

HUNTINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS: **THE BLUE NEWS**

Volume 2/ Issue 7

August 26, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Roanoke Town Council Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

August 27, Indy- Sen. Bernie Sanders

August 29, Kosciusko Co Boat Ride

Sept 4, Indy, LaborFest

Sept 6, Labor Day

Sept 11 10:00 am ACDP Breakfast

Sept 13, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Huntington County

Democrats monthly meeting & SPUDTACULAR-UAW HALL

Sept 14, 6:00 Wells Co Dems Mtg

Sept 16, Steuben Co Dems Mtg

Sept 30, LAST DAY TO BY

RAFFLE TICKETS



EVENTS UPDATE: NO MEETING IN JULY



WE HAVE RECEIVED OUR GAMING LICENSE! The basics are as follows: We must sell a minimum of 100 tickets, and a maximum of 300 at \$50.00 each for this program. The tickets will be sold in the month of September and the cash raffle drawings will be every day in the month of October. Week 1, daily prize is \$75.00, Week 2, daily prize is \$100, Week 3 daily prize \$125, Week 4 daily prize \$150. Grand prize, drawn on November 1 will be for \$1250. If we sell 100 tickets, we will make \$600, however, if we sell all 300 tickets, the party will net \$10,600!!!! Here's the best part: each ticket will be placed back into the drawing, so the ticket holder could win more than once! What this could mean for our ability to support local candidates is exciting and something we haven't been able to do in a very long time! Start saving a couple of dollars a week so you can buy your tickets! <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/cashbash>



SPUDTACULAR Loaded Baked Potato sale happening on September 13 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm at the UAW Hall. The cost for the potato (with any toppings they want) will be between \$5.00-\$8.00. The price is only \$5.00 each. We will need volunteers to help us plan and execute this fantastic fundraiser.

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/spuds>

INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY COUNTY PARTY SUMMIT

On July 10, INDEMS held an in-person County Party Summit for party leadership. Christine attended. It was a full day of speakers and trainings and was packed full of great ideas and information.

PASS THE PRO ACT RALLY HELD JULY 28

Those in attendance heard from 5 great speakers about how the ProAct proposed by President Biden will help Hoosiers. The AFL-CIO describes this legislation as: "The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act restores the right of workers to freely and fairly form a union and bargain together for

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Donation Link:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/huntingtoncounty>

changes in the workplace. It is a landmark worker empowerment, civil rights and economic stimulus legislation, and an essential part of any plan to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and recession.”

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE A BIG HIT!

Thank you to everyone who school supplies for our July community service project! We collected so much that we divided our donations between Carolyn Smith (substitute teacher) to take to the elementary schools and Backpacks of Hope run by Clerk Shelly Septer. We do not have a community project scheduled for August or September in order for our HCDP members to have some cash for the Raffle and the Spudtacular. In October, our community service project will be Toys for Tots.

SAVE YOUR PLASTIC LIDS PLEASE!

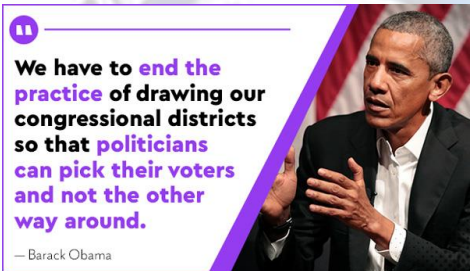
We are collecting lids to have them turned into a Buddy Bench. Please read the article below for the details. We are extremely excited about this project! UPDATE: We have already gathered 18 moving boxes of lids. PLEASE continue to collect them. The Bohm house can be a storage area until we have enough to get our first bench. <https://www.scearthconnection.org/bottle-caps-to-benches/>



WOMENS COUNCIL MET ON JUNE 22 (PLEASE READ THE UPDATE)

The Council met on June 17 to continue the work on the Outstanding Women of Huntington County awards dinner. Unfortunately, we are postponing this dinner until March of 2022 due to Covid concerns. The Council has also decided that the Council members and the HCDP will be the source of all nominations for the awards in the first year of the event. Tickets for the event will begin being sold in mid January. Kyle Metzger has been contacted to be a DJ for the event. The council has requested Dana Black as the Emcee. The council will be contacting local businesses for donations to be included in baskets that will be raffled off via a ticket system.

