



Quail Creek Republican Club



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Quail Creek Republicans

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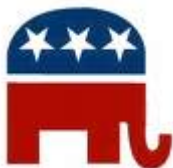
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Quail Creek Republican Club

President's Message

The monsoon season is upon us; while the temps are rather pleasant; the humidity is a bit of a reminder to me of my New Jersey days. However, the New Jersey humidity was really a lot worse.

Just a head's up, so you can mark your calendars. We will start off the QC Fall political season with a meeting on Friday, September 21 at 9 AM at the Clubhouse. Our speaker will be Doug Sposito, a candidate for a Legislative District 30 seat. Doug is from the Sonoita area and a rather interesting person. Doug attended our last meeting and I had the opportunity to have lunch with him afterwards along with several other QCRs. Doug quietly listened to our conversation and then interjected and asked us if, other than complaining about the state of GOP affairs, did we have anything positive to say about the GOP.

Doug's comment made me really think. Indeed, 2008 is likely going to be a tough year for the GOP, but I am a Republican for real and important reasons: Security, Responsibility, and Honesty. Each of us has our individual reasons for being a Republican. We can't forget those reasons and we need to share our views with others. In short, get involved, come to a meeting, join a campaign just don't sit home and complain.

In this regard, Green Valley will be holding its Country Fair on October 25, 26, and 27 and the Greater Green Valley Republican Club (GGVRC) will have a GOP booth at the Fair. They are looking for volunteers to man the booth. If you want to get involved and can spare a few hours, let me know and I'll pass your name and contact info on to the GGVRC.

The Arizona GOP Presidential Primary is in early 2008 and it is not too soon for each of us to start pondering our individual choice. Our Program Chair, Darren Venters, will be trying to schedule representatives of the major GOP Presidential candidates to speak to us at the remainder of our 2007 meetings.

Keep the faith and get involved!

John Chernoski, President

July News Recap

Evans – Novak July 1

President 2008

McCain: Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) receives more bad news with a new poll showing him at 8 percent in Nevada, now an early state. But McCain may be suffering there in particular because of his staunch support for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.

McCain has sent a plea for funds to previous contributors who have not reached their campaign limit. "I took a risk by sending you first-class postage stamps with this air gram letter," McCain began his appeal. "But I had no other choice, because I urgently need your help before June 30." He said "the media and our opponents are eagerly awaiting" the quarterly campaign finance report "so they can take the measure of our campaign."

Asserting he needs to raise \$700,000 in the last week of June, McCain asked supporters to "please rush a contribution for \$400, \$300 or \$200 to my campaign today to help keep building unstoppable momentum."

Obama: Chicago lawyer-businessman William Daley, a former secretary of Commerce and a leading supporter of Barack Obama's Democratic presidential campaign, used a month-long business trip to Asia to address the Illinois senator's supporters in China. When Daley met Obama backers in Shanghai and Beijing, they told him they could raise a half-million dollars for the senator's campaign.

The overseas Democrats were so enthusiastic about their party's prospects next year that Daley tried to restrain them. The national chairman of Al Gore's nearly successful 2000 candidacy, Daley said he expects another close presidential race in 2008.

Evans – Novak July 18

President 2008

The second-quarter financial filings should be alarming for Republicans, revealing that the top three Republicans have raised a total of \$93 million for the presidential race compared to the \$135 million raised by the top three Democrats. Recent polls put former Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R) in the lead among Republicans, but "undecided" places slightly higher than either one. Democratic voters, meanwhile, appear to be far more satisfied with and locked into their choices.

Ames Straw Poll: With Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) campaign all but dead, the August 11 Ames, Iowa, straw poll takes on a significance it did not have before. McCain, already lagging Iowa, had dropped out of the straw poll with a sigh of relief after Giuliani chose not to compete, and that would have left the two frontrunners out of the contest. But now, only frontrunner Giuliani is missing.

