



MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

Oct - Nov, 2008

VOTE

NOVEMBER 4, 2008

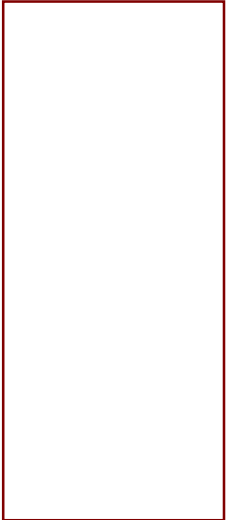
Propositions

01A	High-Speed Passenger Train	YES
02	Treatment of Farm Animals	YES
03	Children’s Hospital Bond Act.	YES
04	Parental Notification	NO
05	Nonviolent Offenders Rehabilitation	YES
06	Criminal Penalties and Laws	NO
07	Renewable Energy	NO
08	Limit on Marriage	NO
09	Criminal Justice System, Victims’ Rights	NO
10	Alternative Fuel Vehicles	NEUTRAL
11	Redistricting	NO
12	Veterans’ Bond Act	YES

**The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644**

YosemiteDems.net

VOTE
BARACK OBAMA
PRESIDENT
TAYLOR WHITE
AD 25



The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS
October 2008

- Oct 4: Oakhurst Club Meeting
- Oct 11: Mariposa Club Meeting
- Oct 17: Peace Yosemite Vigil**
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- Oct 24: Democratic Forum**
(page 18)
- Oct 31: Peace Yosemite Vigil**
(page 6)

November 2008

- Nov 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting
- Nov 8: Mariposa Cajun Feast**
(page 3)

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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

YosemiteDems.net



THE
Yosemite
Jazz Band

at the

**Cajun Feast &
Costume Ball**

**Live Music & Delicious Food
Your Creative and
Festive Costumes**

Saturday November 8th

6:00 PM

**Bootjack Stompers Hall, Mariposa
Adults \$20, Children \$10**

For Tickets call (209) 966-3367

**Sponsored by the Mariposa Democratic Club and
Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee**

Vote Against Proposition 8

By Laura Lee

The California State Democratic Party and the Mariposa Democratic Club are among the many groups opposing Proposition 8. On June 16, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that the state could no longer exclude same-sex couples from marriage; and this came from a conservative court. Proposition 8, if it passes, will overturn that decision.

In 1969 the U. S. Supreme Court struck down laws prohibiting interracial marriage. Though these cases are not the same, the same reasons are used against same-gender marriage: that it's a sin, harmful to children, or will destroy traditional marriage. The California court ruled generally that sexual orientation is not a legitimate reason to treat gay people differently. The ACLU points out "that the court also holds that even though history is important in deciding what a fundamental constitutional right is, courts should not respect traditions on who gets to exercise the right." This is a civil rights issue dealing with a legitimate minority which deserves to have the same rights as all other citizens of this country.

Many of us have representatives of this group in our extended families and friendships. Vote No on Proposition 8, an amendment to restrict a civil right to some of California's citizens.

VOTE **NO** on Proposition 8.



CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Recommendations for the November, 2008 Propositions

Nr.	Proposition Title	Recommendation
01A	Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond. Act for the 21 st Century	YES
02	Treatment of Farm Animals	YES
03	Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program	YES
04	Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy	NO
05	Nonviolent Offenders Sentencing, Parole, and Rehabilitation	YES
06	Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety Funding	NO
07	Renewable Energy	NO
08	Limit on Marriage	NO
09	Criminal Justice System, Victims' Rights	NO
10	Bonds, Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy	NEUTRAL
11	Redistricting	NO
12	Veterans' Bond Act	YES

We've Been Busy!

By Lynn Jacobsson

Hello everyone:

A big note of appreciation to all of the **50 people** who made the September 19th Peace Yosemite Rally in Oakhurst such a resounding success!

Many of you came from miles (and miles) away to make a statement about the need for the U.S. to end all of the occupations, surges, and military incursions--in Iraq, Afghanistan, and wherever else this Administration has their sights set upon invading!

It seems that we have oodles of \$ for war and corporate bailouts, but nothing for health care, education, the environment, and jobs.

Thank you for taking the time to make a statement about misguided U.S. policies. We will continue to try to change U.S. priorities away from war on **Friday, October 17, 2008, same time, 5:30PM to 6:00PM, same place: Junction of Hwy. 41 & 49, between the Old Mexico Taqueria Mexican Restaurant and Yosemite Brokerage, in Oakhurst.**

Contact Lynn Jacobsson at (559) 658-5227 for more information .

P.S. A special thank you to George "Elfie" Ballis for videotaping the event and to Alan Cheah for the still photos.



