

HUNTINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS: *THE BLUE NEWS*

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July 1, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

July 8 Indiana Democratic
Women's Series the
Roundtable

July 9-10 Angola Balloon Aloft

July 10, County Party Summit
Christine is attending

July 11, 3rd District Tin Caps
Baseball game

July 22, Women's council
meeting 6:30 pm

July 23, Fort Wayne Pride

August 9, 6:30 p.m.
Huntington County
Democrats monthly meeting

Sept 13 Spud-tacular Baked
Potato Fundraiser

Oct 8 Huntington County



EVENTS UPDATE: NO MEETING IN JULY

Christine has turned in the paperwork to the Indiana Gaming Commission to obtain a single event license for a cash raffle. 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! Once we have the license number, we will begin promoting this event. 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!

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 still yet to be finalized. We will need volunteers to help us plan and execute this fantastic fundraiser.

The Outstanding Women of Huntington County Awards Banquet will be October 8 at the UAW Hall Local 2209. More information will be forthcoming from the Women's Council.

MAYOR STRICK PROCLAIMS HUNTINGTON A WELCOME COMMUNITY TO LGBTQIA+

On June 29, 2021, with the hard work of Orion McCormack and Mayor Richard Strick, Huntington became another city in Indiana to welcome and embrace our LGBTQIA+ community! Congratulations to Huntington Pride and to all of the citizens of Huntington! This is a big deal for a small town and we should all be very proud of the changes being implemented.



Contact Us

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

Twitter: [@HuntingtonCoun1](https://twitter.com/HuntingtonCoun1)

Donation Link:

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

DIAPER AND WIPES DRIVE A SUCCESS!



Thank you to everyone who donated diapers and wipes for our May community service project. We did not do an event in June, but in July---it is back to school supplies!

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 17 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 TO MET ON JUNE 17

The Council met on June 17 to continue the work on the Outstanding Women of Huntington County awards dinner. The council will be begin placing nomination forms in the local newspapers and on social media in mid July. Deadline for nominations is August 15. The winners of the Awards and the 2 scholarships will be made on Sept 8 and the winners will be notified shortly after that date to secure photos and bio's to be included in the printed programs. Tickets for the event will begin being sold in mid July. 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. Cynthia Hyde has joined the Council as the Secretary. Due to the workload of the council, Erika Bruce has been voted and accepted as the Vice Chair in order to help Lori Rice, Council Chair, in her tasks.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN CAME TO HUNTINGTON COUNTY:



On June 12, the HCDP held their ARP BBQ and were honored to have so many democrats in attendance! My Labor Radio's, Mark Gevaart and Indiana's Own, Dana Black broadcast the event. Speakers included Senator Jean Breaux (who also brought her mother, Billie Breaux, a former Senator herself) and Indiana Democratic Party Deputy Chair of Cities and Towns, Nicole Bolden. Elected Chairs and officials from Allen, Noble, and Wells County were also in attendance, along with CD3 Candidate for Congress, John Stephens and his staffers. The event was nicely covered by Brett from the Herald Press. We all thank President Joe Biden for helping Indiana receive over \$16.3 Million dollars between the County, City and School system!

“Democracy works, but we gotta want it—not just during an election year, but all the days in between.” President Barack Obama

BLUE ACRES

Follow the Money:

Hello from the Acres. Spring planting is finally wrapping up. Our legislators have been busy as well. New legislation concerning agriculture consists of House Enrolled Act 1190 (Oversized Loads) which affects oversized semi loads: “Allows the Indiana DOT to issue permits for loads up to 120,000 pounds on a 2.4 single-axle equivalent. The person seeking the permit must demonstrate that rail or other non-permit options aren’t feasible and that not moving the load would disrupt the supply chain.” * Short version, get a permit for oversized loads.

