

“Ultimately, we need better ideas, better ideologies. We need a culture less obsessed with power and honor and more concerned with mindfulness and dignity. That’s the best we can do to quell our appetites for dominance and punishment.”

Executive Council

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Editor’s Note: Please submit articles, events and photos to: DaveTReagan4JP1@gmail.com by last Saturday of the month for inclusion in next newsletter.

DPGC GAZETTE

Feb. 2018 Edition

Inside this issue: Events, Candidates, Campaigns and more...

DPGC Chair’s View - Hayden Shamel



Friends,

I want to take a minute to say thank you for all of the work you have done over the course of the past year. By all accounts, 2017 was an extremely successful year for the Democratic Party of Garland County. Our membership has doubled,

our candidate list continues to grow, and we have raised a significant amount of money to turn the tide in 2018. None of that would have been possible without the dedicated and enthusiastic efforts of one of the best Democratic teams in the state. It takes a vast amount of time and long hours of hard work in order to accomplish all that we’ve done, and we should be extremely proud. Our local party is one of the most active in the state, and our work hasn’t gone unnoticed. I am deeply appreciative for all of your work – from volunteering at headquarters, to organizing fundraisers, to making out-

reach phone calls, and recruiting candidates and new members-every selfless and tireless act of service you do is a contribution to something bigger than all of us. And now we march boldly into 2018. If Virginia and Alabama taught us anything, it’s that with hard work, we can and will bring about the change we seek. There are 270 odd days until the mid-term elections, and it seems our work has only just begun. I can’t wait to see what tomorrow holds. I hope to see you at the February 21st meeting when our guest speaker will be LR attorney Jesse Gibson on AR constitutional amendments.

Calendar of Coming Events for February 2018

Feb 4 — Sunday, Activism /Alerts Committee meets 3:00pm @ HQ

Feb 6 —Tuesday, Events Fund-raising Committee meets @ 5:30p @ HQ

Feb 9 —Friday, DPGC Candidates Club meets @ HQ @ 6p

Feb 13 - Tuesday, Candidate Recruitment and Election Committee meets @ HQ @ 6p

Feb 14— Wednesday, DPGC Executive Council meets @ 5:30p @ HQ

Feb 20 — Tuesday, Membership Committee meets @ HQ @ 5p

Feb. 21—Wednesday, Monthly DPGC General membership meeting @ HQ. Social begins @ 5P, Meeting @ 5:30p. Guest speaker, Attorney Jesse Gibson

Feb 22—Thursday, Community Outreach Committee meets @ HQ @ 6p.

Feb 27—Tuesday, VCK Democratic Women meet @ Legoria’s on Bridge St. Social 5:30p, Meeting @ 6p

Mar 3—Saturday, Citizen’s First Congress Meeting 9a, AR State Capitol, 500 Woodlane St. #256 Tickets: citizensfirstcongress.org

Mar 23 — Friday, VCK Democratic Women’s Club and HSV Democrats Club will meet @ 4p at HSV Coronado Center. Janet McAdams will speak on Teen Pregnancy in Garland County, the highest in the nation.

Mar 28 — Wednesday, *Susan Inman for Arkansas Secretary of State* Rally @ Quapaw Baths, 6p. Majority party constitutional officers in state gov’t will determine who redistricts areas of representation.

Garland County Election Commission
649 Ouachita Ave.
Hot Springs, AR
(501) 622-3622

DPA CHAIR'S CORNER

AR. VOTER ID LAWSUIT

Recruiting Arkansas Democrats



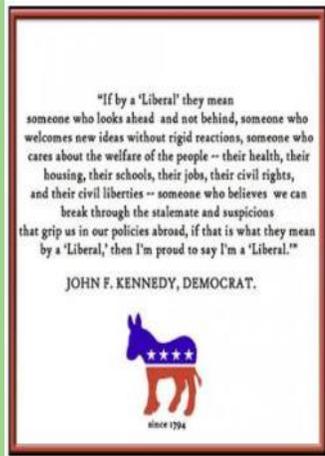
We have hit the ground running in 2018. Already, we've seen dozens of energetic Democrats step up to run for office across Arkansas. With the filing deadline at the end of this month, we are focused on continuing candidate recruitment around the state. To that end -- if you know of someone you think would be a good candidate, please put them in contact with us. You may email John Whiteside whiteside@arkdems.org or Taylor Riddle at taylor@arkdems.org. We have resources and tools to aid them in their campaign. There's a blue wave coming, but we can't win if we don't have candidates running. Whether it's for city council, school board, judge, justice of the peace, or state rep, we need more

