



A newsletter of the Alachua County Democratic Party

Find us on the web at www.alachuacountydemocraticparty.org/or call (352) 373-1730

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Obama-Biden

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State Committee
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Pat Bern,
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THE VITALLY IMPORTANT DOWN TICKET

By Chairman Jon Reiskind

So much of our attention has been focused on the presidential race that we might forget the rest of the Democratic ticket (the "down-ticket"). In many ways our lives are more directly affected by the actions of our local and state governments and Congress. The decisions we make on these other candidates will have a profound impact on our future.

Let's start with Congress. Cliff Stearns has held office for too long. His archconservative record, as well as his failure to hold the Administration accountable, makes him unfit to be re-elected. **Tim Cunha** is a new, vibrant and independent voice for responsive government. His priorities: health care, energy, the economy, and the veterans, reflect those of the nation. Without a strong Democratic Congress a Democratic presidency could be powerless. And, heaven forbid, a

Republican presidency could continue the downward spiral in the quality of our lives and our standing in the world. Eight years are enough!

Our state legislature has, in recent years, made a mockery of self-government in two ways: (1) by failing to address the major problems facing Florida with its monomaniacal devotion to dismantling government and (2) by undermining local government and the concept of home-rule. To produce a responsible, responsive and accountable state government we must hold on to and increase the Democratic membership in both state houses. And that begins locally by re-electing Representatives **Debbie Boyd** (House District 11) and **Charles Chestnut III** (House District 23) and electing **Leonard Bemby** (House District 10).

And then we come to those

closest to us, our county office holders. Although many of those offices are already held by unchallenged Democrats, there are several key races ahead for Alachua County Commission.

Mike Byerly, Rodney Long and **Paula DeLaney** are well deserving of your support. They are dedicated to home-rule, whereby our local governments respond to the needs of the community with a minimum of interference from our state or national government. Of course in local government we have a special obligation not only to vote for our leaders but to give them our personal input throughout their terms in office.

So, in sum, I urge you not only to vote for our presidential and vice-presidential nominees, **Barack Obama** and **Joe Biden**, but to vote the Democratic down-ticket. Your future depends on it.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!

We are in the home stretch of this very important election year and you can help! There are a myriad of volunteer tasks that are needed in the next six weeks that will help ensure victory. Canvassing, phone banking, organizing, mailings, sign preparation, transportation, office work, and many other tasks. We are canvassing neighborhoods every weekend, with good drink and excellent food!

To help at this crucial time please drop in to the Alachua

County Democratic Party (373-1730) or the Obama Campaign Office (378-7754) BOTH at 901 NW 8th Avenue! Many of us are helping provide two meals a day, breakfast (9 AM) and dinner (7 PM) to the 10 person staff at the Obama Headquarters. Sign up to provide one!

On Election Day many volunteers are needed to act as poll watchers and greeters as well as working the phone bank and helping with transportation. So vote early and come help us. Volunteering with your favorite

local candidate's campaign is another way to help (Please see links on our web site).

Activist trainings for Alachua County Democrats are being held regularly, the next ones on September 20th and 23rd. Contact **Jim Desjardin** at jrdesjardin@cox.net or 376-9801. Don't have the time? How about helping fund the campaigns? Your donation can be essential. You can make them at our web site (see address above) or at www.barackobama.com. Whatever role you chose to play, please let it be more than passive bystander. Your future is in your hands.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION: ACTIVIST TRAINING PROVIDED

We invite you to take advantage of a very special opportunity. No experience is necessary. You will receive all the tools needed to become a political activist! Want to change the world? It's not too late! You can start right here!

The trainings/workshops listed below will be held at the DEC office: 901 NW 8th Avenue, Suite A-3

September

- **Saturday, Sept. 20th:**
Intro to Dem Party 10am
Canvassing workshop 11am
- **Tuesday, Sept. 23rd:**
Intro to Dem Party 6pm
Canvassing workshop 7pm

Please RSVP to Jim Desjardin at jdesjardin@cox.net or call 376-9801.

"As for that VP talk all the time, I'll tell you, I still can't answer that question until somebody answers for me what is it exactly that the VP does every day?"

—Sarah Palin, interview with CNBC's "Kudlow & Co" July 2008

LAWTON CHILES DINNER SET FOR SEPTEMBER 25TH

The largest fundraiser for the local Democratic party promises to be a grand affair complete with wonderful entertainment, exciting speakers, a silent auction, and the Blue Boutique.

