

TRUNKLINE

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AN ERA OF CHANGE

BY JOAN BECKER, CHAIRMAN, HCRCC

As we begin a new calendar year, we must also begin a new political year in what promises to be a very exciting and unpredictable election season. The theme for this year's Presidential election seems to be calling for change in America. In an effort to energize and court the electorate each of the presidential hopefuls have declared themselves to be "Agents of Change" and proclaimed that the Washington establishment is broken and they know how to fix it. How practical and realistic "real change" in America is, as Newt Gingrich calls for in his new book, remains to be seen. But what does appear to be real is the strong desire of the electorate for some change to the status quo.

Although some view change as a threat to the status quo, change in a positive direction can be both an opportunity and a challenge. The most important thing to recognize is not where we are but in what direction we are moving.

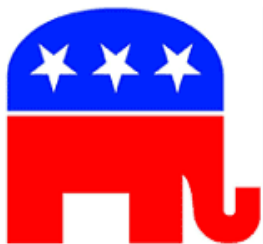


HCRCC Chairman Joan Becker and Patrick Mullinix

The Republican Party in this country, in this state, and in this county is at a crossroads, and it is imperative that we as Republicans remain loyal to our republican values and beliefs while still recognizing the need to change to remain competitive. A stagnant society is a declining society. Although as we saw in Mary-

land this fall, change is not always good and when moving in the wrong direction can have disastrous effects.

Our role and responsibility as Republicans is to ensure that our two party system remains viable and relevant in Howard County, in the state of Maryland, and on the national



REPUBLICAN CLUB ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

BY DAVE WISSING, VICE PRESIDENT, HCRC

After a successful two year run as President of the Howard County Republican Club, Ivan Betancourt will be stepping down along with outgoing vice president Kent Finkelsen and outgoing Secretary Heather Rynarzewski. All three guided the Club through good times and bad times,

but kept the Republican Club healthy and active. Now a new group of officers will be taking the reins of the Club as we head into the Election year. Tom D'Asto, who ran a spirited campaign for Howard County Council in 2006, will become the new President of the Howard County Republi-

can Club. Dave Wissing, who has been treasurer for the previous two years and has been active in county politics for many years, will become the new Vice President. In addition, Ed Coleman will become the new Secretary and Chris Oxenham will become the new Treasurer.

ISSUES FOR THE 2008 GENERAL

ASSEMBLY BY ALLAN KITTLEMAN, STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 9

The 2008 General Assembly session began on January 9, 2008. Of course, the legislature had just been in special session for 20 days in October/November 2007. Observing the legislators as they gathered for the 2008 session, I noticed that many senators and delegates were not pleased about being back in Annapolis. I termed the problem as being "Post Traumatic Special Session Disorder."

Unfortunately, due to space restrictions, I can't go through all of the issues that will come before the legislature this year. As you have probably heard, there will be a strong effort to repeal the massive tax increases that were rushed through the legislature during the special session; especially, the expansion of the sales tax to computer services.

Requiring Marylanders to demonstrate "legal presence" before they can obtain a driver's license will be a major issue. Cur-

rently, Maryland is one of seven states that does not require that people present evidence that they are legally in the United States in order to receive a driver's license.

Finally, I am the lead sponsor of legislation that requires local governments to fully comply with and support the enforcement of federal law prohibiting the entry into or presence in the United States of illegal aliens in violation of federal immigration law. If they fail to comply with federal law, they will not receive any state funding. This legislation is aimed at stopping "Sanctuary Laws" from being established in local jurisdictions.

In conclusion, Delegates Bates, Miller and I greatly appreciate all the support the Howard County Republicans have provided to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Senator Allan Kittleman speaking at the anti-tax rally in Annapolis during the special session.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Lincoln Day Dinner

Planning is well underway for our 2008 Lincoln Day Dinner. This year's event will be on May 18th at the Turf Valley Country Club.

Our guest speaker for the event is Ellen Sauerbrey.

