



# The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party Jan 2016 Issue 9

*Happy New Year!! It's now 2016, are YOU ready?*

*The importance of party unity regardless of who gets the Nomination by Scott Julius*

In some ways I'm encouraged by what I see from fellow Democrats on the 2016 presidential election. Most people I've seen have their favorite candidate. Each Democrat has been very passionate about who they support. From bumper stickers on cars to volunteering for a campaign, it's thrilling to see us stand up and take our rightful roll in the political process. We have three fine candidates for president so far and each has given some unique ideas for what they'd do as commander in chief.

That said, in other ways I've been saddened and discouraged by some of what I've seen. Some Democrats have been so passionate about who they support that they've come to believe that the country is doomed if they don't get the nomination. It has come to a point with some whose attitudes have been "If (name of candidate) *doesn't get the nomination, then I'm not voting*". I can't think of a more boneheaded way of thinking. Sorry to be so blunt, but that's how it is.

I'll tell you how we'll be doomed...we'll be doomed if any one of those Republican candidates wins the White House. Want the Affordable Care Act gone? Want no chance at a higher minimum wage? Lax environmental regulations? Needless foreign wars? The NRA in the Oval Office? Then by all means stay home on Election Day. As it's been proven over and over, when Democrats stay home on Election Day it helps Republicans. PLEASE...stop helping them!

It's ok to be passionate about a candidate you like. I'm that way as well. When a candidate inspires you to take action to help them win office to further the Democratic cause, go for it! It doesn't matter if you "Feel the Bern", are "Standing with Hillary", or "Voting for O'Malley" help the candidate of your choice. If he or she doesn't get the nomination, it's ok to be disappointed. Just know you made a difference and work on helping who got the nomination by voting for them. It would be unbelievably childish to not vote just because who you wanted to get the nomination, didn't. I know who I'm backing but if this person doesn't get it, then

I shall vote for who ever gets the nomination with a smile on my face.

One needs to remember that whoever you think the worst Democratic candidate is, he or she is at least a hundred times better than the best Republican candidate. Every single one of the Republican's are counting on you to stay home on Election Day. Please do the country a favor and disappoint them. If you do choose to remain home then Trump, Carson, Bush, Rubio, among others thanks you for your support. Please vote in the primary on March 1st!

# DEMOCRATS WHO STAY HOME ELECT REPUBLICANS

*A debate watch party in February!*

The Anderson County Democratic Party is working on preparations for hosting a watch party for the Democratic Party presidential debate for **February 11th, 2016**. It looks like the time it will start will be at 9PM (the debate start time). At this time, the party is still working out a location to host this event. Most likely we'll ask people to bring a dish to share with the debate watchers. As we get more information about this, we'll share it with you in *The Anderson County Democrat* so watch this space in the next couple issues for details!

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

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

## Why Don't Democrats Vote? By Pat Fain

Continued from below

I just read a study that found that in 2008 and 2012, the Republicans turned out in a higher percentage than did Democrats. 52% to 36%. We lost many, many races at the state and local level, yet won the White House both times. On the surface this seems anomalous and I look forward to seeing some analysis of the figures, but it should give all of us pause.

Why don't Democrats vote? The bigger issue is how to turn out Democratic voters and why is it so important. Just look at what happened in Kentucky last week. They had a Democrat governor until November. They had a state insurance exchange and hundreds of thousands of people signed up for affordable health care. They had a minimum wage for state workers and contractors of \$10.10/hr. Then they elected a new (tea party) Republican governor who has pledged to eliminate the ACA from Kentucky and last week signed an executive order to change the minimum wage to \$7.25 and removed 140,000 people (non-violent convicted felons/mostly black) from the voting roles. ***Do the majority of people in Kentucky want no health care, starvation wages and a governor disenfranchising people he had previously pledged to protect? Or did they just not understand the consequences of voting Republican?***

Today in Tennessee we have a state General Assembly controlled in both houses by a super-majority of Republicans and a Republican governor. The legislature has been systematically stripping local governments in Tennessee of their authority to make local decisions for over 10 years. They have even stripped the Republican governor (apparently not sufficiently Tea Party) of all authority to even discuss health care issues with the federal government that contributes about 75% of the money that funds TennCare today. This super-majority is so power hungry, they cannot be bothered by over-riding his veto, they just strip his power. This is the same legislature that insists on controlling women's health, intrudes into the bedrooms of all Tennesseans, denies marriage privileges to some individuals and allows guns in areas prohibited by Oak Ridge city ordinance.