Staci Fox, coordinator of the

event, has yet to announce the surprise speaker but with the support the Democrats have seen in Alachua County, it promises to be a showstopper.

Don't miss this event! Seats are limited, so please get your

reservations in ASAP! If you didn't receive an invitation, you can call the Party office (352-373-1730) and ask for an invitation to be mailed to you, or go to our web site and download and print the reservation form.



DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES HOPING TO UNSEAT INCUMBENTS

This election year is full of opportunity for Democrats, especially for those of us in Congressional District 6.

Democrat **Tim Cunha** (www.timcunha.com) is running for Congress against 20 year incumbent Rep. Cliff Stearns, who has voted with President Bush more than 90% of the time. Tim Cunha thinks we need a change in the way

Washington works. He wants to work for the people of this broad and diverse district to rescue our economy, balance the budget, develop energy independence, and end the war in Iraq.

Another newcomer, **Leonard L. Bemby**, (www.leonardbemby.com), is running for State Representative in District 10 against a Republican

newcomer in a seat vacated by Rep. Will Kendrick (R). "I will do everything in my power to return power to the working class of Florida. I'll be your representative in Tallahassee" said Bemby.



Tim Cunha, hoping to unseat Conservative Republican Representative Cliff Stearns in Congressional District 6

OBAMA HEADQUARTERS IN GAINESVILLE JOINS FORCES WITH ACDEC



Pictured are some of the Obama staff (left to right): Ashley Bauman, Pat McCollough, Byron Wellman, Kate Purcell, and Bo Delp.

The Obama forces are investing many resources in our region. They arrived in

mid-June with over a dozen volunteer "Obama Fellows" and several staff, who worked diligently registering new voters and canvassing throughout the county.

Now they've expanded to a staff of seven covering the North Central Florida region from Levy County to St. John's County. The regional headquarters is at

901 NW 8th Avenue, Suite B-1, right next to the Alachua County Democratic Party Center. There are satellite offices in downtown Gainesville and St. Augustine.

Marshalling over a thousand volunteers they are saturating the region under the direction of **Byron Wellman**, Regional Field Director.

FLORIDA LABOR COUNCIL HOLDS LABOR DAY BREAKFAST

The annual Labor Day Breakfast, hosted by the North Central Florida Labor Council, on Saturday, August 30, had as its featured speaker **Representative Debbie Boyd**, Florida House District #11. Debbie joined many local office holders and candidates (including Tim Cunha, running in Congressional District #6) in

celebrating the labor movement. Debbie has had an excellent first term representing her large district, which includes west and northwest Alachua County, including parts of Gainesville and Alachua, and all of Newberry and High Springs. In her remarks she emphasized the importance of holding on to the seats the Democrats control

and increasing their representation in the Florida House of Representatives.



Representative Debbie Boyd, running for re-election in District 11, addressed attendees of the Labor Day Breakfast

BUSY SEPTEMBER MEETING SEES PASSAGE OF THREE RESOLUTIONS

At the September meeting members of the Alachua County Democratic Party discussed several ballot initiatives and amendments that will appear on the ballot.

With over a hundred in attendance, several resolutions were passed regarding the ballot initiatives that will be presented to voters this November.

Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan moved to adopt a resolution urging the voters to support a half-cent increase in sales tax for two years to finance land conservation and recreation improvements in Alachua County, through the The "Wild Spaces & Public Places" campaign. She added that even with the proposed increase, our sales tax would be lower than that all of the surrounding counties. After her appeal the resolution was passed without dissent.

Another resolution asked the voters to reject proposed Amendment 2 on the ballot. The sponsors pointed out that even though this ballot initiative was being touted as a family friendly initiative, in reality it would take away important family protection, health care visitations, hospital visitation and medical decision-making authority from 300,000 straight and 40,000 gay couples here in Florida. It would permanently ban civil unions and dismantle domestic partner benefits that seniors, teachers, firefighters and police officers rely on in more than eighteen communities across the state.

The Alachua County Democrats joined former Attorney General **Janet Reno** and other Democratic elected officials, the Florida Education Association, the AFL-CIO, the NAACP of Florida, Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, People for the American Way,

the Florida Alliance of Retired Americans and the Florida League of Women Voters as a full and engaged coalition partner in the No on 2 Campaign. The resolution was approved without dissent.

