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Fall 2008 ACTION Newsletter

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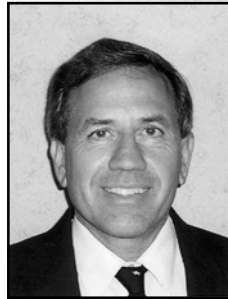
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Message from the President by Robert Kettering

Game On!



Well, unless you live in a cave, by now you probably know that John McCain's Vice Presidential pick of Sarah Palin has totally changed the presidential election. Since her selection, this pro-life evangelical governor of Alaska has totally energized the conservative base of the republican party and is in the process of re-shaping and rebuilding the republican party in her image! The selection of Palin has helped to significantly contrast the two tickets in this presidential campaign (see article on pg 2 Veep Palin Speaks Her Mind).

Democrats Obama and his Vice President Nominee Joe Biden are both staunchly pro-abortion. Additionally, Obama has the distinction of being the most liberal member in the U.S. Senate. His extreme left wing positions stand in stark contrast to McCain and especially to the more conservative Palin, who are both Pro-life. Yet just as important as the issue of life is, I believe that a second crucial issue in this election is the fact that our next president is expected to appoint 2 or 3 supreme court judges. These selections will set the tone for our Supreme Court for at least the next decade. Currently many of these high court rulings are 5 to 4 split decisions with conservatives coming out on the short end. Obviously the appointment of 1 or 2 conservative judges would be huge. Again, when it comes to the selection of judges, these candidates could not be farther apart! McCain has pledged to only support those candidates for judge who will interpret the law as written and not "activist judges." On the other hand, Obama would support these types of activist judges. Additionally, both candidates have clear records on this issue, McCain voted in support of both Judge Roberts and Judge Alito while Obama and Biden both voted against these two men.

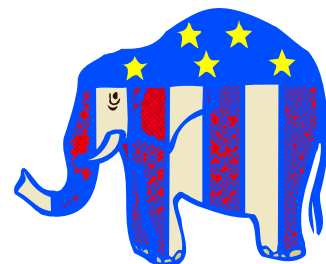
So much is at stake in this election and since Pennsylvania is a battleground state, the winner here will very likely be our next president. Once again, Lancaster County will have the opportunity to play a vital role in this election, because a strong republican vote here is necessary for any republican to win statewide. Please do your part. PRAY and in the few remaining weeks take the opportunity to register voters for this very important election. The last day to register to vote is October 7.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
Edmund Burke

Veep pick Palin speaks her mind *Lancaster New Era, Editorial*

Our top 10 quotes from Sarah Palin's acceptance speech:

1. "Before I became governor of the great state of Alaska, I was mayor of my hometown. "And since our opponents in this presidential election seem to look down on that experience, let me explain to them what the job involves: I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a 'community organizer,' except that you have actual responsibilities."
2. "I've learned quickly, these past few days, that if you're not a member in good standing of the Washington elite, then some in the media consider a candidate unqualified for that reason alone. But here's a little news flash for all those reporters and commentators: I'm not going to Washington to seek their good opinion – I'm going to Washington to serve the people of this country. Americans expect us to go to Washington for the right reasons, and not just to mingle with the right people."
3. "Politics isn't just a game of clashing parties and competing interests. The right reason is to challenge the status quo, to serve the common good, and to leave this nation better than when we found it. No one expects us to agree on everything. But we are expected to govern with integrity, good will, clear convictions and ... a servant's heart."
4. "While I was at it, I got rid of a few things in the governor's office that I didn't believe our citizens should have to pay for. That luxury jet was over the top. I put it on e-bay. I also drive myself to work."
5. "When a hurricane strikes in the Gulf of Mexico, this country should not be so dependent on imported oil that we are forced to draw from our strategic petroleum reserve. And families cannot throw away more and more of their paychecks on gas and heating oil. With Russia wanting to control a vital pipeline in the Caucasus, and to divide and intimidate our European allies by using energy as a weapon, we cannot leave ourselves at the mercy of foreign suppliers. To confront the threat that Iran might seek to cut off nearly a fifth of the world's energy supplies ... or that terrorists might strike again at the Abqaiq facility in Saudi Arabia ... or that Venezuela might shut off its oil deliveries ... we Americans need to produce more of our own oil and gas. And take it from a gal who knows the north slope of Alaska, we've got lots of both."
6. "There is much to like and admire about our opponent (Barak Obama). But listening to him speak, it's easy to forget that this is a man who has authored two memoirs but not a single major law or reform – not even in the state senate."
7. But when the cloud of rhetoric has passed ... when the roar of the crowd fades away ... when the stadium lights go out, and those Styrofoam Greek columns are hauled back to some studio lot – what exactly is our opponent's plan? What does he actually seek to accomplish, after he's done turning back the waters and healing the planet? The answer is to make government bigger ... take more of your money ... give you more orders from Washington ... and to reduce the strength of America in a dangerous world. American needs more energy ... our opponent is against producing it."
8. "Victory in Iraq is finally in sight ... (Obama) wants to forfeit. Terrorist states are seeking nuclear weapons without delay ... he wants to meet them without preconditions. Al-Quaida terrorists still plot to inflict catastrophic harm on America ... he's worried someone won't read them their rights?"
9. "In politics, there are some candidates who use change to promote their careers. And then there are those, like John McCain, who use their careers to promote change."
10. "Though both Sen. Obama and Sen. Biden have been going on lately about how they are always, quote, "fighting for you," let us face the matter squarely. There is only one man in this election who has ever really fought for you ... in places where winning means survival and defeat means death ... and that man is John McCain."



