

DAPAC DISPATCH

Democratic Advancement Political Action Committee

Grassroots Activism for Progressive Democrats
15600 NE 8th St, B1-931
Bellevue, WA 98008

Web: dapac.org

July, 2014
Phone: 206-382-0222
Fax: 206-787-9045

Embassy in Moscow. Wes is running to bring new energy, new ideas, new leadership to Congress.

www.wesneuman.com

New Candidates

Jim Bryan, Florida 01

Jim is a former Army paratrooper who did three combat tours in Vietnam, retiring in 1985 at the rank of First Sergeant. He then started a successful trucking company, and sold the company after 10 years. He is running to fight for a return to our historic principles and freedoms.

jimbryanforcongress.org

Wendy Davis, Texas Governor

Wendy is well-known for her eleven-hour-long filibuster in the Texas State Senate to block an assault on women's right right to choose. She is running for governor to ensure that hard work and determination are rewarded and everybody has the chance to succeed.

www.wendydavistexas.com

Sandra Fluke - California State Senate 26

Sandra is best known for her advocacy for comprehensive insurance coverage for reproductive health, which led to scurrilous attacks from Rush Limbaugh. She is running for state senate to fight for affordable health care, access to quality education, LGBTQ rights and economic justice.

www.standwithsandra.org

Wes Neuman, Florida 07

Wes has domestic and international experience in both the private and public sectors - notably, at the White House, the State Department, the Navy, and the US

Andy Ostrowski, Pennsylvania 11

Andrew is a former civil rights lawyer, with 20 years experience defending the civil rights of everyday Americans. He believes in equal treatment for all and hopes to bring back integrity to government.

ostrowskiforcongress.com

Recent Primary/Convention Results

We have had several primaries (and one convention, in Virginia) recently where DAPAC-endorsed candidates were running. Here is rundown of the results.

Pennsylvania - May 20, 2014

Allyson Schwartz, Governor - lost
Shaughnessy Naughton, Congressional District 8 - lost
Daylin Leach, Congressional District 13 - lost
Josh Maxwell, State House District 74 - won

California - June 3, 2014

Lee Rogers, Congressional District 25 - lost
Eloise Gomez-Reyes, Congressional District 31 - lost
Kerri Condley, Congressional District 42 - lost

Iowa - June 3, 2014

Bruce Braley, Senate - won

Virginia - May 31, 2014

Lawrence Gaughan, Congressional District 5 - won

And here are some elections coming up:

Tennessee - August 7, 2014

Mary Headrick, Congressional District 3

Dan Cramer, Congressional District 7

Wisconsin - August 12, 2014

Rob Zerban, Congressional District 1

Gwen Moore, Congressional District 4

Florida - August 26, 2014

Alan Grayson, Congressional District 8

Dave Koller, Congressional District 11

Alan Cohn, Congressional District 15

April Freeman, Congressional District 19

Endorsing Tom Wolf

In the primary election held in Pennsylvania last month, we supported Allyson Schwartz for Governor. She has had a long record of supporting progressive causes, as founder and head of a women's health clinic, as a state legislator, and as a member of Congress. However, while running for governor this year, she unfortunately came up short seeking the Democratic nomination. She has had a great record and we hope her career in public service continues.

But while our first choice did not win the primary, the winner, businessman Tom Wolf, is no disappointment. Born in York, Pennsylvania, he received a BA from Dartmouth College, an MA from the University of London and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his time as a student, he spent two years in the Peace Corps in India. He worked as a forklift operator for his family business, the Wolf

Organization, which produces kitchen cabinets. He later purchased the business. Some years later, he sold the business and was appointed Secretary of Revenue by Governor Ed Rendell. After resigning that position, he repurchased the ailing Wolf Organization, and revived it.

Last year he decided to run for governor. His "Fresh Start" plan for Pennsylvania includes many progressive ideas, such as a progressive state income tax, a regional smart growth initiative, public financing for campaigns, and expanded access to voting, including vote-by-mail, early voting, and same-day voter registration. He supports a woman's right to choose abortion, same-sex marriage, an end to unfettered hydraulic fracturing, and a moratorium on the death penalty.

The incumbent, Tom Corbett, is quite a piece of work. As Pennsylvania Attorney General, he "slow-walked" the prosecution of Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky for child sexual abuse, while he approved a \$3 million state grant to a Sandusky-operated charity that served as a repository for his victims. As governor, he supported legislation requiring women considering abortion to receive an ultrasound and have their face turned toward the video screen while a doctor recorded their eye movement. After a member of his staff compared gay couples to 12-year-old child couples, he jokingly called that comparison "inappropriate", saying that a relationship between a brother and sister was a better analogy.

Meanwhile, he has cut state education by billions of dollars, laying off tens of thousands of teachers, cutting teacher salaries, eliminating extra curricular programs, closing schools, and instituting scam "cyber charter schools" that are siphoning off money from public schools while failing to educate children. He has allowed unfettered mining of natural gas using hydraulic fracturing, overriding local zoning laws, and gagging doctors that treat patients harmed by the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing. He recently even issued orders allowing mining in state parks.

Ending the reign of Tom Corbett is a key part of our Pennsylvania plan and Tom Wolf is just the man to do it. We enthusiastically support Tom Wolf for Governor of Pennsylvania.