Christopher Ott moved to endorse a proposed one-mill *ad valorem* tax increase for four years to help cover the operating expenses of the Alachua County School.

The serious shortfall in funding faced by schools across the state has resulted in lowering our educational standards. School nurses, art, music and other elective programs such as the IB program at Eastside High School are all facing cutbacks. To ensure better education for our children, he urged all members to support his motion. This resolution too passed without dissent.

OUR 2008 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

- Barack Obama & Joe Biden for President & Vice-President
- Tim Cunha for U.S. Representative, District 6
- Leonard L. Bembry for State Representative District 10
- Debbie Boyd for State Representative District 11
- Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut IV for State Representative District 23
- Mike Byerly for Alachua County Commissioner
- Paula M. DeLaney for Alachua County Commissioner
- Rodney Long for Alachua County Commissioner

"[Senator McCain] embraces the extreme philosophy which has defined his party for more than 25 years, a philosophy we never had a real chance to see in action until 2001, when the Republicans finally gained control of both the White House and Congress." -Former President Bill Clinton, speaking at the Democratic National Convention, 2008

"Well, we all saw the results! The only way we can save our nation is to take back both the White House and Congress." -Chairman Jon Reiskind, Chair, ACDEC, 2008

OUTSTANDING DEMOCRATS HONORED AT LUNCHEON

Outstanding Democrats from all over the county gathered for the 2008 Alachua County Democratic Party's Outstanding Democrats Luncheon which was held on Tuesday, June 24th at the Savannah Grande.

The annual awards luncheon was well attended and awards were given to both elected officials and hard working Democratic members. The Harry Truman "The Buck Stops Here" Award

which goes to a male elected official went to **Alachua Co. Tax Collector Von Fraser**. **Representative Debbie Boyd** walked away with the *Eleanor Roosevelt Award* which annually goes to an outstanding female elected official.

Staci Fox won the prestigious *Democrat of the Year Award* and the *Award for Sustained Service to the Democratic Party* went to **David Chalmers**. Several people received *Unsung Hero Awards*



Staci Fox (center) beams as she accepts her award for Democrat of the Year from Evelyn Foxx (left) and Susan Botcher (right)

including **Mae Leone, Stewart Neilson, Elizabeth Powers, Kathleen Shiverick, Bill Wrighton and Evelyn Foxx**. Congratulations to these outstanding Democrats!

"In 2007, John McCain voted with President Bush 95 percent of the time."

-Fact Check.org

Alachua County Democratic Party

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Udoitnextime.org

We're on the Web!

www.alachuacountydemocraticparty.org



ALACHUA COUNTY
DEMOCRATS

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IMPORTANT DEMOCRATIC DATES

Monthly ACDEC Meetings

- **Wednesday, October 8th** (7-9 pm):
Monthly Democratic Party Meeting*
- **Wednesday, November 12th** (7-9 pm):
Monthly Democratic Party Meeting*

**Monthly meetings are held at the County Administration Building on SE 1st St. and University Avenue in downtown Gainesville*

Important Dates

- **Friday, September 19th** (5-7pm)
Blue Door Café, Democratic Party Office
- **Saturday, September 20th**
Intro to Dem Party 10am
Canvassing Workshop 11am
- **Tuesday, September 23rd**
Intro to Dem Party 6pm
Canvassing Workshop 7pm
- **Thursday, September 25th**, 5:30pm-9pm
Lawton Chiles Dinner, Reitz Union
- **Wednesday, October 1st, 7pm**: Sixth
Congressional District Forum, Oak Hammock
- **Monday, October 6th**: Last day to register for
General Election
- **Friday, October 17th** (5-7pm)
Blue Door Café, Democratic Party Office
- **Tuesday, November 4th**: ELECTION DAY

Yard signs, bumper stickers, and political paraphernalia for Democratic candidates are always available at the Democratic Party Center, 901 N.W. 8th Ave. Please call 373-1730 for more information or to donate your gift of time and talent.

WHO'S WHO IN THE ALACHUA COUNTY DEC

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Media & Communications:
Beth Richardson

Membership: Sally Guthrie

Lawton Chiles Dinner: Staci Fox

Policy and By-Laws: Terry Fleming

Precinct Action Network: Sally Guthrie

Veterans Affairs: Pat McCollough

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