



# The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party April 2016 Issue 16

*Spring may have sprung, but it's time to get ready for Fall!*

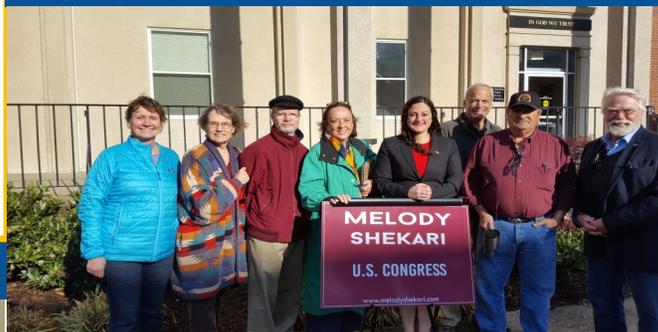
## Upcoming Events... From the Anderson County Democratic Party Chair

**April 21st:** Party meeting, 3rd Floor of Clinton Courthouse, Judge Elledge's courtroom at 6 PM

**May 7th:** Jackson Day Dinner in Nashville starting at 6PM (Central). Tickets \$125. See Page Three for details.

**May 26th:** Party meeting at ATLC in Oak Ridge, 109 Viking Road at 6 PM.

## Melody Shekari announces candidacy



## Next stop Nashville for Democratic Women!



For women in Tennessee, it is frustrating to look at our state legislator. If you aren't a gun or oppose women's rights then most of the current crop of our state representation doesn't care about you. Even as a guy, I wonder sometimes how on Earth can a female vote for some of these people? Worse yet, many of the woman in our legislator are seemingly ok with what goes on! Take Speaker Beth Hartwell for example, who willingly tried to shield Jeremy Durham from any punishment for his inappropriate behavior towards female members of his staff. As Tennessee Democratic Party Chairwoman Mary Mancini put it "She did nothing but sweep it under the rug".

The women of Tennessee are annoyed and prepared to take action. Pictured above are the twenty women running for office in the legislator. None of these women are going to tolerate what our current Republican "leaders" turn a blind eye to. These will be true leaders, people who will be accountable to the people of the Volunteer State. Nashville could use women that stand up for their rights and whose best friend isn't a gun. They can't do this alone. They need YOUR help! So please support them and bring the change we need to Nashville.

By Scott Julius

Photo by Jordan Wilkins

The Third Congressional District of Tennessee has had it rough the past several years. We've been stuck with the "leadership" of Representative Chuck Fleishmann who hasn't authored any legislation. How about someone who'll do something for a change?

We have a chance for changing the status quo and it comes from Melody Shekari. An attorney from Chattanooga, she announced her candidacy for representative for the Third District by the steps of the Anderson County Courthouse on April 7th. Later that day, she hosted another announcing event in Chattanooga.

Melody was well prepared to take questions from the media and I was impressed by how confident she sounded. She told everyone that if elected, she would invest in our future and stand up for the Third District. "We need real leadership" she said told us. In addition, she said her platform and detailed information will be on her website, [www.melodyshekari.com](http://www.melodyshekari.com) soon. We look forward to seeing you around and best of luck to you!

By Scott Julius

Photo by Joan Nelson

Past issues can be found at:  
[www.andersoncountymocrat.com](http://www.andersoncountymocrat.com)

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Anderson County Democratic Party: Respect...Inclusion...Equality

*What's up in Anderson County? By Pat Fain*    *Where do the Republicans go? By Pat Fain*

## Maybe Zorro Did It

Today we are initiating a regular column focused on local politics. We need some light humor and a little more "OMG" or "WTF" to get through an already-head-shaking season. It's Leap Year, people.

The first farce to get a lot of insider action is the on-going attempt of the county Mayor and friends to decimate the County Commission. It seems that the CC just never votes FOR anything as her Serene Highness attempts to consolidate and extend her mostly imaginary POWER.

So, enter a state law that I am very familiar with and have participated in myself in Oak Ridge, to some effect. A Charter Commission, to either amend or establish a city or county charter form of government can be initiated in three ways, by citizen petition, by act of the governing legislative body (County Commission) or by act of the General Assembly. Today there are 8 county districts, each with two representatives, that comprise the County Commission.

A petition signing to **create** a Charter form of government for the county and to elect 8 charter commissioners to write said County Charter was initiated in February by a small group of the Mayor's minions. The purpose, as expressed by the petition, is to slash the number of county commissioners to 8 and to vest considerably more power in the elected mayor. The petition signing was well under way before any of the county commissioners knew anything about it. Mostly the county commissioners were disgusted but resigned to another protracted era of hostilities between the Mayor and the Commission. Plans were made by the Democrats to find friendly candidates to run for Charter Commission in case they actually got the number of certified signatures required by law.

