



# The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party May 2016 Issue 18

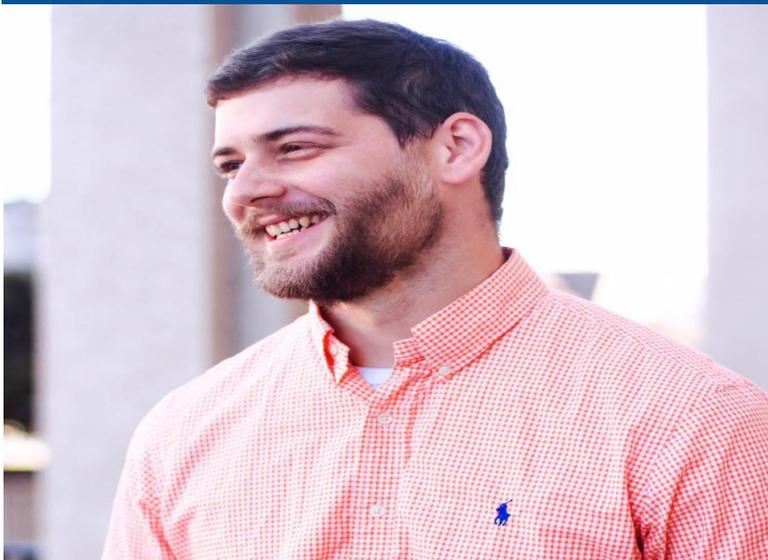
*Only eleven more issues of The Democrat until the election!*

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

**May 20th:** "A Conversation with former TVA Board Chair David Freeman: What TVA Should be Doing to Help Save the Planet BUT ISN'T!". Church of the Savior in Knoxville at 7 PM. An open conversation and exchange of views with former TVA Board Dave Freeman.

**May 26th:** Party meeting at ATLC in Oak Ridge, 109 Viking Road at 6 PM. Mark D. Harmon, guest speaker. See Page Three for details.

## *Michael McKamey declares candidacy for Tennessee House of Representatives District 33*



Michael McKamey of Clinton, Tennessee has announced his candidacy for the Tennessee House of Representatives in District 33. He hopes to continue in the tradition of his family, who has a long history of public service in Anderson County. "I am excited to become the next State Representative from District 33. I believe that once I am elected, our community will finally have someone who is not only a lifelong resident who understands the struggles we face but also someone who will fight to put our community in the best possible position for current and future prosperity" McKamey said.

McKamey plans to run on a platform of improving public education, rebuilding a crumbling infrastructure, and creating a strong, fair economy. Another issue that is very important to McKamey is the lack of proper security measures in Department of Corrections

Facilities across the state. A former corrections officer, McKamey witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by officers and the lack of leadership on the part of many state officials concerning this matter.

Michael McKamey is a native of Anderson County and a graduate of Clinton High School. He is currently attending Roane State Community College where he is pursuing a degree in political science.

The primary election for the Tennessee House of Representatives will be held on August 4th, 2016, and the general election will be held on November 8th.

The Anderson County Democrat thanks ACDP chairwoman Catherine Denenberg for supplying this press release.

## *The latest delegate count*

- Total delegates up for grabs:** 4,763
- Total delegates needed to win:** 2,382
- Hillary Clinton delegates:** 2,240
- Hillary Clinton total pledged delegates:** 1,716
- Hillary Clinton total super delegates:** 524
- Bernie Sanders delegates:** 1,473
- Bernie Sanders total pledged delegates:** 1,443
- Bernie Sanders total super delegates:** 40
- Total primaries remaining:** 11

Facts and figures curtesy of [www.realclearpolitics.com](http://www.realclearpolitics.com) and are accurate as of the date of publication.

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

Editor: Pat Fain

Asst. Editor: Scott Julius

Consulting: Catherine Denenberg

Contact us: [patfain.acdp@gmail.com](mailto:patfain.acdp@gmail.com)

## Character is Destiny by Pat Fain

There is so much coming at us so fast that it is hard to focus on what to save next. The attacks from the right are stunning and all encompassing. Why are so many states passing laws so fast and so similar to each other, one after the other. Attacks are being made on Medicare, social security, Medicaid, food stamps, children's health, disability rights, public education, civil rights, environmental issues and just about everything that impacts the 99% who pay all of the taxes. Legislation to weaken and destroy all controls on the wealthy and their excesses and to promote corporate welfare are faring quite well, however.

It is not that each of these issues has not been attacked in the past that is so stunning. It is that the attacks appear to be coordinated and the elected officials are passing them mostly without discussion or time for their constituents to register their opinions. It has become one kamikaze attack after another after another. In addition almost all of the action has been focused in state legislatures, not in the congress. If it seems that the actual survival of our representative democracy, the foundations of the nation, are being eroded, it is because that is exactly what is happening.

Surprise! We actually know who is orchestrating the attack, the methodology and why the steam-roller is winning. The who is the mysterious Koch brothers; the methodology is by creating legislative language to hand to willing legislators to introduce into their own state legislature. They are winning because The Koch brothers have an organization (Americans for Prosperity) that turns out the legislation and also contributes real money to legislative campaigns. In other words they are buying and feeding individual legislators all over the country. Interestingly enough it is easier to buy and control political favors at the state level than at the federal level.

