

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BENTON COUNTY NEWSLETTER
A newsletter for Members, Republican Elected Officials,
Candidates and Friends

August 2009
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From the Committee Chair...

Health Care Reform

Our meeting July 25th was very informative in regards to health care. The speakers did an outstanding job of presenting us with useful information about the proposed bill that is currently waiting for more rubbish to be added to it. Americans do want health care reform, but not government run health care. Health care reform can be done in so many different ways and there will always be disagreement about how to do it. Most people just want insurance to be affordable and easy to understand. We would like to have our insurance provider tell us up front all the hidden fees and non-payable clauses. So many of the problems we have today are caused by a lack of common sense (didn't Thomas Paine write a book by that name?), such as the reasons for going to the ER. Taxpayers end up paying for headaches and sniffles that most of us treat at home. These are not emergencies and if treated as such end up costing far more than the patient can afford and being passed on to the public. The headache and sniffles come when presented with the \$500.00 bill for Tylenol. The bigger headaches are increased costs that come out of our pocketbooks.

Below is a great article from The Wall Street Journal by Karl Rove. I think it is worth the read,

M.W Sevak

RPBC Chairman

Health Reform and the Tax Pledge

Polling and focus groups have led the president astray on his top priority.

By KARL ROVE

Americans are now seeing the damage that polls and focus groups can inflict on White House decision-making. President Barack Obama is no longer shaping the public dialogue on health-care reform. Instead, he is losing control of his agenda and resorting to rhetorical tricks and evasions.

Every administration has to take into account public opinion. Without doing so, Abraham Lincoln said, little can be achieved. But too much polling doesn't raise presidential vision. It narrows and pulls it down. Substituting a weekly dose of opinion surveys for thoughtful consideration is causing White House aides to find new scapegoats whenever administration policy initiatives get into trouble.

We see this on health-care reform, which the president's pollsters told him—six months into the debate—he must instead call “health insurance reform,” a phrase he repeated five times in his prime-time news conference and at least 20 times in five days of appearances since.

The problem is many Americans remember Mr. Obama started his health-care push by focusing on covering the uninsured and reducing costs, not knocking insurance companies upside the head. Public support for his plans shrank when Americans saw the trillion-dollar-plus price tag, recoiled from the intrusive expansion of government into patient-doctor decisions, and came to understand the plan was financed in part by huge cuts in Medicare and large tax increases. (continued next page)

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In the News...

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So, after running into heavy opposition among Congressional Democrats and growing public hostility to his plan, Mr. Obama has now recast the debate as an attack on insurance companies, with the president serving as savager-in-chief. This would be more credible if he hadn't surrounded himself with insurance CEOs and lobbyists when he kicked off his effort in March.

The corrosive effect of basing policy decisions on polls also could be seen in White House handling of the refusals on Sunday of Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and National Economic Council Director Larry Summers to rule out middle-class tax increases. They got disciplined Monday by Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, who said they'd "allowed themselves to get into a little bit of hypothetical back and forth."

This dispute pits the economic team against the campaign team. The economic team awakens each day worried about reconciling two irreconcilable realities: The administration's budget calls for huge, sustained new government spending, which threatens giant budget deficits. Being liberals, the economic team is inclined to raise taxes, not cut spending.

The campaign team is intent upon protecting a pledge driven by its 2008 campaign polls: Mr. Obama promised never to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$250,000 a year to avoid being labeled a tax-and-spend liberal.

Even so, Mr. Obama has already broken his no-new-taxes pledge. On Feb. 4, Mr. Obama signed a \$33 billion cigarette tax increase, which fell disproportionately on lower- and middle-income individuals. And the "cap and trade" energy bill, approved by the House on June 26, is a tax on anyone who owns a light switch, uses a car key, or has bought anything manufactured, shipped or sold in the U.S.

The House version of Mr. Obama's health-care—excuse me, "health-insurance"—reform already has four taxes that will largely be paid by people making less than \$250,000 a year. There's \$8.2 billion in taxes for using health savings accounts and other tax-free medical savings vehicles to purchase over-the-counter drugs. There's an 8% tax on employers who don't offer insurance: The Congressional Budget Office says workers in those businesses would pay the \$163 billion cost via lost wages.

There's a 2.5% "Tax on Individuals Without Acceptable Health Care Coverage" in the House bill that applies to people who either don't have insurance or whose policies the government deems inadequate. Finally, there's a \$2 billion "Comparative Effectiveness Research Tax" on all private and "public option" insurance policies.

If some version of ObamaCare is passed, the president will break his tax pledge several more times while adding trillions to the deficit, dismantling the best elements of our health-care system and slashing Medicare by hundreds of billions of dollars.