You are not going to want to miss this event.

To advertise in the program or volunteer please email Sandy Harriman at: sharrima@comcast.net

- Sunday, February 10th (12pm): Golden Eagle Brunch
- Tuesday, February 12th: Primary Election Day—Get out and Vote!
- Wednesday, February 13th (7pm): Central Committee Meeting
- Monday, February 18th (6pm): District 9 Legislative Open House in Annapolis
- Tuesday, February 19th: MFRW Red Scarf Day in Annapolis
- Friday, February 22nd: Deadline to apply for vacancy on Central Committee
- Tuesday, February 26th (6:30pm): HCRW Membership Meeting
- Friday, March 7th (5-7pm): First Friday hosted by the GOP Club
- Wednesday March 12-15th: NFRW Board of Directors Meeting in Arlington, VA
- Wednesday, March 12th (7pm): Central Committee Meeting
- Sunday, March 16th: HCRW Membership Tea at Jane Miller's House
- Thursday, March 20th (7:30-9pm): GOP Club Meeting

**VOTE, TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 12TH!**

Vote

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY LOUIS POPE, VICE CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

This is an exciting year for Republicans locally and nationally. For the first time in decades we have a totally wide open primary field for President. We also have the task of working to helping hundreds of Congressional and Senate candidates throughout the country win reelection. The RNC has been very successful over the last year winning most of the special Congressional elections held in various states. These interim contests provide an excellent dress rehearsal for various new technologies and strategies that will be in place for this year's general election. Good News - The RNC has also significantly out fundraised the Democrat National Committee by over fifty percent since the 2006 election.

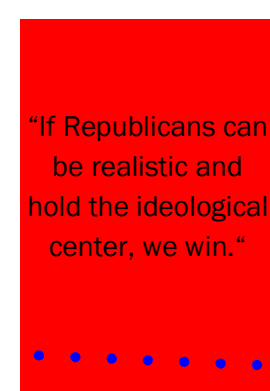
Over the next several weeks the RNC Rules Committee will be evaluating and voting on several plans to streamline the primary process for future presidential election cycles. This year's chaotic and front loaded primary battle has caused several states to violate RNC rules by holding their states' primary prior to the February 1st date stipulated in the RNC rules. This action caused the RNC Executive Committee to im-

pose a penalty on Florida, New Hampshire, Wyoming, Michigan and South Carolina, which all lost half of their delegate seats at the RNC convention in Minneapolis this summer. We will be considering several new plans for the future Presidential Primaries that will allow either a system of rotating regional primaries or a plan of letting the smaller states hold primaries first with the larger states going last. In either case, the Republican primary schedule in 2012 will look far different than the battle we are experiencing this year.

This year's Presidential election is very winnable for the Republicans despite the negative spin you constantly hear from the mainstream press. Sometime in the next several weeks one of the Republican Presidential Candidates will secure the necessary delegates to ensure formal nomination in Minneapolis. It is the duty of all Republicans everywhere to unite behind that candidate. While the ultimate nominee may not be your first choice or my first choice it is very important to realize that we can only win if we are united. This year's Democratic nominee will almost certainly be Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton and both will have high negatives and a Democrat platform that will promise too much and be unacceptable to the voting public. If Republicans can be realistic and hold the ideological center, we

win. We don't want to miss this golden opportunity to capture the White House for four more years, I urge you to rally behind our Republican Nominee.

