



The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party July 2016 Issue 21

Only eight more issues of The Democrat until the election!

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

July 28th headquarters opening followed by joint Democratic Women/Party meeting followed by Hillary Clinton's acceptance speech at Swift's in Oak Ridge.

Anderson County Fair in Clinton from July 11th through the 16th. We need all the volunteers we can get. If interesting in helping out please contact Jean Hiser at: 316hiser@comcast.net

Herman Collins runs as a write-in candidate



Herman Collins, a 57 year-old disabled veteran and nuclear industry manager, has announced his write-in candidacy in the Democratic primary for the Tennessee House of Representatives in District 33, which encompasses most of Anderson County. Mr. Collins has announced after the qualifying deadline due to the withdrawal of Michael McKamey because of family illness. Collins acknowledges the difficulty of this undertaking and the challenge of getting out the information to voters who are ready to replace the current incumbent. He is confident he will be successful. "I am ready to talk directly to every voter in the district and ask them to write my name on every ballot cast in the Democratic primary," said Collins.

Herman Collins was born in Tallahassee, Florida and raised in Bartow, Florida. He joined the Army in 1977 following his high school graduation and served in the Infantry for three years and in Avionics for three years at Ft Campbell, Kentucky. He started his career in the nuclear industry in 1992 at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C. in

the production operations group. In 2005, he transferred to the Nuclear Safety Group to work as a Nuclear Criticality Safety Officer at East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge, becoming the first African American nuclear safety officer in the industry. Collins has a Masters Degree in Management with a concentration in Project Management from Strayer University in Knoxville.

Since moving to Clinton in 2006, Collins has been active in several community organizations. He has served as Associate Minister at Mt Sinai MBC in Clinton and has participated in various youth activities with the City of Clinton. He currently serves as First Vice-Chair of the Anderson County Democratic Party. "I look forward to representing the residents of District 33 in the House of Representatives, and I am ready to roll up my sleeves and propose common-sense solutions to address the issues important to our community," Collins said.

Mr. Collins resides in Clinton with his wife Deloris and has four children.

The primary election for the Tennessee House of Representatives will be held on August 4, 2016, and the general election will be held on November 8. Early voting for the primary begins on July 15 and ends on July 30.

A quick word from Scott Julius

I have the privilege to work at helping Herman Collins become the next District 33 Representative. However, I can't do this alone! We all need to lend a hand at getting his name written in on primary day. That means telling your friends to do this and sharing his campaign [Facebook page](#). We hope to have a web site up soon too. Me and all on Herman's team sincerely thank you!

Past issues can be found at:
www.andersoncountymocrat.com

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

Some words from candidate for US House of Representatives Melody Shekari

Melody Shekari for Congress

Melody learned about hard work and sacrifice from her parents. They came from a foreign land seeking opportunity. Farah, Melody's mother, worked hard for her family while her husband traveled for work. She started a day care before earning an accounting degree. Meanwhile, Melody worked night shifts at Steak-n-Shake.

After finishing high school in Chattanooga, Melody literally traveled the four corners of the United States to complete her education. After receiving her undergrad, Masters in Public Administration, and law degree, she returned home to serve her community. She has held positions in business, government and the non-profit sector.

Melody has always been focused on solving problems. Whether she was helping her sister support her mother when they were little or focused on USC's sustainability programs, Melody has always worked hard to find a way to get things done. She recently finished up a fellowship working for the City of Chattanooga doing just that: finding a way to get things done.

Melody will get things done for Tennessee. She has worked hard her entire life. She has stood up to the powerful and helped the powerless. She will stand up for us because we deserve a Congressperson who does just that: works hard and stands up.

"I was born in Texas, grew up in Chattanooga, and have lived in all four corners of our country." Said Melody. "I have worked for minimum wage sweeping floors and developed policy for the City of Chattanooga. I know the value of hard work but I also know that working families sometimes need a helping hand. We deserve an economy that rewards the hard work Tennesseans put in every day. We deserve a community free from toxins where our children are safe. We deserve a congresswoman who cares about our values. People are ready for change. The working families of Tennessee deserve more than a party hack or lobbyist tool: they deserve someone who listens to them and will fight for them."