REDISTRICTING TOUR CAME TO FORT WAYNE AUGUST 7:



On August 7, the GOP made an “attempt” at transparency and it went downhill quickly. As many of you know, the year after the census, the States have the obligation to re-draw the district lines. Historically, whichever party is in the majority has the power to redraw the lines in favor of their seats by using tactics such as crack and stack. Cracking is where they draw very specific lines to break up an opposing parties votes by making really strangely shaped districts. Stacking is the same of tyoe of weird line drawing, but its intent is to put all of the opposing party into one district which leaves the rest to the controlling

party. A very good example of this type of map configuration was described by Allen County Democratic Chair, Derek Camp, in his YouTube video. Please click the link to view. Thank you, Derek, for creating a visual for all to understand. The Indiana House is expected to take up the vote in the 3rd week of Sept, the Senate in the 4th week, and final passage by Governor Holcomb in first week of Oct. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCOKWNUzgf4>

“If you do not take interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools.” Plato

BLUE ACRES

HEY ALL, good to be back from the July break. COVID has not just ran rampant in the medical sense, it has wreaked havoc in the agricultural industry from supply chain disruptions to food insecurity worldwide. We saw Tyson at one time betting on how many would get the virus to now requiring vaccinations. Meat packing employees are an essential link in the chain. “Just over 500,000 people work in the meatpacking industry in the US.” When those workers are not there, we do not get to run to the store to grab some chicken, pork chops, hamburger. We all remember and are still dealing with food chain issues related to COVID.

Chair note: please take the time to read the links that Joyce has provided. There is just so much information that we cannot fit it all into a one-page newsletter section. She spent a lot of time of this research!

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/covid-19/>

[Farm Income and Wealth Statistics](#) and [Agricultural Baseline Database](#), updated February 2021.

Supply chain world to local

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-and-covid-19>

Figure 1 shows the estimated monthly economic impact to the corn crop in Indiana due to the coronavirus. There were revenue losses beginning in April 2020 and continuing late into the year; however, a recovery began as 2020 came to an end. The estimated losses to corn production in Indiana from January to December 2020 due to COVID-19 were between \$42 and \$155 million. A significant driver behind this reduction in corn prices is the decrease in demand for ethanol and corn as animal feed as the stay-at-home orders went in effect throughout the United States forcing consumers to stay home and food service industries to close. A similar analysis was done estimating the impact of COVID-19 on the soybean crop in Indiana; however, March was the only month of 2020 to see a decrease in the price of this commodity.

Revenue losses to the hog industry in Indiana due to COVID-19 are about \$21 million from January through December 2020. The estimated monthly losses are shown in Figure 2. The red bars show the months with estimated losses to the industry. April through August show losses to pork production; however, the industry recovered to pre-coronavirus production levels by September 2020.

Estimates show a significant increase in table egg revenue at the beginning of the pandemic followed by a quick price drop off as supply chains adjusted. For the 2020 (as compared to 2019) production of table eggs were higher month over month for the entire year (Figure 3). We see a similar pattern with breaker egg prices (Figure 4) increasing in revenue during March 2020 but dropping back to historic levels in April 2020. <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/paer-article/covid-19-disruptions-to-indiana-food-supply-chain/>

“Spending on USDA’s food and nutrition assistance programs jumped 30 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2020 to an inflation-adjusted record of \$122.1 billion, abruptly reversing a six-year decline. This increase reflects the expanded need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent Federal response to meet that need. This response included USDA waivers allowing flexibility in the administration of the Department’s 15 existing food and nutrition assistance programs and the creation of two programs, Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program (Food Box Program). The rise in FY 2020 expenditures was driven by increased spending on these two new programs, as well as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) expenditures remained relatively unchanged while pandemic-induced disruptions in the operation of schools, childcare centers and daycare homes led to declines in child nutrition spending. This chart is based on data available on the USDA, Economic Research Service’s (ERS) [General Overview of Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs](#) webpage, updated April 2021.”

THE BOOK WORM

If you are an avid reader, or come across a book you just love, feel free to send your recommendation to Christine to include in this list. We are thrilled that Pamela Beckford has given us this list. Pamela is an avid reader and we thank her for this contribution to our party!

Here are just a few of my latest reads. You really should read every one of these - I highly recommend them all.

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson

Every person in America needs to read this book - really read it. It examines how America has been born with a caste system - Africans and slaves make up the lowest of the low castes in America. We still operate on that basis. It isn't that there aren't some who have risen to the highest levels (Obama), but they are still a member of the lowest caste. Through stories, Wilkerson gives us insights and an aspiration to do better. Read this and then share it with everyone you know. Even if someone isn't a "racist", they still need to read this book.



over and over again.