We've Been Busy! (continued)



Peace Yosemite, September 19



Peace Yosemite, September 19

Facts About Sarah Palin

By Edith Ankersmit Kemp

I am aware of the enthusiasm expressed by many Mariposians for the vice presidential candidate of the Republican Party, Sarah Palin. She certainly is a good speaker, it is exciting to have a woman candidate for the second highest office in the land, and no doubt she appeals to the conservative and religious sentiments of a good many of our town's residents. I would like to point out a number of facts of her past record that give me great concern. I am primarily quoting from recent issues of two reputable news magazines, *Time*, September 15th, and *U. S. News and World Report*, September 15th.

Let me start with "Trooper Gate", reported by both magazines. As Governor, Palin stands accused of firing Walt Monegan, Alaska's public safety commissioner, after he refused to dismiss Mike Wooten, as state trooper who is in a messy custody battle with Palin's younger sister. To quote *Time*, "Palin's staff and her husband assembled a dossier of misbehavior by Wooten, which they tried to feed to his bosses. One of the charges: he shot a moose without a permit a few years back." *Time* learned from some residents of Palin's town that the Palins knew about this incident and in fact received some of the meat. To me this use of state staff and time, plus the power of the governor, to address family issues is both unethical and possibly illegal. According to *U. S. News and World Report*, a state legislative panel is investigating the case.

According to *Time*, as mayor, Palin wanted to fire the town librarian for refusing to ban books. Some voters thought some books had inappropriate language in them. I received an email from a resident of her town who with 100 others filed a petition against the firing of the librarian, thus preventing it. What does this say about Palin's respect for freedom of information and speech?

Facts About Sarah Palin (continued)

According to *Time*, "Palin's wasn't always a straight path to reformer-in-chief. McCain lauds her opposition to pork, but she hired a lobbying firm to lure millions in federal funding to Wasilla while she was mayor, and she served as a major fund raiser for Ted Stevens, the patron saint of the "bridge to nowhere" (which she supported before she didn't support it).

I have also received information from several sources that Palin has actively sought the support of the fringe Alaska Independence Party. Her husband is a member of this party. Six months ago, Palin told members of the group (who advocate for a vote on secession from the union) to "keep up the good work" and "wished the party luck on what she called its 'inspiring convention.'"

Again, I quote from *Time*: "Her daughter's pregnancy is beyond her control, but the fact that she did not inform McCain's team about it until a day before he offered her the job, has chagrined even her Republican backers. Her story....may have been rushed into circulation before it had been fully scoured for weak spots."

I hope that this information will be helpful to voters as they decide their vote this fall.



Why Are You A Democrat?

By Ellie Schermerhorn

You never know when someone will pop the question.

Years before, Jery Lacayo, someone I refer to as the “birth mother” of the Oakhurst Democratic Club, had come to one of our organizing meetings held in the local library. We numbered about ten people then, and were in the early stages of trying to decide who we were and who we wanted to be as the first local group willing to come out of the closet and declare our liberal leanings. As a life-long Democratic organizer with deep knowledge of politics, Jery was there to offer advice and support. I didn’t know her, but she got my attention by making what I found to be a profound statement: “You need to know why you’re a Democrat.”

I’ve been thinking about that ever since.

The day it happened to me, my only intent was to purchase an ointment for aches and pains suggested by my doctor. He even told me where to get it, at a local mountain establishment.

As I pulled up to the business, I saw the “Ron Paul for President” sign, and remembered seeing it before. I mused that the person who owned the store must be a real Ron Paul fan to still sport the sign long after Paul dropped out of the race.

The person who helped me was someone my mother would refer to as “a nice young man” - pleasant, well-spoken, and eager to please. I guessed he was around 18 years old. Making polite conversation as he rang up my purchase, he asked me how my day was going, and I told him the truth. I was coming from the Coarsegold Peddlers Market where the weather had rained out our Club’s efforts to register voters.

“Who do you want for President?” His tone was affable and sincere, not one looking for a fight.

Why Are You A Democrat? (continued)

I explained that we were Democrats and so we’d like to see Clinton or Obama take the office.

And then he did it.

“Why are you a Democrat?”

Oh, no Here it was. If not the final exam, at least the mid-term. I felt my heart rate pick up a bit, and for the first time, I noticed the “Ron Paul for President” sign on the wall behind the cash register. The young person before me was likely the son of the shop owner, and mom or dad had carefully cultivated a Libertarian. This was not a blank slate.

I reached in my mental “Democratic bag” to see what I could find. I talked about universal health care, support for Social Security and Medicare, the war in Iraq, the important Supreme Court appointments which would likely take place over the next 8 years, and that it was important for these judges to support the common person against big corporate interests.

“You like government?”, he asked, and I thought, yep, a Libertarian.

Yes, I liked government, not everything they did, but government could help a lot of people that needed to be helped.

“And you’d trade freedom for security?”. Ah, I thought, this guy hasn’t had a few passing conversations with his parents about politics; he’s been dyed in the wool!