That sets up a brawl between former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R) and several minor conservative candidates. For the latter, a strong showing in the Ames straw poll is their best chance to compensate for a lack of campaign funds and propel themselves out of the second tier.

Romney probably needs to win at Ames. Despite the fact that he lags in national polls, Romney is the clear frontrunner in most Iowa and New Hampshire state polling, largely a reflection of the positive ads he has run in those states to build up his image. Even if he continues to trail nationwide come January, winning in those states would make him instantly more credible heading into the big Super Tuesday of February 5. A second-place finish could embarrass Romney but not destroy him. A multi-millionaire, Romney will not be devastated by bad news with donors fleeing in every direction -- as McCain has been and will be in the coming month.

One candidate who could surprise in Ames next month is Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), whom most commentators write off for his lack of fundraising ability. Iowa Republicans have a history of supporting social conservatives, nearly handing Pat Buchanan a victory in 1996. Although Buchanan is really closer politically to presidential candidate Rep. Duncan Hunter (R), Brownback has a geographic and issue advantage in Iowa that Hunter, Romney and Giuliani lack with respect to farm issues. He also may be picking up many of McCain's former supporters, who are not turned off by Brownback's position on immigration.

Low on funds, Brownback has been frugal and intensely concentrated on Iowa. His operation is all grassroots, with no mail or television in the state. The conventional low expectations work in his favor, but a more realistic appraisal is that he needs a win or a close second at Ames to have a shot at Iowa in January.

Among the other battlers for the right-wing vote is Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), who views Brownback as a key rival. Tancredo landed a few punches on Brownback for his support of the comprehensive immigration reform bill and the fact that Brownback changed his vote from "yes" to "no" during the Senate's second cloture vote on the bill last month. Brownback responded by blanketing Tancredo's congressional district with mailers about contributions Tancredo had received from John Tanton, an anti-immigration activist with ties to Planned Parenthood. Tancredo has toned things down since then, a sign that he is likely to run for his seat again when the presidential campaign is over.

Rep. Ron Paul (R-Tex.) has gained much attention for being the only anti-war Republican in the race. At the same time as some Republicans are accusing him of treason, he appears to have collected more in campaign donations from active-duty military than any other Republican presidential candidate. He has attracted enough attention that some worry about a third-party candidacy.

Paul's anti-ethanol subsidy position will not help him in Iowa. Yet like Buchanan, he embraces an isolationist foreign policy that many Iowans appreciate. He recently stoked controversy with an appearance on the radio show of a 9/11 conspiracy theorist, in which he suggested that the Bush Administration is looking for an excuse to go to war with Iran.

What about Fred? It is an open question where Fred Thompson stands in Ames, considering that he will probably not be an official candidate by then and will not actively participate in the straw poll.

Gilmore: The exit of former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore (R) from the race did not shock anyone, but it is a lesson in the difference between a frontrunner and an underdog campaign. Even as he received advice to go out on a limb by attacking the frontrunners or by embracing bold policy proposals that would distinguish him from other candidates, Gilmore ran a very cautious campaign.

Instead of running like an underdog, Gilmore campaigned like a frontrunner, presenting himself as a mainline conservative. He also made a habit of showing his résumé constantly during the debates, answering questions from his experience in one capacity or another.

The result of his exit now could be that Gilmore competes for the Senate seat of John Warner (R-Va.) should Warner retire. In a state where Republicans have received few breaks lately, many conservatives would find him preferable to Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.), whom they see as more moderate.

Giuliani: By releasing a list of prospective judicial nominees, Rudy Giuliani wants to ease the minds of conservatives who are otherwise unwilling to support him because of his views on abortion. With Fred Thompson at his heels, Giuliani needs to offer these conservatives something more substantial (and more consistent) than his message on abortion in the campaign so far.

