

Editorial

Tale of Two Elections

The Republican Party recently held two very different elections to determine their nominees for the 33rd District Senate seat and for the 27th District Senate seat. Both elections were held in two very different ways with two very distinct results.

On June 9th, the 33rd district held a primary to recapture the seat from Mark Herring. The 33rd includes Loudoun and Fairfax and thus both locations must work together to determine how best to elect their nominee. Loudoun's stance on this primary was one of strength as it has the larger number of registered voters over the portion of Fairfax that is served by the 33rd District, thus, Loudoun was able to push the concept of a Convention of sorts to be held on Saturday morning from 9am to 2pm.

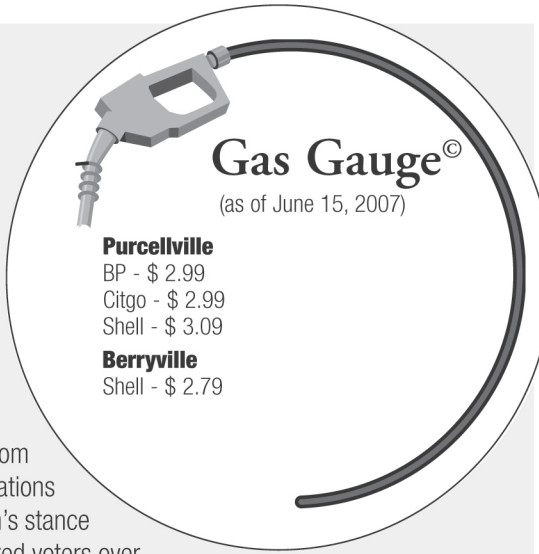
For the 27th District, Loudoun was one of five counties who were to determine the method of voting. Loudoun's Republican Committee was the only Committee pushing for a Saturday Convention claiming that more dedicated Republican's would vote and that they would have better control over those who vote, meaning, getting voters to sign a pledge. The other counties, Clarke, Frederick, Fauquier and the City of Winchester, would not accept Loudoun's recommendation.

Well the results are in. The Loudoun County Republican Committee's plans for the June 9th election resulted in only 1,497 voters. Tuesday's election, that required no pledge signing ceremony, resulted in over 7,923 voters, a far better turnout than one chosen by Loudoun's GOP, which by design, was restrictive for most voters.

Based on these two very different outcomes, we have to ask, why is Loudoun's Republican Committee being so elusive? Why do we force GOP voters and candidates to sign a pledge when many key GOP leaders ignore it themselves? Dale Polen Myers ignored the pledge in 1999, Steve Simpson is going to ignore the pledge this year for Sheriff, Jack Ryan is also ignoring the pledge for an Independent bid for Broad Run Supervisor and Ken Reid, current Leesburg Town Council member filed as an Independent to take on Supervisor Jim Clem. There must be a reason for so many to leave the party.

It seems that Loudoun's GOP leaders have shot themselves in the foot once again. Since most of the leaders know they could never win an election themselves, perhaps they view their control over the local party as their only means of survival. Loudoun politics used to be civil and a great opportunity to debate the issues. However, thanks to the current leadership of Paul Protic of Patrick Henry College, Suzanne Volpe, a Planning Commissioner and Eve Barner, aide to Sen. Ken Cucinelli, we suspect that the Republican Party in Loudoun County will see tremendous losses this fall. While many will place blame on the President and Iraq, we believe most of the blame can be found right here at home.

Too bad they don't understand the real world, if they did, they would notice that not only are the Democrats laughing, but most registered voters as well.



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Letters to the Editor

Thank You From the Catocin Christian Firewood Ministry

With so much negative news around today, I wanted to take a few moments to thank a hardworking groups of friends and neighbors that for years have given of themselves to help others. Four years ago, a group of us got together at one of the local churches and formed a team to go out, collect firewood for some families in need, split that wood, and deliver it.

Our premise was then and remains today very simple: God, who cares about our physical needs in addition to our spiritual needs, has done much for us and we want to share that with others. In the second year of operations, we expanded to other groups of caring individuals from various churches in the area and increased the number of families with whom we shared our message of compassion and our firewood.

We just wrapped up our fourth season, and over the coming heat of the summer, a handful of people in this caring group will continue scouting for wood sources and preparing for yet another season this coming fall when once again we will ramp up our efforts and welcome returning and new volunteers to aid in this effort. As the quasi-leader of this group of individuals, I am quick to acknowledge that it is the efforts of these wonderful people that made it possible to provide roughly sixty-five

cords of wood to a dozen families in western Loudoun County this past year.

Heart-felt gratitude to each of you for your generosity and faithfulness is offered from both myself and those families that you helped through another winter of increased heating costs and financial burden. I look forward to our fifth season, our continued fellowship, the smiles on the faces of those we help next season, and the contentment that comes from serving others and Him. See you in the fall.

Ed Carmichael
Catocin Christian Firewood Ministry
Philomont

To the Parents of Seniors at Loudoun Valley

For the last 20+ years (I have been helping out personally for about 9 years) a group of dedicated parents have worked hard to sponsor a graduation celebration for the graduating class of Valley. It is an all night celebration that is packed with fun activities, music, prizes galore, and of course food. Usually 70% of the class has participated and they always have a

continued on page 3

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