



# The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party Sep 2016 Issue 25

*The first anniversary of The Anderson County Democrat!*

*Don't forget! Party meeting at headquarters in Oak Ridge on September 22nd!*

*Democratic Youth Event held August 26th*

*Labor Day Picnic September 5th*



On August 26th Democratic youth met at Party headquarters in Oak Ridge. The purpose of this event, organized by the membership committee, was to get the youth involved with Democratic politics.

At this event we had food and refreshments served (that will always attract the youth!) along with staff on hand to answer questions. Two representatives from Melody Shekari's campaign came to visit and spoke with the youth as well. Melody Shekari herself was out of town and unable to come, but she will be in town frequently according to her campaign. It was especially encouraging that we had some new faces at this event and we look forward to seeing more of them.

The youth are the next generation of Democrats. As such, it is critical they get involved at an early age. Some of the youth at this event were very knowledgeable and engaged with current events already. "Some of these kids know more about politics than some adults I know" Party Secretary Scott Julius said. We must keep encouraging them to stay involved.

If you know any youth who may want to be involved, send them our way!

## *The Democrat turns one!*

Can you believe it has been a year already? This issue marks the first anniversary of the launch of the *Democrat*! Pat and I are amazed at the success of this publication over the past year. Scott wasn't even certain this would work out at first! So thanks to all our readers! It's a pleasure doing our part to keep Democrats in the county informed.

## EAST TENNESSEE LABOR DAY PICNIC

**WE APPRECIATE DEMOCRATS**

**Free Admission**  
**Date:** Monday, September 5, 2016  
**Time:** 12:00 Noon - 3:30 PM  
**Place:** Roane County Park Shelter 2, 3515 Roane State Hwy. (Hwy 70 J), Harriman, TN

**Guest Speakers:**

**Melody Shekari**  
 Candidate for Congress  
 3rd Congressional District

**Ripley the Donkey**  
 will be available for photos

**Food and Fun for the Entire Family!**

**Larry Best**  
 Vice Chair of the Loudon County Democratic Party  
 will give a presentation on Climate Change

For more information, call 865-466-0418.

**Sponsored by the Roane County Democratic Party**

Do not forget! It is that time of year again, time for the East Tennessee Labor Day picnic hosted by the Roane County Democratic Party. Admission is free this year and we have two excellent guest speakers.

The location is at the Roane County Park in Harriman and is not far from the main campus of Roane State. So from Noon until 3:30PM join us for good food, good times, and great speakers!

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 IS A COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION? Is it important? Part Two By Pat Fain

In our September 15<sup>th</sup> Issue of *the Democrat* we began an exploration of the back story existing in county government, against which the November election of eight Charter Commissioners is being played out.

The saga continues as the Commission begins to suspect that the county computers have been hacked and hires an outside expert with impeccable reputation to come check it out. The next thing that is made public is that multiple security breaches are announced and law enforcement is getting involved.

Getting back to the Charter Commission we find that a total of 20 people have qualified for the eight seats and will be on the ballot in November.

Since the mayor has been in office she has initiated an ouster suit of the Law Director and lost it. There have been people fired and quitting. People suing the county on a variety of issues; disgruntled employees asking County Commissioners for help; nasty allegations on both sides.

As all of this was unfolding the 16 County Commissioners, in mid-2015, sought help from the state County Technical Advisory Service (CTAS) set up by the legislature to assist elected officials and public employees in just this kind of dilemma as required by law. A principal option was for the county to fully implement the County Financial Management System of 1981. Anderson County had implemented about 90% of this system over time and in January, by a 16-0 vote, passed a resolution to fully implement it. Once done, the county had until July 1, 2016 to form the required committees and hire the new Finance Director and Purchasing Manager. They then had about a year to achieve full implementation.

The new Finance Director fully controls accounting, budget, and accounting instead of the Mayor. The new Purchasing Manager fully controls Purchasing instead of the Mayor. The Mayor strongly opposed this action. This is when the Charter Commission petition appeared and signatures were sought. The initiators want to abolish the 1981 Act form of county financial management and to implement a totally new set of rules. Anderson was one of only five counties with a centralized financial system in the state to have not fully adopted the 81 financial management system.

The new Finance Director and Purchasing Manager reporting to the Finance Committee are required to "establish a system of fiscal management, control, accounting, budgeting, purchasing and cash management." All employees "performing the functions of purchasing, payroll, accounting and budgeting in the various operating departments shall be transferred to the supervision of the director of finance and such salaries, benefits and expenses relating to such personnel shall be budgeted under the finance department." (see Tenn.Code Ann.5-21-101 through 130)

The new County Finance Committee members include the County

Mayor, Road Commissioner, Director of Schools and four commission members appointed by the full commission. The committee elects its own chair. The committee "shall establish and approve policies, procedures and regulations...for implementing a sound and efficient financial system for administering the funds of the county." This system includes: budgeting, accounting, purchasing, payroll, cash management and other financial matters.