You can learn more about Melody at her website, www.melodyshekari.com, or hear from her on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

The Anderson County Democrat team thanks Melody Shekari for her submission and for taking the time to write us!

"Success is a project that's always under construction"

Pat Summitt

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



Melody Shekari (second over from left) during her visit to the booth of the Anderson County Democratic Party at the Secret City Festival in June.

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WINNING AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE WHITE HOUSE

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The above words are important!

It's easy to forget in the excitement of the Presidential election season that state and local elections are critically important. We've all seen what happens locally when you have Republicans run a muck (think Terry Frank) and at the state level when you have a Republican legislator competing with each other to out crazy each other (thank you John Ragan and company). So please remember these elections too!

Who will Hillary Clinton choose as her running mate? By Scott Julius

Time has sure flown by huh? This campaign season will have both armchair and professional political scientists talking for years to come. On the Republican side, we've watched as a field of unelectable, crazy candidates get winnowed down to the monster that is Donald Trump. On the Democratic side, we've watched the adults in the room come together to share their vision of what their leadership of the country will be like. It ended up a thriller as Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton fired up their supporters, then got them working. The primary results always kept us looking at what will happen. At this point, Hillary Clinton has achieved the required number of delegates to clinch the nomination.

I want to say before I continue, that Bernie Sanders put on one heck of a campaign. He won 23 states, including an upset in Michigan. He lost Kentucky by a razor thin margin. Bernie inspired millions to get involved in the political process, many for the first time. The movement he started will continue long after his campaign. So for those of us who "Felt the Bern", take heart...you'll keep feeling it!

That leaves this question of who will Hillary Clinton choose as her running mate? Who gets chosen is very important. This person will have to run the country in the event of the President's death or resignation. So he or she must be just as capable of the job. Traditionally, the running mate is someone who has attributes the presidential candidate lacks.

Currently, there are three top contenders for the Vice-Presidential spot for Hillary that have been in the news. As such, these are the people I will profile here. Could I be totally wrong and she ends up choosing someone different? Of course! That said, it's highly likely that our next Vice-President will be either Julian Castro, Tim Kaine, or Elizabeth Warren.

Elizabeth Warren is a Senator from Massachusetts and a champion of the progressive cause. Some people have even compared her to Bernie Sanders. She's well liked by all factions of the Democratic Party. Her passions in particular have been railing against Wall Street and the student loan industry.

Former Governor of swing state Virginia Tim Kaine has been touted as a possible running mate. He's seen as a well-rounded candidate who is not only fluent in Spanish, but is one of only a handful of people who has served as Mayor, Senator, and Governor. Being a past chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he is a skilled fundraiser and strategist.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro has been mentioned as a possible pick. If Hillary wins, Mr. Castro will become the first Vice-President of Hispanic descent. He has a proven track record of connecting with minority and Hispanic voters. He's been a champion of getting through HUD progressive rules to combat housing discrimination.

These are only three possible names being flouted. There are several others and it's possible we'll have a surprise in store with her picking one of them instead. I for one am curious to learn who her pick will be. Whoever it will be, it will be someone who will end up making her ticket be the winning one. It is critical her ticket be the winning one! Want to scare yourself silly? Picture who Trump would choose as his running mate. I take no responsibility for nightmares that image may have caused!

The grammar gremlins By Scott Julius

When writing articles for important publications, it's good to use perfect English and grammar. I mean, you have to pay attention to these issues! They are people who read this, but want it looked over more closely.

Please indulge me for the above mangling of the English language! If you can't laugh at yourself, who can you laugh at? We'll better proofread the newsletter from now on.

Light Reading for the Political Junkie

1. The Tennessee Democratic Party wrote a [short piece commemorating Pat Summit](#) who passed away recently. This was a Tennessean who was near and dear to many. She shall be missed.
2. Here's an article on [Hillary Clinton appearing with Elizabeth Warren](#) on the campaign trail. Could she be the next Vice-President?
3. Tim Kaine has been seen as a top contender for Hillary's running mate. This [Washington Post](#) article looks at him closer and in detail. Is it possible he could add Vice-President to his long list of leadership positions?
4. [Out of San Antonio we have Julian Castro](#). From day one of Hillary's campaign people have been speculating on if he would be her running mate should she get the nomination. Is this our first Hispanic Vice-President?