

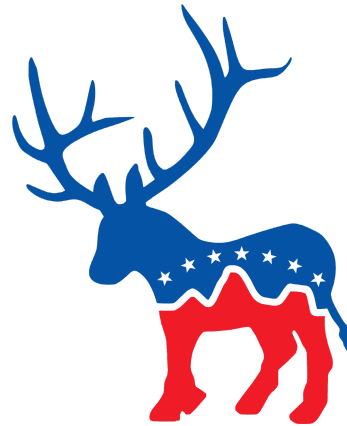
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Teton County Democratic Party Monthly Newsletter Volume II, Issue 1



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A Word From the Chair

Jan Betts, Teton County Democratic Party Chair

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. While we feel fairly secure in this county we call home, that is not the case in our state of Idaho and on the federal level. We can debate why and how this happened, but we need to focus more on how to mitigate those forces such as the movement in our state legislature that wants to take funds away from our public schools with vouchers for private schools, while at the same time insisting on control of the subject matter of our public schools, especially in our history and science classes as well as what books are available in our libraries. The question that inevitably arises is, “When did facts and ideas become such a threat to half the voting population of this country?” A question to be answered and debated by people much more qualified than me.



What can we do?

1. We can vote. We can vote in every election for the most qualified candidates – local, state federal, school board, town council - every single one. We can talk to friends and family and make sure they do the same.
2. We can be informed and get involved. Everyone is busy in their lives, but the stakes are too high for everyone to ignore what’s going on, on every level. This is hard and it makes it difficult to stay positive.
3. We can be sure our elected officials, especially those in our state legislature know that we are out here. People that do NOT agree with the agendas of what is being proposed in our state, and our country. Silence is acquiescence. There are those of us who remember and lived in a much more moderate and tolerant Idaho and it wasn’t that long ago.

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protect all people and treat all people equally, to protect programs like Social Security and Medicare which are the safety net for our older citizens, and to support this country's ideals around the world.

Sounds like a huge job and a lot of work. That's why it's going to take all of us to do our part. Thanks for doing all you can.

Keep up on what is happening in the Idaho Legislature

John Beller Teton County Democratic Party Secretary



My father used to say that “when the Idaho Legislature was in session your life, liberty and freedoms were at risk.” This seems to be true now more than ever. There are several good, weekly newsletters that will can provide you with current updates on what is happening with the legislature. Go to these websites and sign up for their newsletters.

- Senator Melissa Wintrow, <https://www.wintrowforidaho.com/>
- Representative Chris Mathias <https://mathiasforidaho.com/>

On the positive side, our Democratic legislators are trying hard to help protect everyone's rights. Last week, Sen. Melissa Wintrow reintroduced Senate Bill 1101 to add the words sexual orientation and gender identity to the Idaho Human Rights Act. The update would protect all Idahoans from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. In a show of support, every Idaho House & Senate Democrat signed on as a co-sponsor.

Senate Joint Resolution 101 – Restricting Ballot Initiatives

In 2021, Republican lawmakers passed a law to make citizen-led voter initiatives nearly impossible. The Idaho Supreme Court later ruled it

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Constitution to take away that right. Don't let this happen.

Gay Marriage Bans (RS3000C1)

Mr. Herndon (R-D1) introduced a bill to prohibit gay marriage as he tries to skirt the SCOTUS decision in 2015 that affirmed everyone has a right to marry the person of their choice by getting rid of marriage licenses and affirming that marriage is only between a "man and a woman." On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled in a landmark decision that the 14th Amendment requires all states to license marriages between same-sex couples and to recognize all marriages that were lawfully performed out of state. However, after the fall of Roe v. Wade this past June, which was grounded in the right to privacy, there is concern that other civil rights will also be challenged, like this one.

Contact our Senator and Representatives and ask them to support Senate Bill 1101, and to reject limiting our rights to referendums and for people to choose who they marry.

- Representative Josh Wheeler (R), JoshWheeler@house.idaho.gov
- Representative Kevin Andrus (R), KAndrus@house.idaho.gov
- Senator Mark Harris (R) , MHarris@senate.idaho.gov

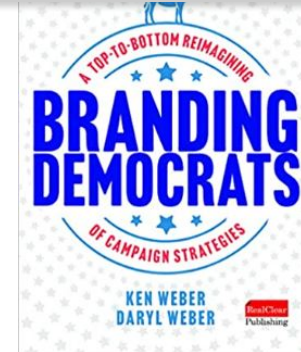
Branding Democrats: A Top-to-Bottom Reimagining of Campaign Strategies

Alice Stevenson

At the January TCDP meeting, Dennis Sutton (Idaho Democratic Party District 7 Representative) recommended two books: *Dirt Road Revival: How to Rebuild Rural Politics* and *Why Our Future Depends On It* by Chloe Maxmin

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Ken and Daryl Weber (both published in 2022 and both available from Amazon.) Josie Gray and Alice Stevenson suggested starting with a discussion of *Dirt Road Revival* immediately after the March 15 TCDP business meeting ends, maybe planning to discuss only the first half of the book and continuing the discussion at the end of the April meeting. They suggest that *Branding Democrats* could be discussed closer to the next election season. They would like to know who else might be interested, along with comments about these suggestions. Alice has agreed to be the contact person, so email her at alicejeanstevenson@gmail.com.



[Skip and Kathleen Dempsey's Friends](#)



Vickie Dempsey is gathering the names of people who were friends of Skip and Kathleen Dempsey to invite them to a memorial to be held in Alta this summer. If you were friends of Skip and Kathleen, please send your contact information to Vickie at vdempesy@hchcweb.org.

[Important Dates](#)

- **February 7, 2023:** TCDP Monthly Meeting 5:30 via Zoom
- **March 24, 2023:** Idaho Legislature scheduled Completion (Sine Die)
- **September 8, 2023:** Last day to file to run for Driggs City Council
- **November 7, 2023:** General election

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