A Fascist Tide in Greece

Since the start of the Great Recession, both the United States and Europe have adopted steep cuts in public spending. Both are following the philosophy of "expansionary austerity". This philosophy is perhaps best described as the belief that laying off teachers and police, reducing food aid to the hungry, and evicting the unemployed from their homes will, somehow, result in a growing economy.

This has so far resulted in a very long recovery from the effects of the recession in the United States. But in Europe, where leaders have been much more enthusiastic about inflicting pain and suffering, there has been an economic catastrophe. It is quickly turning into a political catastrophe as well. Extremist far-right parties in many countries are gaining levels of support that have not been seen since the 1930s. One party in Greece is particularly worrisome.

The Great Recession has been devastating to Greece. Greek GDP has contracted by 18.6%. The unemployment rate peaked last year at 28%, and is now at 27%. Last year, Greece became the first developed country to be reclassified as a developing country by Standard and Poor.

This economic distress has led to a collapse of the two party system in Greece, creating an opening for the violent Golden Dawn Party. As late as 2009, the two major parties in Greece, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement and New Democracy, together received 77.4% of the vote. In the most recent election, in June 2012, they received 41.9%. Golden Dawn, which did not participate in the 2009 election, received 6.9% in June 2012. In the European Parliament election just held in May, Golden Dawn received 9.4%.

Golden Dawn, which ran in 2012 elections under the slogan "So we can rid this land of filth", is openly racist, and favors both an end to immigration, and the deportation of all existing immigrants. Party Secretary General Nikolaos Michaloliakos claims the Greek political system is a "pseudo-democracy", and the party asks its member to reject "the dictatorship of parliamentarism". Golden Dawn accuses Jews of seeking to eliminate the Greek nation through "globalization and cosmopolitanism".

Members of the party have engaged in violent attacks on immigrants, racial minorities, gays, and political opponents. Antonios Androutsopoulos, a prominent member of Golden Dawn, was in 2006 convicted of attempted murder of three left-wing students. In 2012, Golden Dawn member of parliament Elias Kasidiaris assaulted two other members of parliament on live

television. Also in 2012, three other members of parliament, George Germenis, Elias Panagiotaros and Constantinos Barbarousis, led party members in a vigilante attack on immigrant street merchants. George Roupakia, who worked at the Golden Dawn party offices, stabbed to death antifascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas.

These and many other acts of violence have encountered problems in arresting and prosecuting the perpetrators, because Golden Dawn apparently enjoys significant support among the police and the military. As noted above, Golden Dawn's leader shows open disdain for Greece's existing democratic system. The party claims to admire General Ioannis Metaxas, a dictator who seized power in a coup on the eve of World War II. If the situation in Greece deteriorates further, it is not hard to imagine circumstances leading to another coup.

The lesson here is obvious. A weak economy can lead desperate people to supporting extremism, and the breakdown of the democratic system. Our economy is not doing nearly as poorly as Greece. This is because President Obama and the Democratic Congress in 2009 passed an economic stimulus plan. The stimulus should have been much, much larger -- cuts in state and local public spending have overwhelmed the federal stimulus -- but things could have gone much worse if we did nothing.

What DAPAC Does

DAPAC focuses on every facet of electoral politics. We are involved in every aspect of the campaign, with special attention on building a strong grassroots base, and crafting a compelling progressive message. We don't believe in "one-size-fits-all" solutions. We match our advice and guidance to the candidate's district, not the other way around. It all comes down to getting out the vote, and that's where experience matters most.

We target the most promising Congressional districts in the nation, using the most up-to-date electoral, demographic and census data available.

We recruit, train and advise candidates, covering all campaign techniques from fund raising and messaging, to field operations.

We provide contact information on potential donors to our endorsed candidates to help them fund their campaigns.

We provide hands on guidance, helping candidates to craft their message and to hire the most talented staffers.

We don't compromise on our values, and neither will our candidates. If these are your values, please make a donation to DAPAC today.

Who DAPAC Supports:

DAPAC supports progressive Democratic Congressional candidates. That's our mission. That's our passion. We interview dozens of candidates from around the country and talk to them not only about what kind of race they are going to run, but what kind of policies they favor. We screen every candidate to see where they stand on the issues that matter most. **We only endorse progressive candidates.** When you give to DAPAC you know that these are the kinds of men and women you are helping to elect to Congress.

All our candidates:

- are 100% Pro-Choice.
- support stronger GBLT rights.
- support working family and union rights.
- support honest and Democratic markets and businesses.
- support publicly funded universal health care.
- support strong environmental protection.
- protecting Social Security and Medicare.
- oppose the Patriot Act.
- oppose Iraq and Afghanistan wars.
- oppose the Death Penalty.

DAPAC is working to rebuild the Democratic Party from the ground up, to support strong candidates who will give voice to the issues that matter most.

Paid for and authorized by the Democratic Advancement PAC (DAPAC). Contributions will be used in connection with federal elections and they are subject to the limits and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal law requires us to report the name, address, occupation and employer for each individual whose contribution aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate and non-citizen contributions are prohibited. Contributions are not tax deductible.