Fred Thompson: Thompson has wavered from an outright denial to an acknowledgement that he may have lobbied for or at least given advice to a group seeking to have the U.S. government fund abortions abroad. If he did, he does not remember. This would have occurred during the administration of George H. W. Bush, before Thompson was elected to the Senate. Conservatives appear to be unconcerned by the allegation, which was brought by the abortion group.

Thompson could form an exploratory committee at the end of July, which would allow him to avoid disclosing campaign contributions until the third-quarter reporting period. Thompson would instead file an IRS form to maintain the tax-exempt status of his "testing the waters committee." His official announcement might not come until September.

Randy Enwright, a Republican political consultant from Florida with strong ties to the Iowa GOP, has been tapped as political director of Thompson's forthcoming presidential campaign. Based in Tallahassee, Enwright worked on George W. Bush's 2000 Florida campaign and has been the Republican National Committee's regional political director for Florida since then. In the early 90s, he was staff director of the Republican Party in Iowa, where caucuses will kick off the 2008 delegate selection. Enwright was executive director of the Florida party in 1995-1999 and adviser to Gov. Jeb Bush (R).

Clinton: Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) received the endorsement this week of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson. Her husband, President Bill Clinton, appealed to small donors for Senate Democratic campaigns recently by asking for a tax increase for upper-income earners -- which include himself. As President in 1993, Clinton pushed huge upper-bracket tax increases through Congress, after which Republicans won control of the House in 1994 for the first time in 40 years.

His June 25 appeal, asking contributions of "\$50, \$100 or even more," included the declaration: "I never had any money until I left the White House. But now that I'm a millionaire, I get more help from the federal government than anybody. I think it's inconsistent with the common good to give me huge tax cuts."

Tucson Citizen – July 20

State Rep. Jonathan Paton, R-Tucson, has filed paperwork needed as a precursor to running for a seat in the state Senate representing Legislative District 30, the district he represents now.

The district covers the far East Side and stretches south through Green Valley and southeast to Fort Huachuca.

He can't declare his candidacy yet because state law would require him to resign his House seat if he announced he was running before the calendar year of the election. Instead, he's forming an exploratory committee.

Paton is one of the few pro-war Republican politicians to volunteer to go to Iraq. The Army Reserve first lieutenant garnered national attention for his six-month tour that bridged 2006 and 2007.

Though he can't campaign yet, he said: "This is the district I grew up in."

"I live one mile from the house I grew up in. I've really enjoyed serving the district and my constituents."

Senate President Tim Bee, a Republican, holds the seat but term limits do not allow him to run again.

Evans – Novak July 25

President 2008

Democratic Debate: Many watchers expected the first "YouTube" debate to be a gimmick and an unserious affair. In fact, CNN's Democratic debate on Monday was a success, producing several tough questions and answers from the candidates.

Unfortunately, in many cases, the hardest questions were given to longshot candidates -- questions, for example, about gun rights, slave reparations and Iraq. This is an inevitable problem, however, given the field of eight candidates.

Clinton: This debate will likely be remembered as the performance in which Sen. Hillary Clinton finally learned to lighten up and act a bit human, eschewing the debilitating and robotic persona she normally affects in public speaking situations. Clinton's appearance, delivery and answer content were sharp and on the money. She was at the top of her game this week, better than in any previous appearance. She has been coached well in the last month. She also benefited from receiving few of the toughest questions.

When offered the opportunity to exploit rival Barack Obama's (D-Ill.) lack of experience, she hit a home run. Clinton also looked better physically and sartorially. On Iraq, she played Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.) as her well-informed foil to discuss the reasons and need for withdrawal.

Although she has not locked it up yet, Clinton showed in the debate that she can do what it takes to be a good candidate. Republicans have been hoping for her nomination as the weakest general election candidate of the top three Democrats, but she may prove more formidable than they expected.