Frankly, We Did Win This Election by Michael Bender

An accounting of the last year of Trump's presidency and campaign. We are so lucky that they didn't know what they were doing, or we could have been living in an authoritarian country in another four years. This campaign was run so badly at every level -

I Alone Can Fix It by Carol Leonnig and Phillip Rucker

Initially I thought, oh no, just another rehash of the last book (see above). But this was not the same as the Bender book. This one was more concentrated on the last year of the administration and less of the actual campaign. Plus, it goes through the insurrection. A very comprehensive look at the bullet we have dodged. I'm sure every president has their moments, but Trump seems to be unhinged A LOT! And his conversations were more of trying to cajole a toddler than working with the person running the greatest country on earth.

Preventable by Andy Slavitt

Andy Slavitt served in the Obama administration and helped fix the [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) website and then served Director of the Medicare and Medicaid Office. He hosted a podcast during the Pandemic called "In the Bubble" and generally had lots of good contacts that he used. This book will show you just how badly the pandemic was handled. But it will also point out ways we can prevent it from happening the next time - because there will be a next time. Easy to read, you will remember just how fortunate you are to still be here to be able to read this book.

HCDP DAWGS GUN CLUB UPDATE: (Pretty much the same as last month) COME ON GUYS— LETS GET THIS PROGRAM STARTED!

Things have been so busy this early in the summer, that the HCDP DAWGS (Democrats Always Working on Gun Safety) Club has begun it's work, but it is a slow process right now! The logo is being designed, the bylaws are being approved, the schedule of events is coming along, application to do events at Roush Lake is underway, and membership via the Facebook page is growing. If you haven't already, please join the facebook page "NE Indiana Blue DAWGS Gun club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/354879212633610>

DRAFT OF NEW LOGO BEING CONSIDERED:

We are working on a new logo for a more professional and updated look. The fighting donkey will still be used on some merchandise but for cards, signs, mailers, etc, we are looking at upgrading this logo.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

First, I must apologize for this edition being so late in the month. For those of you who are on Facebook, you know that we had some medical issues to deal with this month and it kind of took all my energy. But, thankfully, all is well and we are back to work trying to make our corner of the world just a little bit better!

I did not attend the 2021 IDEA summit in French Lick. Between the above mentioned issues and the surge in C-19 infections, I didn't feel it was a good idea to attend in person. C-19 is also the reason we are postponing our Outstanding Women awards. Are you picking up the vibe that I am so very exhausted by this stupid virus?! Good, get the shot. Now, I know I am most likely preaching to the choir about the vaccine, but if you can encourage, bribe, coerce, etc, those in your circle to get the shot so we can get this virus under control. Do what you can. But most importantly, protect yourself. This thing is no joke. It's not a hoax. Just please be careful!

So our next month is going to be exciting and busy! We have the SPUDTACULAR baked potato event coming on the 13th. If you aren't comfortable eating in or coming in to order your toppings, send me a note, and we can do curbside pickup at the UAW Hall from 3:30-6:30 pm. Our monthly meeting will be at 6:30 on the same night. Might be a great opportunity to come to your first meeting!

We are starting some training sessions soon on everything from being a PC to being a campaign volunteer to being a candidate! This is going to help us all understand the steps and issues involved with creating a new future for ourselves and our children.

We have our FUN Fall into Cash Bash raffle. Yes, it took a few weeks to get your first gaming license, but this has the potential to allow us more time to train candidates and less time trying to raise the funds to support them.

We are also working on a mailer for party building and getting more voices involved.

State Delegate selection begins soon. More information will be forthcoming. Keep a watch out!

Please stay involved and engaged. I know it's exhausting. Trust me, I KNOW! But without the voices of our voters, we are ineffective. We won't be able to make changes. We won't be able to run and support good candidates with our values and goals. We won't be able to be a viable opponent to those who don't have our best interest at heart. We need each of you to be engaged. To be present. To help with volunteering and/or being a donor of the party. We need you. Brian, Cynthia, Bill and myself cannot do this alone. We have come a long way in just a year. Let's keep up the momentum going into 2022 and give Zay, Young, and Banks a race they won't soon forget!

As always, it is an honor to be your Chair, but most importantly, to call you friends,

Christine