House Enrolled Act 1150 (Overweight Divisible Loads) limits the Indiana Dept of Revenue’s time to issue a civil penalty for oversize or overweight load violations. “INFB brought this issue to light and supported the legislation,” Cummins explains. “It stemmed from a case where an Indiana farmer was hit with a \$5,000 fine two years after he received a citation for an overweight load. That’s just unreasonable — you can’t plan for those kinds of hits so long after the fact.” The legislation requires IDOR to assess a penalty for a violation within one year.” Short version, the state has one year to levy and collect fines. *

Senate Enrolled Act 227 (Enforcement of Pesticide Violations) “...rearranges the statutes for civil penalties for pesticide use violations. The goal was to have them more closely match the severity of the violation. Similar legislation a year ago resulted in sending the issue back to the Indiana Pesticide Review Board. The board arrived at a new set of penalties, and they were adopted into law through this act.” * Short version. Fines increase for violations being enforced quicker.

Senate Enrolled Act 53 (Testing and Reporting Diseased Animals). “This legislation shortens the timeline for reporting diseases that are declared reportable to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. This Act applies to “veterinarians, owners, caretakers or custodians” of animals. It requires reporting the disease to either the state veterinarian or a local health officer within 24 hours after the disease is discovered. There was an existing requirement for reporting these diseases, but it allowed 48 hours for notification.” That is the short version.

Senate Enrolled Act 97 (Indiana’s Official Snack) Popcorn. Popcorn’s legacy runs deep in our state, Weaver Popcorn and Orville Redenbacher ring a bell? Currently, “Most breeding and development for new popcorn hybrids used everywhere occurs at the Ag Alumni Seed Improvement Association farms near Romney.” * Short version, it is a corny source of pride for Hoosiers. *<https://www.farmprogress.com/commentary/new-laws-affect-indiana-agriculture>

We cannot leave AG Legislation with those listed above. The passing of Senate Bill 389, concerning our wetlands, affects agriculture as it trickles down to affecting everyone. In areas where wetlands, bodies of water, or rivers and streams co-exist with farm ground these wetlands filter excess nutrient and pesticide run off. Wetlands are our water filtration system. “Indiana’s wetlands save the state \$1.8 billion in water storage, according to the DNR and \$202 million in water purification. Rep. Carolyn Jackson, D-Hammond, said the financial impact of wetlands are part of the reason why SB 389 should not pass.” <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/environment/2021/04/14/indiana-wetlands-bill-puts-more-areas-chopping-block/7205064002/>

Farming is not the only industry affected by this legislation. Hoosier wetlands are home to many species of timber. If wetlands disappear, it will directly affect a lucrative Hoosier business. “Wood Production: Forested wetlands often contain high-value tree species, and under proper management, are an important source of timber and other forest products. In Indiana, more than half of the remaining wetland acres are forested. Indiana ranks third nationally in hardwood lumber production, contributing \$5 billion annually to the state’s economy.” <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/files/statusof.pdf>

Both of our republican representatives voted to gut the SB389 that came out of committee. This Bill was drastically and unexpectedly changed on the Floor during the vote. Zay and Leonard’s money trail says where they fell on this passage. These two are but a few getting fat on this issue. The wetlands affected by the changes are not connected to any ecosystem such as ponds and streams. Those wetlands affected will likely be dried up and built on. We know this vote came down to money, not what is best for the land. SB389 clearly serves a few funding sectors, not what Hoosiers want. 389 was opposed by both democrats and republicans. Leonard and Zay, again, are taking the money, not representing ALL of us.

These figures below indicate the ties that bind. Take a hard look at who is funding our representatives. To be good stewards of the land, which is required of farmers and the timber sector, certain processes and procedures must be met to PRESERVE our wetlands. Politicians with the stroke of pen can and did destroy these measures. If you read the links provided, your eyes will open. We deserve better! Our land deserves better!