Obama: Sen. Obama performed well, but as the second-place candidate in a very static Democratic field, he needed to shake something up. He did not, and he also delivered a gaffe on a foreign policy question that highlighted his lack of experience and could cost him the state of Florida if he does end up getting the nomination. His unqualified willingness to meet with a number of rogue world leaders, including Cuban Communist dictator Fidel Castro, was suddenly thrown into sharp contrast with Clinton's careful answer that she would not meet with anyone if she believed that the visit was going to be used as a propaganda piece to humiliate the United States.

Obama tried to deflect the fact that he won't support same-sex marriage outright by pointing out that he supports civil unions, which he added are basically the same thing in all but name -- which is exactly what opponents of civil unions point out.

Edwards: Former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) has had better days than he did Monday night. His failure to land any punches on Clinton suggests he can't rise above third place.

Edwards was impaled on a question about same-sex marriage, in which he also made a tortured argument that essentially concluded that one's faith should have no place in affecting the way one thinks or votes.

Richardson: Gov. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.) began his first answer, on Hurricane Katrina, with a sequence of ground-up talking points so muddled that they made no sense at all. He continued his performance with similar bumbles and left a lot of questions on the stage about just why he was still in the race. That did not stop him from winning a focus group in Nevada, where voters perhaps long for a Western Democrat to get the nomination for once.

Richardson's Iraq answers gave the appearance of total ignorance of the situation in Iraq, especially in comparison with the other candidates on stage. Try as he might to assert that "there is a difference" between himself and the others on Iraq, he proved mostly that he had not taken time to learn much about it. He was much better when discussing issues he understood: Darfur, where he visited not too long ago, and on No Child Left Behind, which he has dealt with as governor.

Fred Thompson: In advance of a formal solicitation for funds or an announcement of his candidacy, former Sen. Fred Thompson's (R-Tenn.) presidential campaign quietly organized its first Washington fundraiser at the downtown J.W. Marriott hotel for the last week in July. This event will give the clearest signal so far of how successful the actor-politician will be in his late-starting drive to finance his run for president. The telling sign will be whether he picks up important lobbyists and other Washingtonians who earlier had lined up for Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) fading campaign for the presidential nomination.

Although Thompson may not announce officially as a candidate until September, there are limits to how long he can wait. It is no easy task to appear on the ballots of many primary states, and he will need a campaign sometime soon to make the cut in time.

McCain: Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign is facing a huge financial crunch. He is in the critical month after three straight weeks of staff defections and firings. With basically just weeks in which to raise more than \$1 million and prevent the vultures from devouring him, McCain has made a desperate fund-raising bid for small contributions, on grounds that "the liberal Hollywood elites would love to see Senators Obama, Clinton or Edwards face off against any Republican other than John McCain."

A July 11 fund-raising letter was intended to reassure contributors that, contrary to speculation, McCain has no intention of dropping out of the contest. But McCain's letter seeking \$400 contributions went to some supporters who already had sent his campaign the maximum \$2,300 contribution for the primary elections.

The senator signed the appeal that promised: "With so much on the line...we cannot afford to give up -- or even back down one inch. My friend, I promise you, I never will." Some speculate, however, that he will exit the race once federal matching funds become available to cover his campaign debt

Why I am a Republican - Randy Pullen

My fellow Arizonans, my fellow Americans, I believe our state and our nation stand today at a crossroads in history. The rhetoric in the media of recent years describes us as a politically divided nation, almost equal in number of Republicans and Democrats, with our party nominees (and in fact our parties themselves) competing for those few undecided voters remaining in the middle.

Today I reject that notion because two very important things have happened.

First, our next generation of Republican leadership from city halls to court houses to state houses to the White House has largely united in one voice behind our belief in both America and the American people. We have shown our faith in the American dream for all, and we are putting forth real, common-sense ideas on how to transform those dreams into reality.

Though our Democrat opponents and many of our liberal friends in the media often ballyhoo when Republicans disagree, this much is true: today's Republican Party has refocused itself as the party of ideas and courage, and as the party of a bright future for Arizona and for America.

