

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

October, 2006

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

Take Action!

Bring Your Cell Phones starting at 7 PM, and we will be making GOTV calls in the final push to election night.

We will provide phone scripts and call lists at the meeting. Extra phones will be available if you do not have a cell phone.

Following the phone bank we will have a short program with campaign updates.

Second debate at 7 PM
Golden West College
15744 Golden West St., Huntington Beach.

Both debates are open to the public.

Meet Assemblyman Ted Lieu

Tuesday, October 24
7:00-8:30 PM
Awakenings Coffee House
24100 Narbonne Ave. #103.
RSVP to Ben DuPree at 310-320-1348
or ben@lieuforassembly.com.

Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population

A League of Women Voters event
Wednesday, November 29
7:00 to 8:45 PM at the Redondo Beach
Main Library
303 N. Pacific Coast Hwy, RB

Help Organize High School Volunteers!

The election is only weeks away and

Debra Bowen needs your help to get elected as our next Secretary of State!

The Democratic Action Center is organizing high school students to make phone calls, walk precincts and attend rallies throughout the South Bay. We need your help in organizing them. It's very rewarding, and much easier than making phone calls or walking precincts!

To help, give us a call at (310) 536-0093 today!

Torrance Democratic Club Meeting

Second Wednesdays
7:00-9:00 PM
Torrance Municipal Airport Meeting Room
3301 Airport Drive, Torrance

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club Meeting

Third Sundays
2:30-5:00 PM
Palos Verdes Peninsula Library

Events & Calendar

Candidates Forum for November Election

Sunday, October 22
Come hear candidates for State Assembly (53rd District), State Senate (28th District), and US Congress
1:30-4:00 PM
George Takano Theatre
3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance
Come show your support for Democrats Ted Lieu, Jenny Oropeza and Jane Harman.
Sponsored by League of Women Voters, Beach Cities and Torrance chapters.

Debates Between Jim Brandt and Dana Rohrabacher

Monday, October 23
The first of two debates will be held 12:30-2:30 PM at Cal State Long Beach 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach.
Location on campus is pending; check democraticactioncenter.com.



BCDC set up our booth again this year at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair October 7 and 8. Pictured in front of the booth are Manhattan Beach City Councilmen Jim Aldinger (l) and Nick Tell (r), with Congresswoman Jane Harman. Photo courtesy of Diane Struck

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

The Hunt for Blue November



My column this month was originally going to encourage people to volunteer because close elections are decided by effective ground games, strong GOTV efforts, and passionate volunteers. Playing off the Tom Clancy novel and the old red state/blue state maps, I wanted to remind everyone that even if they hunt for a red October, our efforts can make a Blue November.

All of that is true. In fact, our meeting this month will be mostly dedicated to this, as we hold a phone-bank for Democratic candidates. But the events of the last two few weeks have changed our focus.

The sordid Foley-gate scandal has dominated most news coverage, and changed the political season. Foley's actions themselves merit condemnation—he is the type of predator caught in those *Dateline NBC* specials.

Foley's actions, however, are not the real issue. The real issue is the Republican leadership's failure to prevent it. The evidence mounts on a daily basis that top Republican leaders knew that Foley, a member of their own leadership team, was soliciting congressional pages over the internet—violating the very laws that he had written. The Speaker himself was told about this at least six years ago. Republican members of the Page Board, which is responsible not just for the pages' duties in the House, but overseeing their schooling and dormitories, were told about Foley and hid it from the Democratic members.

The Foley-scandal shows just how

corrupted the Republican Party has been. Not just in the sense of the Abramoff scandals, or Duke Cunningham, or Tom DeLay, etc., but in an even more basic sense of the word: “to become tainted or rotten; to become morally debased.” So intent was the Republican party in keeping Foley's seat in their hands—and the money that he raised flowing to Republican candidates—that they considered it more important to protect him than the children who worked for them day in and day out. The Republican Party has rotted to its core, decrepit and derelict. Even when we saw how DeLay manipulated the redistricting process, and sold influence to Abramoff, how Bush twisted intelligence to justify a war, or prevaricated in an effort to privatize social security, it was not clear to the American public just how vacuous the Republican party had become until now.

I have many Republican friends, and while I disagreed with them, I used to be able to understand their point of view. But now, the Republican Party no longer stands for any principle other than the maintenance of its own power. Record deficits, government intrusion, and even moral values have all been pushed aside by the base drive of retaining power at any cost.