Previously the Mayor had significant control of most fiscal matters and pretty much claimed to not being subject to any oversight. The reason for the creation of the Charter Commission by friends of the Mayor has just been illuminated. It is a classic power struggle for control of all of the money of the county and the personnel handling the money, by one person, with very limited oversight.

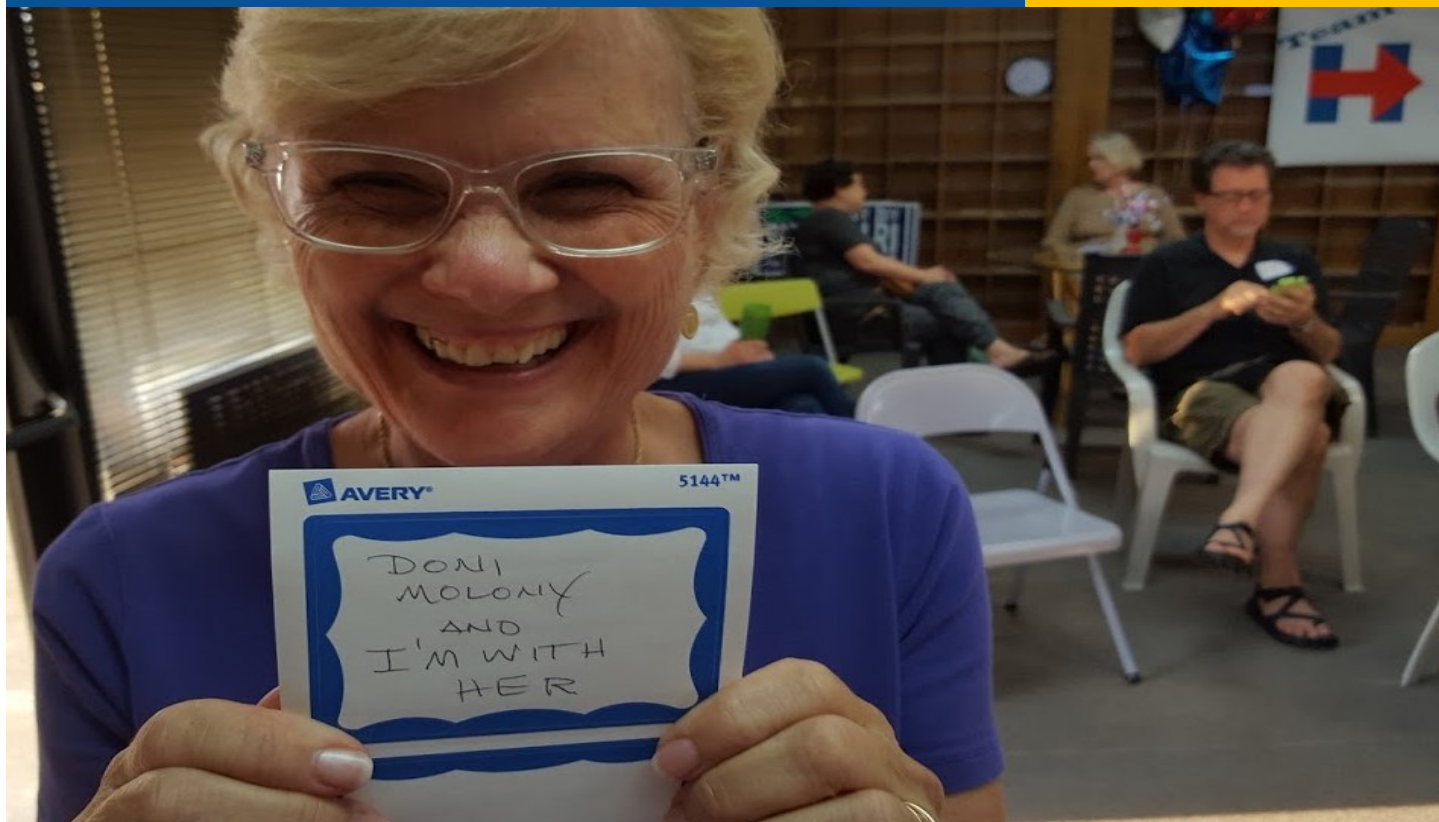
In my professional life I have studied thousands of laws and their meaning, written legislation and argued about implementation and interpretation. I find this particular law to be one of the best written, with clearest intent, most open to allow public scrutiny and operationally definitive that I have ever examined. I congratulate the state of Tennessee and the members of the General Assembly of 1981 that wrote and passed this law and the governor who signed it. This is a model for good, representative government and accountability to the people.