The way control has been achieved at the state level is by way of a bastard process called gerrymandering. This "trick" is nearly as old as the Constitution, having been invented by the governor of Massachusetts in 1805. It is also why control of the state legislature is so important. Here's how it works. Every 10 years the US Constitution requires a census be taken. That census is then used to divide 435 House of Representative seats between 50 states. The state legislatures then design the district maps within their states. If they make a real hard effort, and they do, they can draw bizarrely shaped districts so that the party controlling the state legislature can achieve more than their fair share of

seats. The courts have never set a plus and minus formula for this distribution and states have gotten away with as much as a 40% disparity so far. Thus it becomes obvious that controlling the state legislature is the key. It has been realized in two census cycles.

Using the same methodology within states has had the same result as it has had at the federal level. The process is circular. The more seats a party holds at the state level the more they can gerrymander in their favor and election after election the disparity grows ever greater. Additionally the Americans for Prosperity organization originally bankrolled the organization of the Tea Party and helped in the development of their agenda to reflect that of the Americans for Prosperity and the Koch brothers.

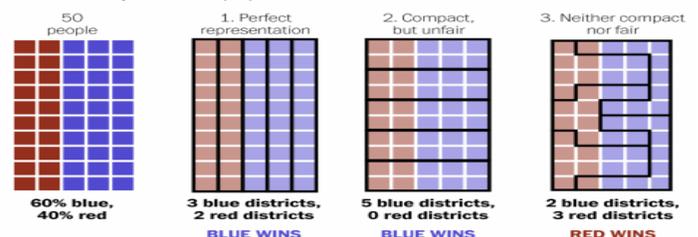
I have to state vehemently that I am not a conspiracy theorist. However, this agenda and its proponents have been well researched by others and the pattern of agenda, money, campaign contributions and pre-written legislation is not in doubt. The only way for Democrats so stop this train taking us head first into fascism is to recognize the seriousness of the threat and to start to focus on state legislatures and vote them out of office.

I have yet to figure out how the destruction of the middle class, the consumer class, benefits the bottom line of those who control all of the wealth. Most likely it the desire for pure POWER. If there is no one left who can afford to buy anything, then the only thing left to spend money on is... you guessed it.... war. Perpetual war might just keep the economy from collapse. It also thins out the population so there are not so many to feed. This sounds like a bad novel. Unfortunately this is the direction the Koch brothers and their minions are taking us.

VOTE in November. Please.

### Gerrymandering, explained

Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts



WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WONKBLOG

Adapted from Stephen Nass

## Mark D. Harmon to speak at party meeting

On May 26th, Mark D. Harmon will speak at the party meeting in Oak Ridge. Mark D. Harmon is professor of Journalism and Electronic Media at the University of Tennessee. He has worked as a television news producer, radio host, and radio reporter. Currently he is a weekly columnist with the Knoxville News Sentinel. In 2014 he won a national Sigma Delta Chi Award for excellence in journalism, general column writing in small to medium markets. He also has won the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Ed Bliss Award for distinguished broadcast journalism education. The International Radio and Society in 2004 honored him as the Frank Stanton Fellow for distinguished broadcast education.

Professor Harmon is the author of four books, three book chapters, more than 30 refereed research articles, and 70 refereed conference presentations. From 2006 to 2010 he served as an elected Knox County Commissioner. In 1998 he was elected the Democratic Party nominee for the 13th Congressional District of Texas. While he didn't win, he made the incumbent spend half a million dollars to defeat him. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Tennessee. He recently was elected to serve on the Tennessee Democratic Party Executive Committee, and this summer will be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Bio via Catherine Denenberg

## Light Reading for the Political Junkie

1. [This is an older article, but it still rings true today](#). Remember the "1%" movement of Occupy Wall Street? The Tea Party came out with a "53%" movement to try and get the working class to defend the wealthy. Today, the Republicans do everything they can do shame the poor while fooling them to vote for them.
2. [A detailed PDF file](#) about Title IX funding for schools. This deals with a subject that has been in the news lately with the transgender issues.
3. [This is a follow up article](#) on a piece written about the frustrations of being a Democrat in a red state. I posted the first version of this in an issue of The Democrat last year. I'm sure many of you can relate to this article.
4. There's an old saying that goes "Those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it" or something along those lines at least. State Rep. Martin Daniel wants to do just that. [He doesn't think the Civil Rights movement ought to be taught](#).
5. [What is he hiding?](#) Presumed Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump told a reporter on TV recently that his tax returns were "None of your business". One more reason to vote in November to ensure White House policy is none of his business.

## Does this shape make sense to you?

## Gerrymandering gone wild, by Scott Julius



In the article on Page Two, Pat Fain did a good job summing up the plague of gerrymandering so there's little more that needs to be said on the matter. Nonetheless, I agree that voters should choose their elected officials, not vice-versa.

I earned my Bachelors Degree in Political Science at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. While there, I learned a lot about gerrymandering. It wasn't just because I studied politics, Maryland's Congressional districts are among the most gerrymandered in the country. Maryland's Third District (shown left) is an example of such abuse. My closest college friend slams gerrymandering as un-democratic. He's also correct, if we try to export democracy to other countries they can call us out on this thorn in the side of our democracy.

I don't care who done it, this map is wrong. Partisan redistricting by either side of the aisle is wrong. It's not just Maryland, but in all 50 states. It must end for I demand my democracy back.