In 2014 John Regan(R) who represents most of Anderson County, voted four times to increase the size of state government (HB0826, HB0830, HB0885 and HB0798), while claiming to have reduced the size of government. Time and time again, Mr. Ragan has voted with the Republican super majority to usurp the authority of municipal governments and private businesses (HB 2129) in a series of power grabs. These have been in the areas of gun laws (HB1339, HB1407, HB1480, and HB1483); teaching and administrative standards and prerogatives (HB1549, HB1155, HB1375); requiring prior legislative approval of attorney general actions (HB2059); limiting city/county ordinances (HB2371); and restricting what should be private conversations between school officials and students (HB1185 and HB1332).

In Tennessee we are witnessing a very serious situation in which the state government is inserting itself into the personal, intimate and religious decisions of the public while consolidating all power in Nashville. The prerogatives of municipal governments are also being usurped and the freedom of the individual Tennessean is being threatened by a group composed mostly of power hungry, angry, white men constituting a super majority of Republicans who are attempting to impose their own personal moral and philosophical beliefs on the public at large.

How great does the threat to our freedom need to be for us to find a few good citizens with guts enough to stand up to this cabal, say "Hell, no. Not in our state" and for the rest of us to actually go to the polls and vote for them.

In Anderson County the voters are about 1/3 Democrat, 1/3 Republican and 1/3 Independent. I think that Democrats and Independents turn out to vote for President. I think they do not know enough about the Democrats running for other offices and just do not vote in those races. I fear they do not understand the power of state legislatures.

We need to put our money and our active support loudly and proudly behind those who would protect the rights of all the people against those who seek to reinterpret the Constitution to protect special interests and impose their own religious beliefs on others. We need to actively campaign for Democrats and urge our friends and neighbors to vote their beliefs in protecting us all from the True Believers whose own opinions are the only ones that matter. *Our freedom to choose is undermined every time another seeks to limit or interpret our choices. The vote of every person is the only barrier to totalitarianism.*

***"Republicans want smaller government for the same reason crooks want fewer cops; it's easier to get away with murder"*** James Carville

## Anderson County Offices

## Important Election information

<u>Office</u>	<u>ReELECTION</u>	<u>Petition Filing</u>
TN Senator 5th District	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
TN Representative 33rd District	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
TN Representative 36th District	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
Commissioner District 4	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
Commissioner District 8	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
Property Assessor	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
School Board District 3	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
School Board District 4	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
School Board District 5	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon
School Board District 78	Aug. 16th	Jan.8th-April 7th noon

With various county elections coming up, it's important to know about what positions are up for grabs and when the filing date for a petition to run for this office is. We have contacted the Anderson County Election Commission who provided us with this information. Pay close attention to these dates and pass them onto anyone who could use them. Thank you!

### Norris

<u>Office</u>	<u>ReELECTION</u>	<u>Pet. Filing</u>
Mayor appointed	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon

### Clinton and Rocky Top

<u>Office</u>	<u>ReELECTION</u>	<u>Petition Filing</u>
Council Ward 1	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council Ward 2	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council Ward 3	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
School Board Ward 1	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
School Board Ward 1	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
School Board Ward 3	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Rocky Top Council	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Rocky Top Council	Nov. 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon

### Oak Ridge

<u>Office</u>	<u>ReELECTION</u>	<u>Petition Filing</u>
Council (at large)	Nov 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council (at large)	Nov 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Council (at large)	Nov 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Board of Education (at large)	Nov 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
Board of Education (at large)	Nov 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon
City Judge	Nov 16th	May 20th-Aug 18th noon

### A very true statement

Whether you're rolling with Bernie,  
Or standing with Hillary...

...Remember we're all Democrats  
and we have to win in 2016.  
You *don't* have to bring the other  
down to uplift your candidate.

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS