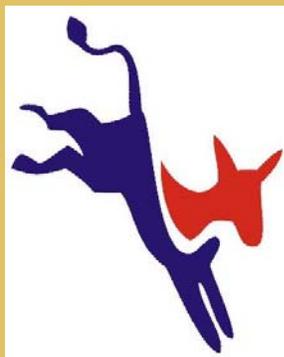




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LCDP Fall Dinner

Please join the La Crosse County Democratic Party and all local candidates for it's annual Fall Dinner on Saturday, October 18th from 5: 30 to 9:00 P.M. at the Concordia Ballroom, 1129 La Crosse St. in La Crosse. Peter Leidy from NPR will be a special guest and there will be music from Mr. Blink as well as a silent auction. The cost is \$15.00 and \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

Volunteers are needed for setup, decoration and take down. We are also looking for sponsors for the dinner in the amounts of \$100.00, \$50.00 or \$25.00. Please contact any executive board member to sponsor. Thank you to all who have responded and generously donated thus far.

Items are also needed for a silent auction. Please contact Barb Clark at 498-6150 to donate items.

This is the county party's largest annual fundraiser. Please attend and help support our campaign office over the final few weeks of the campaign.

UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS

Reception for Tara Johnson with Special Guest Governor Jim Doyle

Tuesday, October 14th 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Piggy's Restaurant
501 Front St., La Crosse

Governor Doyle will appear at 5:00 P.M., please arrive early if you wish to see the Governor

La Crosse County Democrats Fall Dinner

Saturday, October 18th
5: 30 to 9:00 P.M.

Concordia Ballroom
1129 La Crosse St., La Crosse
Please see details above



BARACK COMES TO LA CROSSE





NEWS & NOTES

OCTOBER GENERAL PARTY MEETING

Please join us at our October General Party meeting on Monday, October 20th at 7:00 P.M. at the La Crosse County Democratic Party/Obama Campaign for Change Office at 127 S. 6th St. in La Crosse. Nominations for the 2009 Executive Board will take place and the speaker will be Viterbo University history Professor Keith Knutson.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

If you are interested in serving on the La Crosse County Democratic Party Executive Board in 2009 please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Barb Clark: 498-6150

Sharon Hampson: 785-2022 or sharonkgh@charter.net

Fabio Burgos: 792-0878 or fburgos@laxdems.com

Nominations will take place at the October 20th General Party Meeting and the voting will take place at the November 17th General Party Meeting. (Location TBA). Only those people who are paid members the La Crosse County Democratic Party by November 12th may vote for the 2009 board. There are no nominations from the floor at the November meeting.

The Empty Campaign of John McCain By Jared Bernstein via The Huffington Post

About a year ago, I had a memorable chat with a high-ranking Republican operative. The presidential primaries were revving up, and he asked me which Republican candidate I feared the most. Without hesitating, I answered McCain.

My rationale was simple. While he was increasingly out-of-step with the public on the war, so were all the other Republican candidates. But unlike them, McCain had repeatedly stood up to his party on matters economic, especially the Bush tax cuts, and he did so with resonant language.

In 2001, when the richest one percent of households held 18% of all income, he said he could not "in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us, at the expense of middle-class Americans."

In 2003, when we had gone through a recession, were waging an expensive war, and the federal budget had flipped from surplus to deficit, he voted against another round of tax cuts for the wealthiest, this time arguing that "At a time of war, at a time of economic stagnation, at a time of rising national debt...one might expect our national leaders to pursue policies calling for shared sacrifice to achieve shared benefits. Regrettably, that is not the case."

The most recent data show that in 2006, 23% of all income is held by the richest 1%, the highest level on record but for one year: 1928. Spending on the war has not abated, and the budget deficit is on the rise. Middle-class Americans, who allegedly weighed so heavily on McCain's conscience circa 2001, are much more squeezed now than they were then.

The economy is surely in recession. Financial markets are deeply screwed up, and on Friday we learned that the [job market](#) contracted by another 159,000 last month, the ninth month of consecu-

tive job losses.

In other words, if the Bush tax cuts didn't make sense in 2001 and 2003, they make a whole lot less sense now.

Yet McCain doesn't merely want to extend these cuts forever. He wants to expand them dramatically, by cutting the corporate tax rate by about a third, at the cost of \$735 billion over 10 years, according to the non-partisan [Tax Policy Center](#) (TPC). As Biden effectively emphasized in last week's debate, that move delivers \$4 billion in annual tax cuts to the Exxon-Mobil's of the world.

What happened? How does McCain's erstwhile good conscience countenance this policy? The answer, or at least the spin, was revealed to me a few weeks ago in a debate I had with his top economist, Doug Holtz-Eakin. When I pointed out that these cuts do nothing to help the middle class, while needlessly raining more wealth on the "haves," Doug disagreed. Based on the fairy dust of supply-side, trickle-down economics, he asserted that these cuts would lead to more jobs and income for middle-class families. Contrary to McCain's position a few years back, the campaign now frames a cut in corporate taxation as their middle-class tax cut.

(Fact check: Data from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office show that middle class people hold a mere 3% of all corporate income, compared to 88% for the top fifth, and about 60% for the top 1%. In our new [State of Working America](#), we show that an important factor driving the almost unprecedented level of inequality right now is the double whammy of a) the growth of corporate income, like dividends and capital gains, versus labor market income, i.e., earnings, and b) the increased concentration of corporate income among the richest households.)

The only way McCain can implement this fiscal policy without generating unsustainable debt levels is to cut deeply into government spending. His and Palin's hated earmarks won't get you there (in Palin's case, of course, the hatred is newly founded). His promise to freeze certain aspects of discretionary government spending gets you even less savings than the earmarks. They'll have to go after the entitlements, and since Social Security is actually a relatively small problem in this regard, for their plan to work, they have to cut the heck out of Medicare and Medicaid.

This brings you to their truly unfortunate health care plan, which I wrote about [last week](#) in this space.

So, my first point is that McCain and his team have crafted an economic plan that contradicts the candidate's recently held fundamental views and is far out-of-touch with the needs of the country. That might not have posed a big problem except for the fact that a series of events, including the middle-class squeeze generated by stagnant incomes and rising prices, recession, and financial meltdown, have made the economy front and center in this campaign.

How did McCain end up with an economic platform, especially on taxes, that is so out of sync with his past views as expressed in the above quotes, an agenda that is anything but "mavericky."

The answer comes from the Palin debate last week. Since Ms. Palin is a newcomer on the national scene with scant governing experience, little knowledge of the major issues, and few deeply held views, she serves as a talking head for the people behind the curtains, the staff and advisors running the campaign. When McCain spouts this stuff, he's filtering it through years of intense experiences, as a veteran, a former POW, and member of the Senate for 26 years. With Palin, it's unfettered, thin, talking points.

What we learn--and yes, I fully grant you that we knew this well already, but the debate was a strong reminder--is that the same neocons that wrote the Bush agenda wrote McCain's. Despite the fact that the electorate has moved on, they can't help themselves.

For example, they briefed Palin to spout the supply-side, anti-government, Reaganisms that are so deeply out of sync with where things are at right now. As we speak, the economy is reeling from market excesses and lax oversight, driven by an ideology that guaranteed us that unchained from its government overseers, the invisible hand would guide us to the economic promise land. Instead, it's guided us over a cliff.

Yet, here's how Palin reminded the audience about the true meaning of patriotism: "Patriotic is saying, government, you know, you're not always the solution. In fact, too often you're the problem so, government, lessen the tax burden and on our families and get out of the way and let the private sector and our families grow and thrive and prosper."

That recipe has certainly worked wonders over the past eight years.

Palin channeled the other great neocon tactic: talk it, don't walk it. I don't think she mentioned "Wall St." without the preface of "greed and corruption," but she failed to offer one concrete proposal to address that. To the contrary, she and McCain still want to turn part of the dollars flowing into Social Security over to the stock market.

Obama, on the other hand, back in [March](#) articulated a six point plan that had it been in place, would arguably have prevented much of what's going wrong in markets today.

The campaign's fondest hope is, of course, that the economy would just go away so they could get back to arguing foreign policy, where polls are more favorable toward their guy. But it's too late for that, and anyway, most people scored the first presidential debate a draw in matters of foreign affairs, as Obama effectively tied McCain to Bush's failed Iraqi policy.

More importantly, as the election nears, the undecided voters who will decide this thing seem to be recognizing the importance of the Obama "change" mantra. Unlike myself, most people don't have the time and interest to track the income shares of the top 1%, but for a while now,

vast majorities have recognized that the country is on the wrong track, and for all its verbiage, the Obama campaign is really quite simply about getting it back of the right one.

We can have great arguments about whether his plan to end the war, his tax policies to favor the middle class while raising taxes on, and only on, the very high end, or his [health care plan](#) are, in fact, the right ones. But at this point, one of their key selling points is that they take us on a different path than the one we're on.

That's largely policy wonkery, I grant you, but let's close out with some reflections on character. Lo those many months ago, when I chatted with my conservative counterpart, I feared McCain because I viewed him as having the character to stick to his convictions, many of which I disagreed with, but that's not something you see enough of in politics these days.

He's lost that. It started with the policy reversals discussed above, was amplified by the outright [lies](#) of the campaign, and culminated in the cynical, reckless, and politics-over-country choice of a running mate who is dangerously unprepared to step into the presidency.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you again to everyone who attended and volunteered at the Barack Obama rally in downtown La Crosse. There is little question that it was the most successful political rally in La Crosse history, with over 15,000 people attending. Special thanks to all staffers and volunteers who worked so hard to make October 1st a very special day.

However successful this rally was: make no mistake, this presidential election, as well as the State Senate and Assembly races will be a battle in this county. **There is a reason that John McCain is also visiting La Crosse — this area will be hard fought.**

The numbers for canvassing this month in La

Crosse County are low. There are 12,000 voters in this county that need to be contacted face to face. Please contact or stop by the office and donate a few hours for all candidates. We will need a special push as well for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) starting the week prior to the election.

Also please attend the Fall Dinner on October 18th -- which will give the party a final push to fully fund our campaign office through November 4th.

Thank you for your support and hard work.

Fabio Burgos
Chair

La Crosse County Democratic Party

THE DUMBING DOWN OF THE GOP

By Joe Conason

Via Salon.com

Oct. 4, 2008 | Sarah Palin's debate performance should signal the beginning of the end of her fad. But for the moment it is worth looking at the meaning of her nomination, without the protective varnish of what conservatives usually dismiss as political correctness.

Why should we pretend not to notice when Gov. Palin's ideas make no sense? Having said last week that "it doesn't matter" whether human activity is the cause of climate change, she said in debate that she "doesn't want to argue" about the causes. It doesn't occur to her that we have to know the causes in order to address the problem. (She was very fortunate that moderator Gwen Ifill didn't ask her whether she truly believes that human beings and dinosaurs inhabited this planet simultaneously only 6,000 years ago.)

Why should we ignore her inability to string together a series of coherent thoughts? As a foe of Wall Street greed and a late convert to the gospel of government regulation, along with John McCain, Palin promised to clean up and reform business. But when her programmed talking points about "getting government out of the way" and protecting "freedom" conflicted with that promise, she didn't notice.

Why should we give her a pass on the most important issues of the day? Supposedly sharing the fears and concerns of the average families who face the burdens of mortgages, healthcare and economic insecurity, Palin simply refused to discuss changes in bankruptcy law and proved that she didn't know the provisions of McCain's healthcare plan.

All the glaring defects so blatantly on display in her debate with Joe Biden -- and that make her candidacy so darkly comical -- would be the same if she were a hockey dad

instead of a "hockey mom." In fact, the cynical attempt to foist Palin on the nation as a symbol of feminist progress is an insult to all women regardless of their political orientation.

There was a time when conservatives lamented the dumbing down of American culture. Preservation of basic standards in schools and workplaces compelled them -- or so they said -- to resist affirmative action for women and minorities. Qualifications mattered; merit mattered; and demagogic appeals for leveling were to be left to the Democrats.

Not anymore.

Actually, the Palin phenomenon is the culmination of a trend that can be traced back to [Dan Quayle](#), the undistinguished Indiana senator whose elevation onto the Republican ticket in 1988 had nothing to do with intellect or experience and everything to do with the youthful appeal of a handsome blond frat boy. (That was how Republican strategists thought they would attract female voters back then, which must be why they believe Palin represents progress.) Quayle too was unable to articulate, let alone defend, the policy positions for which he was supposed to be campaigning. He too had to undergo the surgical stuffing of stock phrases into his head as a minimal substitute for knowledge and thought. And in the same sad way, he too benefited from the drastically reduced expectations applied to anyone whose inadequacy is so obvious.

Quayle deserved more pity than scorn, however, because he seemed to know that he was fighting far above his weight class. Palin evokes no such sympathy, with her jut-jawed, moose-gutting confidence in her own overrated "common sense" and her bullying insistence that only "elitists" would question her expertise.

As Biden showed quite convincingly when he spoke about his modest background and his continuing connection with Main Street, perceptive, intelligent discourse is in no way identical with elitism. Palin's phony populism is as insulting to working- and middle-class Americans as it is to American women. Why are basic diction and intellectual coherence presumed to be out of reach for "real people"?

And why don't we expect more from American conservatives? Indeed, why don't they demand more from their own movement? Aren't they disgusted that their party would again nominate a person devoid of qualifications for one of the nation's highest offices? Some, like Michael Gerson and Kathleen Parker, have expressed discomfort with this farce -- and been subjected, in Parker's case, to abuse from many of the same numbskulls whom Palin undoubtedly delights.

The ultimate irony of Palin's rise is that it has occurred at a moment when Americans may finally have grown weary of pseudo-populism -- when intelligence, judgment, diligence and seriousness are once again valued, simply because we are in such deep trouble. We got into this mess because we elected a man who professed to despise elitism, which he detected in everyone whose opinions differed from his prejudices. That was George W. Bush, of course. Biden was too polite and restrained to say it, but the dumbing down is more of the same, too.



PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Friends of Tara Johnson (32nd State Senate District)

P.O. Box 426
La Crosse, WI 54602 (608)785-5862

Friends for Cheryl Hancock (94th Assembly District)

1007 Deerfield St., Holmen, WI 54636
(608) 738-8251 (Pablo Ruiz)

3rd Congressional District Democratic Party

Melanie Franklin, Chair
(715) 659-4964
www.3rdDems.net

Wisconsin State Senate Democ- ratic Committee

www.SSDC-Wi.org

Wisconsin Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee

www.AssemblyDemocrats.com

Democratic National Committee (DNC)

430 S. Capitol St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
(tel)202-863-8000
www.Democrats.org

Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW)

222 W. Washington Ave. Suite 150
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 255-5172 (tel) - (608) 255-8919 (fax)
www.wisdems.org

Democratic Leadership Council (DLC)

600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-0007(Tel) - (202) 544-5002 (fax)
www.DLC.org

Ron Kind for Congress

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PO Box 628008 - Middleton, WI 53562
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www.progressivepatriotsfund.com

Coulee Progressives

www.couleeprogressives.org

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email: sen.kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov

**LA CROSSE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

October General Party Meeting

Monday, October 20th
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
La Crosse County Democratic Party/Obama Campaign for Change Office
127 S. 6th St., La Crosse

Barack the Vote

Friday, October 24th
6:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.
Valhalla, Cartwright Center
UW-L
Speakers and Bands to be Announced

Election Day 2008

Tuesday, November 4th
Polls Open: 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Election Night Victory Party to follow at Forest Hills, 600 Losey Blvd. N., La Crosse

La Crosse County

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

P.O. Box 1861

La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party,

Fabio A. Burgos, Chair; Kris Troyanek, Treasurer

The content herein is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

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RÉMINDER REGARDING MEMBERSHIPS

Attention all Party Members:

The Newsletter is now online. If you don't receive the online newsletter and haven't received online updates through the campaign, please update your address by sending an email to: laxdems@yahoo.com

Visit us online at: LaxDems.com

If you renew or sign up for membership **after October 1, 2008**, you are a member of the La Crosse County and State of Wisconsin Democratic Parties **through December 31, 2009**. If you haven't done so already, please fill out membership form below and send back in the return envelope provided.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008-2-009!



Yes please enroll me, and/or my family, as a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party for 2009!!

Enclosed is payment for dues according to type of membership requested.

Please Check Due Structure that applies

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home/Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Occupation _____

Assembly District: 94th _____ 95th _____ Ward _____

YES! I am interested in volunteering for party activities!

- ___ \$25 General Membership
(\$10 each for up to 3 additional members)
- ___ \$ 10 Senior Citizen
- ___ \$35 Pairs (Up to Two Memberships)
- ___ \$45 Activist (Up to 3)
- ___ \$75 Family Membership
- ___ \$120 Supporting Membership
- ___ \$240 Friend
- ___ \$600 Patron
- ___ \$1200 Investor
- ___ \$2400 Benefactor

*Make checks payable to;
The La Crosse County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 1861
La Crosse WI 54602-1861*

I recommend contacting as a possible member

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____