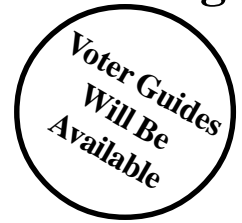
Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting



Saturday, October 11, 2008

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Leola Restaurant, 365 West Main St, Leola



**Speakers Include: Congressman Pitts - Washington-Election Update
Dale Murray, Jim Bednar - Home Rule for Lancaster County???**

Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-569-0148) by Wednesday, October 8, 2008. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

A Message from the Treasurer - Is Your Membership Current?

Please take a moment to make certain that your membership is current, by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your dues are up-to-date. The number "2008" should appear in the parenthesis on the label. If it does not, please fill out the form below and mail to:

Lancaster County ACTION, Office of the Treasurer, 1939 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

clip and send

I would like to begin/renew (\$20.00 per household) my membership in Lancaster County ACTION.

(Please make check payable to **Lancaster County ACTION**.)

I'd like to volunteer for the following ACTION Committee(s):

- Church Contact/Prayer Fund Raising Legislative Issues Newsletter School District Coordinator
- Education Growth/Membership Library Quarterly Breakfast Voter Guides

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Township: _____ Polling Place: _____

E-mail address: _____

CDs Available from 2008 LCA Banquet with Gary Bauer

Please send me 1 Banquet CD for \$10.00 each TOTAL \$ _____

Please send me a set of 3 Banquet CDs for \$20.00 per set TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to "Lancaster County ACTION" and mail to LCA Banquet CD, 310 Silverwood Drive, Lititz, PA 17543. (Corporate checks not permitted by law.) Call 717-569-0148 with any questions.

Home Rule in PA

Home rule, constitutionally, is about transferring authority from the state to the county.

A key question is to be answered by a government study commission:

“Does the county need a power, or powers, which are not already contained in the county code?”

Given the successful operation of our municipal government for hundreds of years, one certainly ought to ask:

“What’s broken in our county government that an election cannot correct?”

Some Positive Aspects of Proposed Home Rule Charter

- 5 commissioners
- Multi-year budgets
- Bolsters qualifications for certain offices

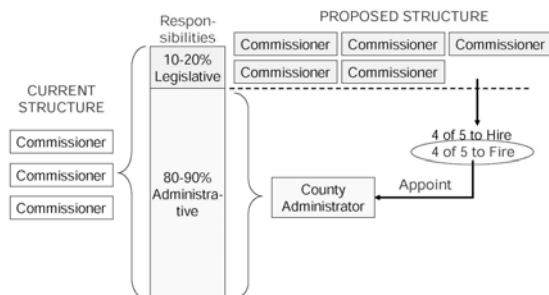
These aspects are potentially achievable under the CURRENT structure of county government.