Democrats in office come November. So, please consider running and encourage those you know to do the same so we can paint Arkansas Blue this year. The decision to invest now will determine wins and losses in November -- and we need your help to invest in our candidates all across Arkansas. That's why I am asking you to become a member of the Heart of the Party. **Important Information for Municipal and County Candidates** - Democratic candidates running for office at the city or county level will need to fill out a few necessary forms. They can be found on our website. Please email Taylor Riddle at Taylor@arkdems.org for more information or any questions you may have.

Michael John Gray



A lawsuit challenging Arkansas' new voter ID law has been filed, arguing the requirement causes the same problems as a nearly identical law that was struck down four years ago. The lawsuit filed by a voter in Pulaski County Circuit Court on Wednesday is challenging the measure's constitutionality ahead of the state's May 22 primary. Early voting for the primary begins May 7. Barry Haas, a Little Rock resident who is suing the state over the measure, was one of the four plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led to Arkansas' previous voter ID law being struck down in 2014. An attorney for Haas said lawmakers are trying to circumvent that ruling by amending a portion of the state's constitution dealing with voter registration. Act 633 of 2017 requires poll workers to ask voters for photo identification before voting; those without valid identification must sign an affidavit and cast a provisional ballot, which would be certified later by county election officials. The plaintiff is seeking an injunction barring the state from enforcing the voter ID measurement contained in Act 633 during the May primary and November general elections. Thirty-four states have laws requiring or requesting voters show some form of voter ID at the polls, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Arkansas' new law took effect in August and has been enforced in several local elections. The May primary is the first statewide election where the measure will be enforced since it was enacted last year. A spokesman for Secretary of State Mark Martin, a defendant in the lawsuit, did not have an immediate comment on the filing. The new law was one of two efforts approved by the Legislature last year to revive the voter ID requirement. Lawmakers also voted to put a proposed constitutional amendment imposing the requirement on the November ballot. Arkansas' law says voters can show one of several types of photo identification, including driver's licenses, concealed handgun licenses, a U.S. passport or an ID issued by a college in the state.



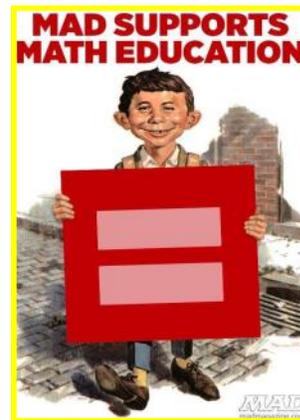
GOP LEGISLATORS RETIRING IN DROVES



[[NJ.com](#) / [Brent Johnson and Jonathan D. Salant](#)]

Republicans are leaving the House in droves: 21 Congress members have announced they're leaving, while three senators have said the same. They're leaving a lot of open seats in their wake, which presents a huge political opportunity for Democrats. [[Vox](#) / [Andrew Prokop](#)] As a matter of fact, House Republicans are leaving at a higher rate than we've seen in a decade. While many aren't saying publicly that their frustrations with politics in the era of Trump are spurring their departures, it's hard to ignore the coincidence. [[FiveThirtyEight](#) / [Nathaniel Rakich](#)] There are other frustrations too. Being the chair of a committee doesn't hold as much power as it used to because so many of today's legislative decisions are dictated by leadership in the House and Senate. And with Republicans staring down severe losses in

the House next year, some are looking to get out while they still can. [[Vox](#) / [Tara Golshan](#)] The number of Democratic Congress members who have announced they're retiring, meanwhile, is in the single digits, and this gives them an edge in House races. There's also a chance (albeit with difficult odds) that they could take back a majority in the Senate. [[Atlantic](#) / [Russell Berman](#)]



Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) is the latest House Republican to announce he is retiring. Gowdy said he wouldn't seek reelection on Wednesday. [[USA Today](#) / [Deirdre Shesgreen](#)] Gowdy's announcement sent shock waves throughout Washington; he's the powerful House Oversight Committee chair who conducted investigations on Benghazi. The reason he's leaving? He's sick of politics. [[Politico](#) / [Rachael Bade](#)] Gowdy is not the only one; Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), the chair of the Appropriations Committee, also announced this week that he's retiring.