Here in Arizona, our leaders have said with unwavering resolve that it is no longer acceptable for our state's brave veterans to suffer under a system of neglect and incompetence. We have not just exposed the wrongs of our government but are busy crafting solutions to protect our veterans and honor their past service.

Our Republican leaders have identified the failings of our state's bureaucracy charged with protecting our most vulnerable children. We have confronted an unwieldy and defensive bureaucracy and demanded accountability and change – which now seems clear will come because of the resolve of our Republican lawmakers here in Arizona.

We have, and continue to, reach out to community leaders and business organizations to seek real-world ideas and innovative means with which to further spur Arizona's economy to create new jobs, new opportunities and new futures for families in every county and corner of our state. We confront head-on the environmental challenges of water, effective land use, and responsible growth to protect the natural wonders of our state and the quality of life of our neighbors and friends.

And our Republican elected officials at the local and state level are leaders in education, seeking to transform our schools to places of true learning where the hopes and dreams of children may be nurtured. Arizona is a leader in education innovation with charter schools, performance testing, and tax credits; all Republican ideas. Each step we take for education reform promises a brighter future not just for our state, but for each individual child whom we are determined to serve as if he or she were our own.

Our Republican leaders today do these things not simply because of the jobs they have been elected to, or the oaths of office they have taken, but because of the tremendous dedication they have for the positions they have been elected to hold and the commitment they share to the people they serve. They are men and women with ideas working closely with doctors and teachers, parents and small businesspeople, senior citizens, veterans, families and individuals from every walk of life in a great partnership toward a stronger Arizona.

Second, I reject the equally divided notion put forth because of the direction taken by today's Democrat Party. Special interests and 15-second sound bytes now take precedent over governing, where politics impedes progress at almost every turn for Democrats.

A recent Gallup Poll showed the Democrat majority in Congress has now driven public confidence in Congress to an all-time low of just 14-percent – lower than before Republicans wrested Congress from the Democrats in 1994 and lower than during the Watergate era. One would have to go back to the Continental Congress in 1780 to find a lower confidence level.

Today, the Democrats in Congress have no charismatic president to lead them off on quixotic journeys into misguided domestic policy. Today, they have achieved their 14-percent approval rating all by themselves. Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi proudly negotiates with state-sponsors of terrorism, placing in jeopardy not only Israel (our closest democratic ally in the region), but undermining nearly single handedly America's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East in our crusade to stamp out terror. Democrat Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid routinely declares that America has lost its war against terror in Iraq, giving aid and comfort to the enemy while our brave men and women in uniform fight to protect a fledgling democracy from brutal Islamic fascists and keep their reach from extending to America's shores once again.

The new Democrat Congress has already called for the largest tax hike in American history, has broken its promise on ending the secrecy behind the practice of spending billions of dollars on "earmarked" pork-barrel projects, is set to repeal the Bush tax cuts (that have spurred strong economic growth for six years), have broken their promise to address skyrocketing gas prices, and are set to introduce massive new tax hikes that will reduce investment and cost thousands upon thousands of jobs across America.

While Republicans have learned the lessons of mistakes made in the majority (and, mind you, there were many, many victories and achievements to be proud of, as well), Democrats have reaffirmed their allegiance to the Liberal Left. Not only in matters of Iraq and the war on terror, but in domestic and economic policy, as well. Those who bought and paid for their campaigns and election efforts in 2006 are being handsomely rewarded – only it isn't the American people, it's the liberal special interests, which will ultimately reap the benefits.

The Democrat leaders in Congress are banking their entire political fortunes on the defeat of their own nation, and the Democrat candidates for President have become pessimistic naysayers with poll-tested scripts and no original ideas. Republicans, on the other hand, continue to show why we are the party of ideas and principles. We offer better choices to a greater number of voters – a majority of whom we believe will find a home within our ranks.