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/34335/daniel-leonard> <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/176110/andy-zay>

	Sen. Andy Zay:	Dan Leonard:
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate:	\$12,525.00	\$16,800.00
Construction:	\$ 9,650.00	\$12,600.00
Lawyers/ Lobbyists:	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,641.43
Real Estate:	\$ 4,100.00	\$13,550.00
Miscellaneous Finance, Insurance and Real Estate:	\$ 1,225.00	
Home Builders:	\$ 800.00	\$ 3,800.00
Associated Builders and Contractors Indiana/Kentucky:	\$ 2,100.00*	
Construction Services:		\$ 2,000.00

As the saying goes, “Money Talks, Bull*** Walks” Get yer Muck Boots on, it’s gonna get deep My Friends.

Joyce



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!

Fascism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright

While this book was written during the presidency of DJT, it still informs us today on the dangers of power. The book explores several leaders - from Erdogan to Putin to Chavez to Kim Jong-Un and finally Trump (although not as much as I had hoped). I wish the book had not been published quite so soon because I would really like to have her evaluation on the events of January 6. If you have not already read Madam Secretary that she wrote several years ago, I highly recommend it as well.

While Justice Sleeps by Stacey Abrams

You cannot always read nonfiction. Stacey Abrams is a fairly prolific romance author. She tried her hand at the suspense thriller genre. The book started a little slow but then I just could not put it down. It was a good read.

Where the Light Enters by Jill Biden

Published in early 2019, this is not about the presidential campaign. This book offers many insights into the entire Biden clan and how they operate as a family. I admire Jill Biden and this book cemented those feelings. She is one tough cookie starting with punching a kid who was bullying her younger sister (this happened when she was a pre-teen). When it comes to family, they have an unbreakable bond. They are the family that everyone wants to have - it appears perfect, but more importantly, it is a family who sticks together, protects each other, and stands up and supports each other.

HCDP GARAGE SALE:

The HCDP participated in the Brookfield Estates yard sale with donated items from our local Democrats. We made \$774.00 from this effort. A special thank you goes out to all who donated, and to those who helped me work this sale!

HCDP DAWGS GUN CLUB UPDATE: (Pretty much the same as last month)

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>

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

Can you believe it's already July!? I must apologize for missing the June Blue News edition. My schedule was a bit nuts, and Thomas and I are still in the midst of our bathroom remodel. Yes, it's been 6 months. I am really looking forward to having my bathtub back in the proper room, and not in the craft room!

Wow! A Pride Proclamation in Huntington! A very successful garage sale! Upcoming events that are so exciting: spud-tacular, women's awards dinner, school supplies, mega raffle in October! Candidates coming forward to put their names on the ballot for the Democrats! Statewide recognition of our efforts here in Huntington County! Fiber internet service being installed in the county! American Rescue Plan funds being disbursed! The American Jobs Plan being put into place! An Infrastructure plan that will make a real difference in our community and our state!

Kind of makes you proud to be a Huntington Democrat! Let's keep that ball rolling. Now is the time to start finding common ground with those who have previously disagreed with us. Let's talk about the great things being done around our community. Let's talk about our town being more inclusive. Let's talk about bringing new jobs back to the area. Let's talk about new businesses being opened in our County. Let's just talk and heal.

Things are happening on the National stage that some folks aren't going to like very much. Don't take the bait. It's time to end the culture wars. The current Congressman from CD3 is fully, and unabashedly supporting the former President. We can, and will, use this against him. But for now, let's keep our hope alive, our eyes on the big picture, and tamp down some of the rhetoric.

It has been a year since I became your Chair. It's been a busy year. But, it has been a rewarding and warming year. Your spirit of inclusion, volunteerism, and hope for a better Huntington, keeps me going every single day. Yes, the work can be tedious and not very glamorous, but it is important work. However, we need a few more of you to step up and help us. No one single person can change the world, but if all of us do one thing each week, we absolutely can change not only the narrative, but the very trajectory of our path. We can reach for the stars together by standing on each other's shoulders. We are Democrats. We ARE the change we seek.

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

Christine