On the Congressional front we only need two U S Senate seats to recapture control of the



Senate and this year there are 34 states which have Senate races. However, this year the job will be more difficult that usual because Republicans must defend twice as many seats as Democrats. In the U S House we are only sixteen seats

away from retaking a majority and replacing Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The Congressional Campaign Committee has targeted over forty seats nationally that are they consider winnable that are either held by a freshman Democrat or are in districts that have previously elected Republican representatives. The key to winning back Congress is money, the right candidate and a positive Republi-

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE REPUBLICAN CLUB, CONTINUED

The Howard County Republican Club is an organization that promotes social events and volunteer efforts in support of the Republican Party in Howard County and for the community at large. Started over four years ago, the Howard County Republican Club, hosts a monthly happy hour on the First Friday of every month at various locations around Howard County. It has become one of the most popular events to meet

fellow Republicans and network as well as meet your elected officials in a casual atmosphere. Events are normally free to anyone who wants to attend. In addition, the club holds a membership meeting every other month. Previous guest speakers have included Chip Franklin (formerly of WBAL) and Gregory Kane (Columnist for The Baltimore Sun). And coming February 5th, the Republican Club will be hosting a Super Tuesday Party at the River Hill Sports Grille in Clarksville where people can go

to watch the election returns come in from across the country.

To find out what is happening with the Republican Club, please visit the website: www.howardcountygopclub.com. There, you will find information about upcoming events, about becoming a member, pictures from previous events, and an archive of the newsletters.

AN ERA OF CHANGE, CONTINUED

level. We must continue to engage in community outreach and begin a revitalization of our party at a grassroots level. We need to remain active in our communities, advocating our beliefs at all levels of government.

We live in challenging times where often people are divided on social, eco-

nomics, and foreign policy issues, divisions which can polarize the party. In charting the future direction of our party we must build upon the common beliefs that unite us as Republicans in limited government, fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and the protection of civil liberties and property rights. Trends in recent elections suggest an emerg-

ing politically active independent conservative voter who shares many of our Republican beliefs. As a party we must be cognizant that there is strength in unity and danger in discord.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOWARD COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB BY MELISSA RIDGELY COVELESKY, HCRW PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope everyone took a break over the holidays because we have a long road ahead of us to ensure Republicans stay in office for 2008. This year will focus on getting back to our Political Roots as a club and enhancing our voice in our local and state legislatures. We have a full slate of activities coming up and we're looking forward to getting more members involved in different aspects of our club. We have recently appointed a new 1st Vice President - Flora Betro and a new Recording Secretary, Donna Armanas. Flora, taking over from the ever dynamic and energetic

Jo Serra, has connections with the GOP Club since her son, Chris Oxenham, was recently elected as an officer. We hope to use the overlap in many of our clubs to work on joint projects and make our events larger and more effective for our county Republicans. Donna, taking the reins from Kathy Clark who moved to Florida, has been a very involved member for a while and we look forward to the return of her experience and judgment! We are still looking for a Membership Chairman/Assistant Treasurer: if you are interested, please contact Melissa Ridgely Covolesky.



Howard County Republican Women's Club members

You can find more information at our website: www.HCRepublicanWomen.org and www.MFRW.org. We look forward to a great 2008. Covolesky@gmail.com

Howard County Republican Central Committee Members

*Joan Becker, Chairman,
jmbecker@aol.com*

*John W. Bailey IV, Vice Chair,
John_Bailey@hocogop.org*

*Peg Browning,
pegleg70@comcast.net*

*Fred ("Chip") Coover,
fcoover@cooverbarr.com*

*Sandy Harriman,
sharrima@comcast.net*

*Trent Kittleman,
trentkittleman@comcast.net*

*Heather Mitchell,
heather.mitchell@hotmail.com*

*Loretta Shields,
lshield@yahoo.com*

RNC UPDATE CONTINUED

can message. The RNC also has developed the tools and technology to assist candidates to create a winning strategy. Several of these tools are; micro-targeting, voter vault, campaign schools, 72 - hour program, opposition research, media training and various programs to assist and educate the

entire campaign team. Please check the RNC website or contact me for more information.