There are no polling data or focus groups on earth that can help Mr. Obama out of this jam. He has set in motion events he appears unable to control and commitments he cannot keep. Great communicators succeed when the ideas they are communicating are sound. Tax-and-spend liberalism doesn't work, no matter how pretty its package.

Every Wednesday night senior Obama aides gather for two hours to review the latest polling and focus-group data to develop that packaging. These White House sessions haven't elevated the quality of Team Obama's discourse. They have made it incoherent.

Mr. Rove is the former senior adviser and deputy chief of staff to President George W. Bush

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Bella Vista Republican Women (BVRW) - Curtis Coleman, candidate for U.S. Senate will be our guest speaker! August 24th, Concordia Retirement Village, 1 Concordia Drive, Bella Vista, 9 a.m. Social, 9:30 a.m. business meeting.
Visit our website: <http://www.bv republicanwomen.org/>

Benton County Republican Women (BCRW) - General Meeting, Tues. Aug. 18th, 2009 at the Samaritan Community Center, 1211 Hudson Rd. in Rogers, AR., 12 p.m. Guest Speaker: Ark. State Senator Cecile Bledsoe. Please come and be our Guest! All Republican Women are welcome. Email: sjohnston@daisy.com Schedule for August Program: Program for September: Betsy Reithmeyer - "NWA Non-Profit Center at previous St. Mary's hospital.
Visit our website: <http://www.bentoncountyrepublicanwomen.org/>

Republican Men of Benton County (RMBC) - The next meeting will be Friday, September 25th at Metfield Club, 1 Euston Rd. in Bella Vista, at 12 p.m. Contact: Sen. Kim Hendren, Club President, Ph. 479-790-5600, kimhendren@cox.net

Republican Women of Bentonville (BVRW)- will meet August 13th at 6:30 at Bentonville Puble Library. If interested, please contact Sarah Davidson. October Fashion Show. Visit our website: <http://republicanwomenofbentonville.org/>

Siloam Springs Republican Women(SSRW)- The Siloam Springs Republican Women will not meet in August but in instead they will host the Benton County Republican Committee for the Committee's regular meeting. Guest Speakers will be Tom Cox and Fred Raney, speaking about their run for the U.S. Senate. The meeting will be in the Administration Dining Room on the campus of John Brown University. Punch and desert will be served. For more information call 479-524-3461 or 549-5394. September 28th Guest Speaker: Joyce Phillips, former Vice Chair for the National Federation of Republican Women.

Save the Dates:

National Federation Republican Women (NFRW) Biennial Convention, Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando, FL September 11 - 13, 2009.

Benton County Fair Parade - September 19th, 10 a.m. All Republican elected officials are welcome to join us on the float. Also we will be manning an information booth at the fair. Please volunteer your time at the booth, September 15th - 19th. (Contact Mike Sevak for more information.)

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Meetings / Further Information...

Next Republican Party of Benton County Meeting:

will be August 25th on the campus of John Brown University in the Administration Dining Room, second floor of the Mabee Chapman Building . Directions: Turn right at the 412 / Holly St. exit (Arvest Bank on the right). This street will take you to the campus. Go through the 4-way stop sign, travel past the campus sign (cemetery will be on your left). Take the first street to your right and turn into the first parking lot on your right. Straight ahead is the Mabee - Chapman building. Go into the door facing you unless you need handicap access (on the south side of the building). The room is on the 2nd floor, elevator is in the lobby. For further information call Carrie and JD Chastain at 479-549-5394. Guest speakers will be Tom Cox and Fred Raney as they discuss their run for the U.S. Senate. The Siloam Springs Republican women will provide punch and desert.

Special thanks to all those who helped make the food drive a success! Mike's truck was filled to the max for Meals on Wheels!

Check out the Republican Party of Arkansas' new website: <http://www.arkansasgop.org/>

Upcoming Events:

Teresa Crossland-Oelke with Americans for Prosperity will be speaking on Monday, August 31st in Siloam Springs about the health care proposals from the government. If you weren't able to join us at our last meeting, then please try to attend in Siloam Springs.

From the website developer, Alex Martinez:

We are excited to announce that we can now be found at Facebook and Twitter. For those that are on Facebook and Twitter please begin to follow us today. You can find our links on our website: www.bentoncountygop.org under "Follow Us" or you can go directly to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rogers-AR/Benton-County-Republican-Committee/82034112295> or <http://twitter.com/bcgop1>

Submissions to the newsletter:

Please submit articles, associated club news, meetings, fundraiser announcements, etc. by the 9th day of the month to Barbara Tillman, Secretary RPBC, Secretary@bentoncountygop.org

Contact Information:

Mike Sevak, Chairman, chairman@bentoncountygop.org



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