health care, safe and reliable transportation, and excellence in education. Occasionally families may also need support from the community in order to fulfill care-taking roles.

We believe families should assume the primary responsibility for teaching children about procreation, abstinence, and birth control. We believe government should rarely make laws with regard to family responsibilities, and then only to protect the weakest among us when life or liberty are threatened.

We recognize that many of today's families include single parents, stepparents, blended families, multi-generational families, and many other variations. For many, families are a group of individuals related by blood, marriage, or choice who are committed to supporting and caring for each other. Like most Utahns, we define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. However, we also acknowledge that some have deeply held and sometimes differing views on this issue. We seek to understand those differences in a spirit of civility, hope, and mutual respect.

To read the entire platform of the Utah County Democratic Party, please visit our website at <http://utahcountydems.org>.

Green Living Tip

Hinckley Jones-Sanpei

Questar Gas Company will send an auditor to evaluate your gas use and suggest ways to improve the efficiency of your home.

The rebates available from Questar for potential improvements can easily offset the \$25 cost, which is waived if any suggested improvements are made.

My audit came up with hundreds of dollars worth of potential savings—some of which he fixed during the visit!

For more information and to schedule an audit, call 1-800-695-7375.

Technology Committee Launches New Website

On Monday, October 15, the Technology Committee of the Utah County Democrats will officially launch a new party website at <http://utahcountydems.com>. The new web site has been designed to improve accessibility and simplify maintenance.



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**Richard Davis — Chair
Larry Brown — Vice Chair
Hinckley Jones-Sanpei — Secretary
Kristin Gerdy — Treasurer**



“Why I am a Democrat”

Essay Contest

Age categories: 15 and under,
15-24, 25 and older.
500 words or less.

Winners will be published in the Utah County Democrats newsletter and website.

Please submit entries to newsletter@utahcountydems.com no later than Friday, November 30, 2007.

The site features an events calendar, party platform and leadership information, press releases and news clippings, blogs by the party leadership, links to useful resources, and forms for volunteering, making financial contributions, and subscribing to the monthly newsletter.

The home page features a welcome video with a greeting from Richard Davis, the county party chair. In the Press Releases section, another video greets journalists by introducing them to resources the site provides them, and by explaining how Utah County Democrats are best positioned to support the most pressing needs of the people of Utah County.

Anyone interested in assisting with the website or other technologies is invited to contact Nathan Hadfield, the Technology Committee chair, at technology@utahcountydems.com.

Public Relations

Please contact Janita Anderson at presssecretary@utahcountydems.com

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