The Maryland Primary is on Tuesday, February 12th. Maryland is one of only 12 states that have no statewide offices to be contested this year. We will be able to focus all of our attention and re-

sources on battling in our eight congressional districts and electing a Republican President. Stay tuned.

louismpope@aol.com

REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Howard County Republican Central Committee ("HCRCC") is seeking nominations for a candidate to replace Mr. Robert Ballinger on the nine member Republican Central Committee. An applicant must be a registered Republican voter residing in Howard County, Maryland. Interested applicants should

send a resume along with a paragraph explaining why they are interested in the position to John_Bailey@HOCOGOP.org or mail to Howard County Republican Party, P.O. Box 26, Ellicott City, MD 21041 by no later than February 22, 2008. Qualifying candidates will be interviewed by the Committee before a final decision is made.



Former Chairman Loretta Shields and Ivan Betancourt accept 2nd place on behalf of the Howard County Republican Party in the Wells Fargo/Salvation Army Contest.

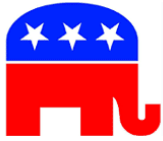
**Howard County
Republican Party**

Howard County GOP
P.O. Box 26
Ellicott City, MD. 21041

Phone: 410-997-VOTE
(410-997-8683)
E-mail: info@HoCoGOP.org



*Building a stronger community,
one leader at a time.*



We have an excellent opportunity to ensure that Republicans retain control of the White House and gain back Congress. Since the Democrats have taken over they have repeatedly failed to live up to their campaign promises. They are so busy fighting amongst themselves and bickering over who has power that the first full year of Democrat control has been one of the most unproductive years in American Legislative history. With your help we can work to take back the Congress and ensure that Republicans continue to set the agenda for our future. Please help us win back Congress with a donation of \$100, \$75, \$50, or \$25.

Donation Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Donation Level (circle one): \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Donation method: Check Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card #: _____ Ex: _____

Signature: _____

ANNAPOLIS UPDATE BY WARREN MILLER, DELEGATE, DISTRICT 9A

In his second State of the State address, Governor Martin O'Malley touched on a wide range of state issues, including freezing college tuition, fighting crime and making energy more affordable. In addition, he proposed initiatives to expand health coverage to 100,000 uninsured state residents and to improve the state transportation system.

However, I found the speech more interesting for what he didn't say than for what he did. The Governor referred numerous times to the financial difficulties facing Maryland families, noting that they "are finding it harder and harder just to pay their bills and maintain the quality of life that they have worked so hard to achieve." Yet he also maintained that last fall's special session was a vital part of his solution for Maryland, somehow avoiding the obvious point that for many Marylanders his tax increases are the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Maryland citizens are currently facing a 70% increase in electricity costs, a 30% increase in basic grocery costs, a 20% increase in sales tax coupled with higher property and income taxes, all at a time when home values are declining and rates on mortgages are increasing. The Govern-

nor's tax increases have merely compounded the financial difficulties faced by so many Marylanders.

And worse yet, the nine new taxes implemented during the special session (for a total of \$1.3 BILLION) are going directly to fund new spending programs, not to pay off the non-existent "structural deficit." We simply cannot afford to institute these new spending commitments. I've been saying it for years, but it bears repeating: the best way to help Maryland families continues to be cutting government spending and reducing our tax burden.

I remain very opposed to the computer services tax which was passed during the special session. I spoke against it on the House floor and I voted against it and every other tax that was proposed last fall.

So far this session three different bills have



Delegate Warren Miller

been introduced to repeal the computer services tax. I am a co-sponsor on each of these bills. I would love to see the repeal of this regressive and crippling tax but, barring that, we should at least work to make the tax fair to the small IT businesses who are penalized most harshly. Therefore I am sponsoring my own legislation to change the way the tax is levied on sub-contracts.

Many computer services contracts involve three and four layers of sub-contracting; as the law is currently written, each of these layers will have to apply the sales tax. Six percent tax compounded across even two or three layers is enough to wipe out any profitability, force a firm to cancel its contracts, or even put the firm out of business entirely. My legislation creates a reseller exemption which eliminates these compounded taxes for contractors. I should stress that my bill is the only one which protects contractors in this way.

I expect a hearing on this bill sometime in February. If you are able, please consider coming to Annapolis to testify in support of my legislation.