

DAPAC DISPATCH

Democrats Advancing Progressive Action in Congress

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

Volume I: Issue 1

October, 2009 Newsletter

Phone: 206-382-0222

Join the Fight to Elect Progressive Democrats!

NO MORE BLUE DOG DEMOCRATS

See our Newly Endorsed Candidates for 2010!

The latest Gallup poll demonstrates that Republicans could take over Congress in 2010! We bonifide progressive Democrats need to have serious candidates running effective campaigns now! Voters are throwing out incumbents due to mounting job losses and the insecurity generated by feelings that they are to be next. This means we have the opportunity to thros out 56 Republicans in Congress. Let's not waste more time and money trying to defend Blue Dog Democrats who will go down. Please donate now to help us elect true progressive Democratic candidates to Congress.

NEW NAME REFLECTS GOALS

Our new name, **Democrats Advancing Progressive Action in Congress**, indicates what we want to accomplish by helping to elect progressive candidates to Congress. We hope you agree!

* * * * *

Announcement from Tom Cramer: New DAPAC Executive Director - Barbara Mander Cramer

I am pleased to announce that my wife, Barbara Mander Cramer, will head DAPAC while I run for Congress. I will help with communications and fund raising but she will be in charge. I had a difficult time convincing her to take over at first but she is now enthusiastically leading the way forward.

Barbara has a long background working for public health, women's rights and progressive politics. She began her work in public health in HIV/AIDS education and test counseling. Along with her counseling tasks in the clinic and jail, she developed contacts with community groups to develop educational programs to ethnic communities and youth groups.

Never short on willingness to take on challenges, she undertook volunteer training for sexual assault counseling and advocacy for survivors, worked on 24 hour call for response to crisis line calls, and hospital emergency rooms. She also led a county-wide "Take Back the Night" program which

forcefully advocated for women's safety issues to prevent rape and abuse. She also served many years in administrative work in public health, strongly advocating for treatment for under served populations. Finally, she risked her career to fight radical conservatives while providing pregnancy prevention services and family planning options for poor women.

Barbara is a strong supporter of progressive politics and will work to keep DAPAC focused on its goal to elect more progressive Democrats to the U.S. Congress.

Barbara's educational background includes a B.A. From Pitzer College in Claremont California, a Master of Public Health from Northern Illinois University and graduate coursework in clinical Psychology. In her program at Northern she helped plan and develop a public health clinic that provided services to a poor rural area of Haiti.

* * * * *

Join the Fight to Elect Progressive Democrats!

We need your help now. We have many serious progressive Democratic candidates in our pipeline. However, they have serious challenges from super-rich conservatives masquerading as progressive Democrats who actually identify with the Blue Dog movement. The challenge we have is to help authentic Democrats who are progressive get elected to Congress. Blue Dog Democrats are just holding up progressive legislation as we have seen in the health care public option, in environmental legislation, in women's right to choose laws, in the

closure of Guantanamo prison and in stopping torture. We have the opportunity to defeat many Republicans and get in progressive Democrats but super-wealthy conservative Blue Dog Democrats are ruining our changes. Please help us get in progressive Democrats and help stop conservatives from taking over the Democratic Party.

What is a Blue Dog Democrat?

--A fiscal conservative who believes in increased war (defense) spending and who votes for funding the war in Iraq and Afghanistan along with expansion into Pakistan.

--a fiscal conservative who supports the Bush tax cuts for the super-rich.

--a fiscal conservative who takes money from the health care industry, especially insurance companies.

--votes against a real public option for health care policy.

--wishy-washy on choice and goes along with the Hyde Amendment which does not allow women on government health care to have the choice of abortion, no matter what the consequences are. This includes over 50% of women of child-bearing age in the United States.

--weak on environmental legislation.

--Does not vote to lower auto emissions and bringing up mileage standards.

--favors the oil economy and drilling in ANWAR.

--does not support the US signing agreements on global warming.

--Does not support gay and lesbian rights; believes gay marriage rights are way too extreme.

--is against large middle class tax cuts and direct job creation as too radical and not fiscally conservative.

--Does not want to shut down Guantanamo Bay Prison.

--Does not support most labor legislation.

--Favors "trickle-down" economics even after it led us to this current "great recession".

--Favors an unfair death penalty that is enforced against minorities and middle class people who cannot afford the millions of dollars it costs to launch an adequate defense.

* * * * *

Why does the U.S. have a disjointed recovery? What can we do to turn it around?

Today middle-class people pay twice as much per dollar of income than the super wealthy pay. Radical conservatives drove tax policy in the country for the last thirty years. The philosophy of trickle down economics led to taxes that taxed the middle-class more through regressive local taxes and reserves most tax cuts and avoidance rules for those who can afford expensive professionals.

The IRS reported in February, 2009, that the 400 richest taxpayers paid less than 18% in total taxes. At the same time the average taxpayer paid 32%. You might say it doesn't sound correct. Well, radical conservatives leading tax policy in the country let the burden shift to state, local and other taxes that tax the middle-class more per dollar of income. For example, if I make a billion dollars a year, I may buy a \$50 million dollar home. If my state and locality charges 1% a year I would pay \$500,000 in property taxes or .05% of my income per year. If I am a middle class family earning \$100,000 per year I may buy a \$400,000 house with a mortgage and 1% of that is \$4000 per year or 4% of my income. The middle-class individual pays 80 times the rate on his income that the billionaire is paying. Most state, local and non-federal taxes follow this pattern. The middle-class working family gets penalized for working and not having any power or representation.