I said a question that always arose was where my freedom ended and his began. Laws were important to keep either one of us from trampling on the freedom of the other. Our nation’s having a healthy economy depended on it, too.

Why Are You A Democrat? (continued)

I asked him if he was old enough to vote. Would he like a voter registration card?

“I’m not going to vote”.

Why, I asked?

He’d just decided not to.

I’m always disappointed when I hear this, so pointing to myself, I asked, “You’re going to let me decide who your President is? Because I don’t want to. I want YOU to decide who your President will be.”

I wasn’t sure what he thought of that question, but hoped I’d planted a seed.

I remembered my husband waiting in the car, and excused myself. As I said good-bye and started to walk away, I found myself turning back to him. I thanked him sincerely for asking me the questions, and for helping me to be a better Democrat.



Thanks to all who helped!

The Victory Committee wants to send out a resounding THANK YOU ! and three cheers! And HUZZAH! to all of you who worked with our committee. The names are too numerous to mention – but you know who you are. You gave money, you did phone banking, you did the mailing, you gave us encouragement and good advice. And a heck of a lot of you did double duty on the Fair Float and the Fair Booth, which helped out the club AND the committee.

Thank you all of you! Mountain Democrats are the best!

It’s too early to know the results of the election – but can Mariposa Democrats make a difference?

YES YOU CAN!

--- Victory Committee Members

EDITOR’S NOTE

All “Mountain Democrat” newsletters since April 2005 can be seen on the YosemiteDems.net web page at:

<http://yosemitedems.net/NwsLtrPage.html>

Beginning with this issue (October – November 2008) all pictures in the on-line version of the newsletter are in full color, which I hope will add greatly to your enjoyment of the newsletters.

Candidate Positions Don't Tell the Tale

By Ellie Schermerhorn

I recently received a “distress call” from a member needing ammunition to respond to an e-mail making its way across the internet that purported to compare McCain’s stands on issues with Obama’s. It was, of course, a misrepresentation of Obama’s positions, and I provided the member with a non-partisan analysis of both candidates on various issues. I sent that information to her along with the following thoughts:

Dear Joyce,

I’ve enclosed both a non-partisan analysis of key issues, and one club member’s reaction to the same e-mail that your friend received.

What doing this research brings home to me, once again, is that just reading about the candidate’s positions on the issues is only marginally useful. The candidate is only one person. What stands behind them are literally thousands of people with a political ideology that binds them together, and for lack of a better phrase, I’ll call this group “the machine”. It’s “the machine” which will be running the country, and/or the president. It will staff every major department. It will determine who gets nominated to and serves a life tenure on the Supreme Court. It will decide if energy policy is driven by drilling for a finite resource, or developing alternative energy solutions. It will see what gets done and what doesn’t get done, from setting the minimum wage, to basic science research, to birth control education. It will determine what wars we enter and avoid, how they are fought, and who pays for them.

My advice to a person when contemplating a decision like this is to stand back and reflect upon the big picture, and consider, as the saying goes, “The past is prologue.” If your friend has been happy with the people who have been in George Bush’s administration

Candidate Positions Don't Tell the Tale (Continued)

(Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rove, Tom Delay, assorted neo-conservatives, etc) and the fruits of their labors (Afghanistan, Iraq, Abu Ghraib, proposed significant changes to Social Security so that it’s no longer a guaranteed benefit, tax cuts skewed toward the wealthy, Enron, WorldCom, wire taps, no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, emergency response to Katrina, budget deficit), she should vote for John McCain.

If she’s not happy, I suggest she strongly consider supporting an alternative to this regime, one that I feel is more aligned with the interests of the *common* good, and with whom the country will be better off over the next 4 – 8 years. That alternative is Obama/Biden.



Our super float puller, David Raboy, and the vegi-truck

Election Year Happenings



Scott Hill and Susan Rowe, Madera County Fair Booth

Election Year Happenings



Happy Participants in the Mariposa Parade, August 30th



Kathy Lander, Taylor White, Jim Landis Mariposa Parade



Peace Yosemite Demonstration, Oakhurst, September 19th

The Oakhurst Democratic Forum

presents



FINANCIAL MELTDOWN

Media Presentation:

How We Got Here

and

Where We Go Next

Friday, October 24th, 2008

7PM - 9PM

Oakhurst Library Reading Room

Discussants Sandy Stairs and Alan Cheah

Refreshments served

Event is free and open to the public

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Mariposa lifetime membership is \$100)

Today's Date: _____

Club: Coarsegold___ Mariposa___ or Oakhurst___

New Member: _____ or Renewal: _____

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State:___ ZIP:_____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	-or-	Oakhurst Democratic Club
5409 Tip Top Road		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 966-3367		(559) 658-2342

-or-

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