



PETTIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN

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CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

The Pettis County Candidate Recruitment Committee will have an organizational meeting on **Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.** at the office of Representative Stanley Cox, **202 West 4th Street, Sedalia.** Betty Hopkins has agreed to be the chairman of this important committee. The purpose of this committee will be to recruit candidates for the general election 2012.

Betty has vowed to find qualified candidates for all elective offices. The following offices will be filled in 2012: All Missouri State Representatives, Pettis County Western and Eastern District Commissioners, Sheriff, Assessor, Coroner, Surveyor, Treasurer, Public Administrator and our Presiding Circuit Judge. Additionally, Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler will be seeking re-election. Also, one-third of all US Senate seats, including the one currently held by Democrat Claire McCaskill will be up for election. The state-wide officials up for election include Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and Treasurer. What we do in this committee is important to our local effort and success.

"The importance of recruiting qualified individuals for each office cannot be underestimated. These county officials provide for essential services for our community. If we can continue offering quality candidates, we will continue our gains in the Courthouse."

Carla Young, Pettis Co Chairman

Annual Meeting of TARGET and Old Fashioned Political Rally

The Annual Meeting of Pettis County TARGET (The Association of Republicans Getting Everyone Together) has been scheduled for **Thursday, September 15, 2011, at the home of Larry and Rosalee Wilson, 27143 Prairie Road, Sedalia, Missouri, starting at 6:00 p.m.** To get to the Wilson Farm, travel West on 16th Street from Sedalia, then South on Prairie Road. Barbeque pork tenderloin, hot dogs, salads, desert and drink will be provided. The cost of this barbeque dinner is \$10.00 for adults, but you receive a complimentary ticket for each TARGET membership or membership renewal. Current memberships expire on September 1, 2011.

As part of the celebration, State Senator Mike Parson will address the assembly on issues facing state government. Senator Parson was elected as 28th District Senator in 2010.

The Annual Meeting of TARGET will be conducted at this barbeque event. Enclosed with this newsletter is a ballot for the election of new TARGET officers. TARGET was organized in 1993. The purpose of the Association includes promotion of the Republican Party by sponsoring social activities, providing financial support for Republican candidates on a regular and continuing basis, and assisting the Pettis County Republican Committee in other activities. Current TARGET President, Frank Higgins, encourages everyone to join. Enclosed is a letter from Frank with more information and membership form.

If you do not want to join TARGET at this time but do want to purchase tickets for the barbeque, please contact Frank Higgins.

PETTIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Pettis County Republican Women will hold their September meeting on **Thursday, September 15, 2011, at FCS Financial Bldg (Farm Credit Services), 2600 South Limit, Sedalia, at 12:00 noon.** (park in rear - meeting room on lower level) A light lunch will be served. **Our special guest speaker will be Violet Corbett, Chairman of the National Federated Republican Women's Convention** to be held September 29 thru October 2, 2011, in Kansas City at the downtown Marriott. **Our club will be volunteering at the Convention on Saturday, October 1, 2011.** All women are invited and encouraged to join us. For more information, please contact Teresa Kelley, President.

COMMENTARY— “*Missouri Has Higher Credit Rating than U.S.*” **By State Representative Stanley Cox**

On August 5th, Standard and Poor’s downgraded the United States government’s sovereign debt rating from AAA to AA+. Another credit rating organization, Fitch Ratings, reaffirmed Missouri’s AAA credit rating June 29th. The difference in credit ratings of the U.S. and that of Missouri is directly related to the fiscal policies of these branches of government. I believe it is worth considering the difference in the way Missouri conducts their fiscal affairs as compared to our national government.

Although, the full impact of this decision by Standard and Poor’s downgrade is not completely known at this time, it will certainly have an impact on the cost of interest paid by federal taxpayers on what seems the never expanding national debt. Just before the S & P downgrade and in response to the debt crisis, Congress and the President put into law a provision that requires that a Committee of Congress make budget cuts before the end of this year in an attempt to start the process of reducing our national debt. Whether this is a sufficient response to our current problems will be seen. My guess is that this is a “Band-Aid” when we need major surgery. In resolving how we should respond to this U.S. fiscal mess, we need to understand how much debt our national government has and how we got there.

According to the United States Department of Treasury, Bureau of Public Debt, our gross national debt increased \$1.9 trillion in Fiscal Year 2009 and \$1.7 trillion Fiscal Year in 2010. As of August 3, 2011, the Total Public Debt Outstanding was \$14.34 trillion dollars, of which \$9.78 trillion was debt held by the public. As of the end of the second quarter of 2011, the US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$15.003 trillion. Total Public Debt Outstanding as a percentage of GDP was 100% and debt held by the public was 65.2% of GDP. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) refers to the market value of all final goods and services produced in our country. This means that our national debt is currently worth the same as the value of all goods and services created in America in a year. This figure of 100% is not far from the 130% of Greece. In response to their debt crisis, all debt issued by the nation of Greece is currently rated at “junk bond” status. It certainly doesn’t seem reasonable that we can sustain such massive national debt on a long term basis.

How we got there is simple. Our national debt was over \$10 trillion in 2008, and we have added \$3.6 trillion since then. Three years ago we had too much national debt, and we have since added 40%. Our recent Federal Stimulus, generous tax credits for home purchases and “cash for clunkers” has done nothing to turn the economy around but have pushed us over the edge in debt. The mistakes that we have made are not just President Obama’s mistakes. It began before he was sworn into office. He just accelerated the train wreck. Mistakes have been made by both Democrats and Republicans. We do things differently in Missouri. In Missouri, our State Constitution mandates that we live on the money we have coming in.

What can we do about this horrible federal debt? The solution is to do something to create discipline at the national level. How is this possible? As I said before, we balance our budgets in Missouri because we are required by law to not spend more money than we take in. We have, in effect, a Missouri Balanced Budget Amendment in our State Constitution. In an attempt to do the same thing in our national government, on at least a couple occasions since 2007, the Missouri House of Representatives has passed a Resolution supporting a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I have always supported and voted for this legislation.

Besides electing fiscally conservative members of Congress, adoption of a U.S. Constitution Balanced Budget Amendment is the only solution. The U.S. House passed a Balanced Budget Amendment just a couple of weeks ago, but it was blocked in the Democrat controlled U.S. Senate. I encourage you to contact your member of Congress and your U.S. Senators and express your position on the importance of considering such legislation.

As the U.S. government continues to deal with the problems of debt and high unemployment, we should feel good that the upcoming Special Session of the Missouri General Assembly is primarily focused on job creation. In these difficult times, that is a big enough problem.

This editorial is based on the Capitol Report dated August 10, 2011, of State Representative Stanley Cox. If you would like to subscribe to Representative Cox’s future Capitol Reports; or if you have any concerns and/or suggestions for Missouri legislation; or if you should experience problems in contacting or resolving an issue with a Missouri state agency, please feel free to call my Capitol office at (660) 826-5456 or email at stanley.cox@house.mo.gov. Thank you for the honor to serve as your Representative in the Missouri House of Representatives.