“Separation of Powers” Problematic

- Once appointed, the Administrator is not beholden to a majority of commissioners, nor to the voters
- 80-90% of **power concentrated** in this **one unelected individual**
 - Cannot be fired by the voters at an election
 - Cannot be fired by a simple majority of the commissioners
- Board of Commissioners **bound** by a policy of **non-interference** with the chief administrator.
 - Reverses current structure
- 10-20% of responsibility spread to five **full-time** commissioners
- Controlling just **two of five** commissioners controls all of county government, thus Minority rule.

Separation of Powers is Problematic

- Claimed intent: Separate Legislative and Administrative “branches” of county government.



Higher Taxes Documented in Every Case

Only six counties in Pennsylvania have chosen to adopt home rule, And *each* of those six counties now has significantly higher taxes than Lancaster County. Presently, Lancaster County has the *lowest* per capita county government costs/ expenditures of any third-class county in this state. Of all eleven third-class counties in Pennsylvania, we now operate the cheapest, most efficient county government.

Bigger Government

Home rule will equal more bureaucracy with less voter control

Power Stripped from Your Vote

One unelected, unaccountable official will be granted the super-majority of county government decision-making power

Home Rule – It’s Not Worth the Gamble

Vote **NO** on the Home Rule Charter ballot question on Nov 4



Bonnie Stebbins

Christians take America back! by Bonnie Stebbins

It is time for America to revisit Patriotism 101 (to obey God's commandments)

So much is at stake in this election year. As we cast our vote, we must vote for people with integrity, character and a moral foundation. We have repeatedly accepted the filth the world has to offer while putting our principles on the back burner. We can no longer sit idly by, convincing ourselves that our vote does not count. The one thing that we have in common with the patriots who fought over two hundred years ago is the fact that we too are in a war in which the future of America hands in the balance. The future is our cause, and time is up. God's people must stand up and speak up. God responds to our choices. What we do here on earth with prayer and action determines what God can do for us in heaven.

God has given us the authority to make good choices for our land, and we have an obligation to make choices. The founding fathers risked their lives and sacred honor in order for us to have a voice; we have a morel duty to cry out. Do not think that hope is lost; God will hear the cry of His children. "If my people which are called by My name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." We must bear this responsibility and know that the future of America does not lie in the hands of the ungodly... it's in the hands of God's children. It is imperative that we always exercise our right to vote; we have everything to gain and so much to lose.

Are you ready to make a stand? Are you ready to take America back? We are living in times when action is required. God's promise is simple; if the church will humbly seek His face, He will revive our nation.

Citizens Against Government Waste call Congressman Pitts a Taxpayer Hero!

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW), a government watchdog group, released its 2007 Congressional ratings. Since 1991, CAGW has examined roll call votes to separate the taxpayer advocates in Congress from those who favor wasteful programs and pork-barrel spending. Congressman Pitts received a 94 percent score on the 100 votes they identified. This score earned him the title Taxpayer Hero. The entire House averaged 30 percent, a 1 point increase from 2006. House Republicans averaged 60 percent up 14 percentage points from their grade of 46 percent in 2006; House Democrats averaged 5 percent, down 4 percentage points from their 9 percent score in 2006. At a time of runaway spending, ballooning deficits, and a looming entitlement tsunami, we need many more leaders in Congress to stand up for the taxpayer and demand greater fiscal responsibility.

Speaker Pelosi rebuked over abortion comments

Last month, during an appearance on Meet the Press, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said this about her views on abortion and her Catholic faith: "As an ardent practicing Catholic, this is an issue that I have studied for a long time. And what I know is over the centuries, the doctors of the church have not been able to make that definition, and Senator - St. Augustine said at three months. We don't know." Church leaders were quick to respond to the Speaker's comments, correcting her for making false claims about Church doctrine. Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput and his Auxiliary Bishop James Conley wrote that Catholic teaching on the subject was unequivocal - abortion is gravely evil - and that "Catholics who make excuses for it ... fool only themselves." Some of her Catholic colleagues in the House wrote a letter that said, "To reduce the scandal and consternation caused amongst the faithful by your remarks, we necessarily write you to correct the public record and affirm the Church's actual and historical teaching that defends the sanctity of human life." The letter, which quoted the Catholic doctrine in making their case, was signed by 19 House Republicans including Minority leader John Boehner and Republican Policy Committee Chairman Thaddeus McCotter.

George Washington's Prayer for America

“Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