Electing a Democratic majority this November is critical to raising the minimum wage for the first time in ten years; for preventing tax give-aways to the richest one percent while the rest of the country pays increasing mortgage rates and gasoline prices; for protecting social security and the environment; and for bringing our troops home from Iraq. But it is just as critical because the Republican Party has completely lost its way.

It's time to clean house. It's time for a Blue November.

Lee Fink

September Recap

Smoke-Free Beaches

This month we heard from Kris Bailey on the Smoke Free Beaches initiative. Standing in for Joan Waddell, Project Coordinator of NCADD (National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.), Ms. Bailey said that Redondo Beach is the only one of the beach cities without a smoke-free beach. Tobacco smoke has been designated a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board and the Surgeon General said that there is no risk-free level of exposure to second-hand smoke.

NCADD contends that cigarette butts are the primary source of litter on beaches, that they take 15 years to disintegrate, pose a choking and burning hazard to visitors, and are dangerous to marine animals and sea birds. Ms. Bailey said that Supervisor Burke is in favor of a County smoking cessation program and urged the audience to contact Don Knabe and request his support.

Ted Lieu spoke briefly about his campaign. He has an office in Torrance and one in Venice. His opponent, Mary Jo Ford, is a “pain doctor” in Beverly Hills who has never held a government position. He defeated her in the last election but she has contrib-



Speaker Kris Bailey, who told us about the Smoke Free Beaches initiative, with Lee Fink

uted \$350,000 of her own money in the current race. She has allegedly been registered in three different parties, although the *Daily Breeze* caught her claiming that she had always been a Republican.



Ted Lieu giving an update on his campaign

Lieu's assistant David Ford passed out a signup sheet for lawn signs and said the campaign is seeking temporary lodging for campaign workers. The Ted Lieu campaign has donated \$250 to BCDC to help with our election efforts.



Tony Hale talked about the national races

We discussed Debra Bowen's campaign for Secretary of State. She is in the second toughest race of this election, running against an opponent who is perceived as a moderate. We passed a motion to purchase 200 lawn signs for \$400.

Lori Geitmann said she is walking her precinct and challenged attendees to come back to next month's meeting and try to top her number of person-to-person contacts. Precinct lists are

available from the Democratic Action Center.

Tony Hale reported that the *Rolling Stone* article on the stolen 2004 election is available on the DAC website with permission from the magazine to print it. He said that the congressional races in Ohio are looking very good: Sherrod Brown is leading in the Senate race and Congressman Ted Strickland is polling well in his race against Ken Blackwell for governor.

Bobbi reported that Eric Bauman, chair of the California Democratic Party Central Committee, recently spoke about his concern that Democrats who are not excited about Phil Angelides's race may stay away from the polls. The party is focusing on issue ads linking Schwarzenegger with George Bush and ducking the issue of Iraq.

The County Committee will endorse Beach Cities Health District candidates at its next meeting.

Commentary

BY STEVEN ZUCKER

Bush is now trying to sell the notion that we must stay in Iraq or we will be less safe from terrorism. I was just wondering how much MORE secure we would be if we put SIX BILLION DOLLARS A MONTH into port security, airport security, border security, beefing up the CIA for human intelligence, and surveillance of suspected terrorists (with warrants, of course).

That question doesn't even need an answer because we probably couldn't manage to spend money on security at that rate.

And what about the lives, limbs, and eyesight of our troops that will be saved?

Bring 'em home!

BCDC on the Propositions

Here are the Democratic recommendations for the November ballot initiatives:

- ♦ Yes on 1A,1B,1C,1D,1E
- ♦ Yes on 83
- ♦ YES on 84
- ♦ NO on 85
- ♦ YES on 86
- ♦ YES on 87
- ♦ No on 88
- ♦ YES on 89
- ♦ NO on 90

California needs to reform eminent domain but Prop 90 is a radical plan that goes too far and would cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year. An unprecedented coalition has been formed to defeat this potentially devastating ballot measure.

"Hidden inside this measure is a loophole that would make pollution a property right, creating windfall profits for polluters at a huge cost to ordinary taxpayers."

*Tom Adams, board president,
California League of Conservation Voters*



Edna Murphy (second from left) reported that BCDC signed up 90 Democratic voters at the Hometown Fair booth. Also pictured: organizer Diane Strack (second from right) and Dency Nelson. Photo courtesy of Steve Zucker

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Beach Cities
Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Other) _____

Email _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box if you would like to receive yours by e-mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with Mailing Hospitality Write for Newsletter

Register Voters Programs Legislative Membership Other _____

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make check payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.