Now that these radical conservatives brought down the economy and we have a job loss recovery which will probably go on until we change policy, what do we do?

First of all, what are the repercussions for government elections? Right now, a recent poll indicates that 85% of voters do not believe the economy is in recovery. This is an indication of a disjointed recovery when only 15% of people feel the economy is recovering. These voters are ready to throw out any incumbents. This means that

Democrats can lose over 36 seats in the House. Over 20 Blue Dog Democrats will go down. We can pick up as many as 56 Republican seats if we can find progressive Democrats willing to run on progressive economics. Those 85% of voters are people that have lost their jobs, have had wages or income cut, or feel insecure about their employment while their mortgage payment or credit card interest payments are going up.

Here is what I mean by a progressive economy. We must cut the total tax rate on working Americans to what the 400 richest pay in taxes, namely 18%. We are a consumer based economy right now, whether we like it or not. If people in the middle class had 14% more income to spend on mortgage payments to bring down the foreclosure rate, more to spend on houses, car payments, home appliances, etc., all segments of the economy would really recover.

Second, we need to create jobs directly now. We cannot continue to give out government funding to companies and hope these companies hire American workers when these companies do business globally. What DAPAC proposes is that an employer develop a new job and the government pays the worker half the salary for the first year. We need jobs for the American worker. Money has to go directly to the individual now; no more trickle down policies with the hope that maybe a job is created.

As far as the deficit is concerned, right now we have several million people receiving unemployment for what is approaching two years, not doing any productive work while losing their skills and attachment to the workplace. It would be cheaper to pay 50% of their salary for doing productive work now.

This is a "bottom-up" approach to rebuilding the economy and the middle class. We need to act now to avoid a second great depression and the accompanying increased governmental crises.

* * * * *

Andrea Miller, VA 04

Andrea will be the first African-American woman elected to Federal office in Virginia's history and she is running in a district with a large African-American population. She is fighting a vigorous campaign against the right-wing Republican incumbent. She supports DAPAC's progressive

values such as universal health care, a woman's right to choose, and ending the Iraq war and the Patriot Act/ Andrea also supports strong environmental protections and is opposed to drilling in ANWR, off the east coast and supports limiting emissions. She further believes the funds saved from ending the Iraq war would go far in funding health care and education.

Andrea grew up in Chicago and attended Northwestern University where she majored in early childhood education. She has taught at the elementary school and college level and understands the needs educators face every day. Andrea also worked for the United Farmworkers as a community activist and organizer, as the Regional Coordinator for MoveOn.org and as the Virginia Coordinator for the Kucinich presidential campaign. She has lengthy business experience in the private sector and currently works as a consultant to government agencies on computer and homeland security.

This is a very tough district. However, Virginia has been badly hit by the Republican economic policies and the state is currently facing a deep recession.

Andrea is the first serious Democrat running against the Republican incumbent and she desperately needs your support to run an aggressive campaign to have these voters identify her as their representative who will lead them out of this economic quagmire. DAPAC recognized the opportunity and importance this race holds for developing a progressive Congress and we are pledging to aggressively find funds for Andrea to run a successful race for this seat. Please support our efforts by making a contribution to DAPAC at www.dapac.org and Andrea's campaign at <http://andreamiller.us/>

During the last campaign, Andrea survived attacks from Blue Dog Democrats in her district who were handing out sample ballots that did not include her as a Democratic candidate even though she had picked up an increased Democratic vote.

* * * * *

Tom Cramer, WA 08

Tom Cramer is a man with a vision of a better America . . . a PROGRESSIVE America.

For the last eight years Tom has been the President of DAPAC and working to build a progressive Congress by supporting candidates for

Congress. He believes that by supporting progressive Democrats, we can fight back the tide of unilateralism, religious fundamentalism and domestic stagnation that is gripping our country. Further, he has encouraged these progressive candidates to build grassroots campaigns and to avoid the "top-down" philosophy.

Tom's first political involvement was in the National People's Campaign that opposed the Gingrich-sponsored Contract on America. He became a campaign manager and precinct committeeman in the Chicago area. Tom then ran for Congress against Henry Hyde.

Tom's campaign platform is based on DAPAC's core values, economic support for middle-class workers, bottom-up job creation, an end to the Iraq war, strong environmental regulations, maintaining women's right to choose, universal single payer health insurance, and equal rights for lesbians, gays and transgendered people. These are standards that must be supported at the national level, not just by individual states.

* * * * *

The Battle Continues

We have an elected Democratic majority in Congress today. So why are we having such difficulty passing true health care reform? Because the Democratic Party is not represented by elected

officials who believe in progressive solutions to our current problems. Many of them call themselves Democrats, but they are Democrats in name only.

We are presented with the difficulty of a Democratic Congress not passing needed legislation in the next year and gaining a reputation as a Party that cannot govern . . . and the Republicans will use this against us. This situation presents a great risk that we will lose these seats to Republicans in the 2010 election. I don't believe you want these radical-right Republicans to be successful.

We must continue to support progressive candidates to combat this risk. We will lose both Democratic seats and Republican seats in the next election. The Republican's are doing all they can to discredit Democratic efforts at reform in health care and economic recovery for working Americans. Please continue to help DAPAC help these committed progressives to begin their campaigns for Congress. You can donate on-line at DAPAC.org by mailing in your donation with the enclosed envelope today. Thank you.

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 is in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate and non-citizen contributions are prohibited. Contributions are not tax deductible.