### *It is not just Anderson County.*

Recently, an angry Republican State Representative Andy Holt requested the state party correct so-called "false and willfully misleading statements" about the resignation of the Weakley County Election administrator. In good natured fashion, Tennessee Democratic Party chairwoman Mary Mancini gladly complied:

*"Our recent press release stated that Rep. Andy Holt fired the Weakley County Election Administrator. He did not. What he did was much worse. By recommending the removal and replacement of three members of the 5-member election commission he manipulated the system until he got what he wanted, the job for his inexperienced friend."*

Apparently corruption, cronyism, and patronage is not just a plague infecting Anderson County. I do not doubt that issues such as this play out across the Volunteer State. People who act like their county and its government is their own personal fiefdom needs to be held accountable. The time has come to shine the light on the dealings of these people who "represent" us.



## *Hillary Clinton campaign working hard in Anderson, Roane counties*

*By Ronnie Bogard and Mary Ellison*

The moving speeches delivered so passionately, up to and including Hillary Clinton's acceptance speech at the close of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, made a night to remember. We paused to savor the good feelings, and then we got to work.

Across the country, Hillary's campaign is establishing volunteer bases, working from the philosophy of "We are Stronger Together", and our area is no exception. We are pulling together for one reason: to ensure that Hillary Clinton wins the White House in November. We cannot be stopped!

We welcome people wherever they are in their lives, asking each one to give whatever time they can, large or small.

When you become a volunteer, other *Hillary for Tennessee* volunteers will teach you everything you need to know. Everyone has talents, and we want to put them to good use. If you are ready for a leadership position, there are opportunities for those roles. We train our volunteers with the excellent materials provided by the Hillary campaign so that we all are well-prepared.

During the month of August we have been inviting volunteers to organizational meetings that explain the strategy of the campaign and help find the position that suits each individual. We are also training volunteers to enter data to the database or to make calls to other potential volunteers. Keeping track of our volunteers

and how each is contributing, and expanding our volunteer resource pool, are imperative to running a good campaign.

We will continue recruiting and training volunteers during September, but in addition we will be calling our voters to **Get Out The Vote**. We will do everything we need to help turn Tennessee Blue; it's a long shot, but in this election, it is possible. Just as importantly, we will be helping our battleground states by phone-banking and canvassing for them this fall. Every vote matters for the future of our country, and no votes will be taken for granted.

Not only is this a historic opportunity to put the first woman in the White House, it is a momentous chance to put the most qualified person in our history into the presidency. Come join the camaraderie of working together for something so important that passion is a daily element of the campaign.

Check the Web site [HillaryClinton.com](http://HillaryClinton.com) for updates on our events. You can also contact the Anderson County Democratic Party Headquarters at 136 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, [www.andersoncountymocrat.com](http://www.andersoncountymocrat.com). For more information contact Ronnie Bogard at [rhondabogard@comcast.net](mailto:rhondabogard@comcast.net).

Photo courtesy of Ronnie Bogard. Keep up the good work!

*Volunteer to send Chuck home! Melody Shekari (pictured middle) needs your help!*



We are heading to the general election and we want you to join us on our journey to send Chuck home!

Sign up to volunteer today, and be a part of change:

<http://melodyshekari.com/volunteer/>

## *Come meet the Candidates!*

Voters Invited to Meet the Candidates before November General Election

Voters are invited to "Meet the Candidates" on Thursday, October 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Gymnasium. Democracy for East Tennessee is sponsoring this event so citizens can become more informed and better acquainted with the candidates in the upcoming general election. Early voting begins October 19.

Come meet the men and women who want to represent you and serve our community. Come ask them their positions on the issues that are important to you. Come share your ideas and hear theirs for improving the quality of life in our city, state and nation.

Candidates have been invited for the following offices on the November ballot: Oak Ridge City Council, Oak Ridge School Board, and 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Congressional District.

Citizens will have the opportunity to talk individually to those candidates who attend. There is no admission charge.

For more information, find this event on Facebook at Democracy for East Tennessee, or contact Tom Burns at 865-385-7063.

## *Melody Shekari Fundraiser*

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET

MELODY SHEKARI

Candidate for Congress

Third District

Please accept this opportunity

To hear Melody talk about her platform and her vision

*AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO HER CAMPAIGN*

Please help a strong Democratic Woman bring positive change

To the Third District!

September 4, Sunday, from 7 to 9 pm

Pat Fain's home at

926 W. Outer Drive

Oak Ridge

Wine and Dessert and Conversation

RSVP: 865-712-5820

## *Light Reading for the Political Junkie*

1. Republicans are always complaining about the Affordable Care Act. They have made it clear they want to sabotage it anyway they can. We are at what, sixty something pointless votes to repeal it now? [This is an excellent opinion piece](#) that would be great to show any Republican friends or family who routinely bash President Obama and this life saving legislation. Remember the Affordable Care Act is at stake when you vote in November!

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