Getting signatures on a petition is labor intensive and getting valid signatures to the County Clerk for certification and to the Elections Commission for inclusion on the ballot in November is also fraught with complexities and subject to strict deadlines. Then there is the problem of non-conforming signatures that are going to be thrown out. The number required is equal to 10% of the total number of voters who voted for Governor in the last Governor's election.

Complicating the process is that Oak Ridge changed their city voting dates from obscure idiosyncratic dates to coincide with the November date of federal and state elections. The number voting

*(continued on Page Three)*

**Says he doesn't want to be the Republican nominee at the RNC in a brokered convention.**



**He also didn't want to be Speaker of the House. There's a reason he's known as "Lyin' Ryan."**

You know what they say about cornering a wounded elephant? Well, I don't either, but it can't be good. Particularly when the wound is self inflicted and the flies are gathering. The only thing guaranteed is maggots. The Republican "establishment" (and isn't that a picture fraught with symbolism) are indeed about to gag on aforesaid maggot.

Enter the white knight? Paul Ryan sounding, perhaps deliberately, a lot like Ike in the days before entering the 1952 Presidential race, keeps saying he cannot be drafted. Remember how Ike said he did not want to be President, but if he were dragged into the convention by 4 white horses and a brass band, he just might consider it? And that Ryan has already tested successfully, with his reluctant-speaker-of-the-house gambit? [Paul Ryan has, within the past 2 weeks, apologized to poor people for misunderstanding them and delivered a short speech to a captive audience](#) somewhere in the bowels of the Capitol, filled with platitudes wherein he asserted that he is a healer and abhors the tone of government today; [while again denying it was an announcement of running for president.](#) Think Shakespeare here (protests too much.)

Do not think to dismiss this man easily. He well may be a bigger threat than that other vacuous brain known as Trump or... was that Cruz.. no, maybe the Ohio guy. Stay tuned. He is already owned by the Koch brothers. Where's the fat lady?

Keep an open eye and ear open for this guy.

## What's up in Anderson County Continued...

## Light Reading for the Political Junkie

(continued from Page Two)

in the last gubernatorial race has thus greatly increased. Result: 1776 signatures are now required.

So by March the originators of the signature petition decided to seek the assistance of Senator McNally and Representative Regan to pass a bill establishing a charter commission and a vote to elect eight charter commissioners, one from each commission district. Bills were written and introduced into both the Senate to create the election commission with an election to be held in November of the 8 members. Can anyone wonder that there are hostilities between the Commission and the Mayor.

The problem here is that there is a long history and practice of local city and county governments working very closely with state elected officials and vice versa. This protocol and practice was bypassed by the two state law makers and there was no conferring whatsoever among the elected officials, either in the sunshine or not. The county commissioners did not discover the existence of the bills already introduced into both the state Senate and House until April 5.

Now use your most hostile and outraged imagination to picture the reaction of most of the sitting 16 commissioners. Then double it.

Representative Ragan has been actively pushing the bill in the House. In the Senate it turned out that the bill was introduced too late (mid-March) and one committee that would have to approve it is no longer holding meetings. When Rep. Ragan was contacted by irate commissioners, he agreed to pull the bill. It is assumed that the petition signing continues.

Representative Ragan is up for reelection and the Democrats will be giving him strong opposition.

Pat Fain

4/15/20

1. The Republicans have been determined to block any hearing of Justice Garland (I wonder how much the Koch Brothers are bribing Mitch McConnell to do that?) [This article suggests a way around Congress.](#)
2. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has been rumored to be a potential emergency candidate for the Republican nomination. Trump at the same time wants a face saving way out (one that can keep his ego intact). [Here is how this could happen.](#)
3. Want to learn more about the upcoming Congressional race in District Three? Look at [this article](#) from the Oak Ridger that covers Melody Shekari's campaign announcement.
4. We value diversity in this county (maybe not the Republicans, but the rest of us) and us Democrats for sure do. [Take a look at this article](#) about what good diversity has done in this country as of late.
5. [This article](#) is something of a blast from the past! Remember George W. Bush? How can we forget the eight awful years of having him president? Take a look at how the Republican Party is currently destroying itself and how it links back to our previous president.

## Jackson Day 2016 is upon us!

It's nearly time for Jackson Day! Join Democrats from around the Volunteer State as we gather in Nashville on May 7th for dinner and a guest speaker. The guest speaker will be none other than the ragin' Cajun himself, James Carville! Tickets for this event are \$125. You can purchase tickets on the [TNDP website](#) or contact the party chairwoman Catherine Denenberg at [cate.denenberg@gmail.com](mailto:cate.denenberg@gmail.com). We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing you there!

