

Monroe County Democratic Party

Member Update

Friday, June 23, 2006

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Come on down!

Don't forget about our annual **Fourth of July** festivities! The MCDP and our candidates will have many floats, cars and volunteers in the July 4th parade in downtown Bloomington. After the parade (which begins at 3 p.m.), we'll have our annual picnic at Lloyd Olcott Park starting at 6 p.m.!

General Election Calendar

Monday, Oct. 9

- Absentee voting in the Clerk's Office opens

Tuesday, Oct. 10

- Voter registration ends

Monday, Oct. 30

- Deadline, by midnight, for the Clerk's Office to receive absentee ballot applications

Monday, Nov. 6

- Deadline, by NOON, for absentee voting in the Clerk's Office

Tuesday, Nov. 7

- General Election Day!
Polls are open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.!

Things You Should Know...in Brief

Two candidates file for Party Secretary (election at June 25 caucus)

We are pleased that two candidates have filed for MCDP Secretary, Todd Cohee and Rick Dietz. Following are short statements from both candidates (in alphabetical order) regarding their desire to serve as Party Secretary:

Todd Cohee (e-mail: tac5338@aol.com)

I am filing for the recently opened position of Party Secretary. I am sorry to see Matt leaving us, but I am sure he will be of great value to the Party in his next community. Throughout the years, the Party has accomplished great things and I believe that the future is even brighter. As part of the Larry Smith campaign, I feel that I demonstrated the technical knowledge as well as the drive and determination needed to make a true difference. I would now like to use these skills, motivation and dedication to serve the Party as a whole. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rick Dietz (e-mail: rick@oacea.com)

I want to serve you, our party and -- through it -- our community as the Secretary of the Monroe County Democratic Party. I'm the City of Bloomington's IT Director and I've been involved with the MCDP since 2000. I got started rebuilding the MCDP website. I've served on the party's GOTV, Technology and Communications committees and the campaigns of Bill Abbott, Susan Sandberg, Mark Kruzan, Steve Galvin, Bob Miller, and more in smaller roles. I believe my years of community and party service, practical campaign experience, dedication and energy make me a strong candidate for Secretary. I'd love to have your support at the Caucus on Sunday!

Thanks, Matt!

As you may well know by now, MCDP Secretary Matt Weber will be leaving Indiana and moving to California with his new bride (as of June 24th!). We want to officially thank Matt for his long and dedicated service to the Party. Matt may be moving to a more "blue" state, but we know what he learned here in Monroe County will be carried with him for a long time. Thanks again, Matt, and congratulations!

Look at what our Democrat elected officials are doing!

As budget hearings get underway at the city and county, our Democrat members of the County Council are leading the way for change by proposing changes to the way the county views economic development incentives, specifically property tax abatement. Regardless of "what side of the fence" you are on regarding the issue of tax abatement, our Democrats, especially Michael Woods, should be applauded for proposing a plan to improve the dialogue and accountability for how economic incentives are awarded -- particularly during a budget crunch.

On Thursday, the *Herald-Times* featured an article about Woods' proposal to "standardize decisions" regarding such incentives by setting formulas for calculating tax abatements. The proposal is also setting guidelines for how long abatements should be granted -- anywhere from one to 10 years. For more on this, visit the *Herald-Times* website (if you have an online subscription) by following this link: http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/stories/2006/06/22/news.0622-HT-A3_DEH55948.sto

Related news links from around the state (courtesy of the State Party)...

From Ft. Wayne: Officials fear property tax cap to drain revenue

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/news/14885316.htm>

From Indianapolis: Daniels trades tax credits for jobs

Company gets credits for investing in facility, adding 70 workers

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060623/BUSINESS/606230467/1003>