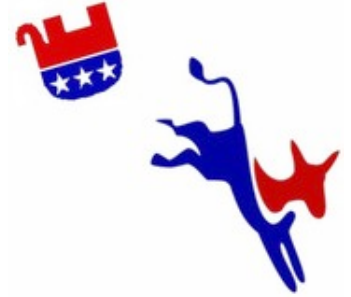




31st Democrats Newsletter



Meetings are held at the
Marion Grange, 27725
Sumner-Buckley Hwy E,
Buckley

www.31stdistrictdemocrats.org

(Organized by R. Craig Sanders-email:
z1n45rgiarc@netscape.com and Patricia Szot)

ONGOING FOOD DRIVE - We are collecting for local food banks

Monthly Meeting-May 19th
6-7 pm Social Hour; 7 pm General Business Meeting

This months meeting features:

MJ McGalliard on the
"History of Labor"

Summer fairs start in June as well. Buckley Log show is June 26. If interested in working the booth please contact Patti Szot (szot.patricia@gmail.com).

Endorsements of candidates will at the June 16th general monthly meeting.

May 22nd Community Bazaar

This is a call for vendors who would like a table at our upcoming Community Bazaar. The first 17 paid vendors will receive tables 8 feet long, the remaining 13 vendors will receive tables 6 feet in length. The Bazaar will be from 9 - 4 in Enumclaw. For more information contact us at (253) 208 - 4063, Email ron4senate@comcast.net or web www.Ron4senate.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010, BUNCO GAME--JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT

DETAILS:

BUNCO IS AN EASY-TO-PLAY GAME OF DICE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO KNOW

HOW TO PLAY TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO INVITE SPOUSES, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND ACQUAINTANCES TO PARTICIPATE!

Want to sign up or need more information? For more information contact us at (253) 208 - 4063, Email ron4senate@comcast.net or web www.Ron4senate.com.

A FUNDRAISING EVENT PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF RON WEIGELT SENATE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (D)

Want to learn about how campaigns work? Interested in working on a campaign? Sign up for a DCCC Field Organizer Training!

2010 is here, and the time to protect our majority has arrived. We need to make sure that we keep the House blue so we can continue to pass legislation that matters to middle class Americans. Building strong field programs in districts across the country is crucial in 2010.

Join the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for a Field Organizer Training in your region of the country throughout the months of May and June. This training is for applicants who are interested in gaining the skills to organize communities for Democrats in Congressional Districts around the county. If you are interested in participating, you must complete the application at: www.dccc.org/fieldorganizertraining/ by **Friday, May 7th**. Sign up now and help us win in 2010. The training will cover:

- Organizing Best Practices
- Working with other departments on a campaign
- Volunteer Management
- Training on the VAN and other Field software

The following article was written by Greg Palast. Palast takes an interesting slant to the reason of the new immigration law in Arizona. Greg Palast is an American journalist for the BBC and has written several books during Bush's term (Armed Madhouse, The Best Democracy Money Can Buy and Democracy and Regulation). I believe this insightful view of this law is right on the money as to the Republican's goal of purging as many legitimate voters as it can. It was done in Florida (which Palast reported on) with African Americans and is now being done in Arizona as to Latino voters. The following article appeared in The Progressive Populist, May 15, 2010. Enjoy? P.Szot

Behind the Arizona Immigration Law GOP Game to Swipe the November Election

By Greg Palast
Phoenix, Ariz.

Don't be fooled. The way the media plays the story, it was a wave of racist, anti-immigrant hysteria that moved Arizona Republicans to pass a sick little law, signed last week, requiring every person in the state to carry papers proving they are US citizens.

I don't buy it. Anti-Hispanic hysteria has always been as much a part of Arizona as the Saguaro cactus and excessive air-conditioning.

What's new here is not the politicians' fear of a xenophobic "Teabag" uprising.

What moved GOP Gov. Jan Brewer to sign the Soviet-style show-me-your-papers law is the exploding number of legal Hispanics, US citizens all, who are daring to vote — and daring to vote Democratic by more than two-to-one. Unless this demographic locomotive is halted, Arizona Republicans know their party will soon be electoral toast. Or, if you like, tortillas.

In 2008, working for Rolling Stone with civil rights attorney Bobby Kennedy, our team flew to Arizona to investigate what smelled like an electoral pogrom against Chicano voters ... directed by one Jan Brewer.

Brewer, then secretary of state, had organized a racially loaded purge of the voter rolls that would have made Katherine Harris blush. Beginning after the 2004 election, under Brewer's command, no less than 100,000 voters, overwhelming Hispanics, were blocked from registering to vote. In 2005, the first year of the Great Brown-Out, one in three Phoenix residents found their registration applications rejected.

That statistic caught my attention. Voting or registering to vote if you're not a citizen is a felony, a big-time jail-time crime. And arresting such criminal voters is easy: after all, they give their names and addresses.

So I asked Brewer's office, had she busted a single one of these thousands of allegedly illegal voters? Did she turn over even one name to the feds for prosecution?

No, not one.

Which raises the question: Were these disenfranchised voters the criminal, non-citizens Brewer tagged them, or just not-quite-white voters given the José Crow treatment, entrapped in document-chase trickery?

The answer was provided by a federal prosecutor who was sent on a crazy hunt all over the Western mesas looking for these illegal voters. "We took over 100 complaints, we investigated for almost 2 years, I didn't find one prosecutable voter fraud case."

This prosecutor, David Iglesias, is a prosecutor no more. When he refused to fabricate charges of illegal voting among immigrants, his firing was personally ordered by the President of the United States, George W. Bush, under orders from his boss, Karl Rove.

Iglesias' jurisdiction was next door, in New Mexico, but he told me that Rove and the Republican chieftains were working nationwide to whip up anti-immigrant hysteria with public busts of illegal voters, even though there were none.

"They wanted some splashy pre-election indictments," Iglesias told me. The former prosecutor, himself a Republican, paid the price when he stood up to this vicious attack on citizenship.

But Secretary of State Brewer followed the Rove plan to a T. The weapon she used to slice the Arizona voter rolls was a 2004 law, known as "Prop 200," which required proof of citizenship to register. It is important to see the Republicans' latest legislative horror show, sanctioning cops to stop residents and prove citizenship, as just one more step in the party's desperate plan to impede Mexican-Americans from marching to the ballot box.

[By the way, no one elected Brewer. Weirdly, Barack Obama placed her in office last year when, for reasons known only to the Devil and Rahm Emanuel, the President appointed Arizona's Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano to his cabinet, which automatically moved Republican Brewer into the Governor's office.]

State Sen. Russell Pearce, the Republican sponsor of the latest ID law, gave away his real intent, blocking the vote, when he said, “There is a massive effort under way to register illegal aliens in this country.”

How many? Pearce’s PR flak told me, five million. All Democrats, too. Again, I asked Pearce’s office to give me their the names and addresses from their phony registration forms. I’d happily make a citizens arrest of each one, on camera. Pearce didn’t have five million names. He didn’t have five. He didn’t have one.

The horde of five million voters who swam the Rio Grande just to vote for Obama was calculated on a Republican website extrapolating from the number of Mexicans in a border town who refused jury service because they were not citizens. Not one, in fact, had registered to vote: they had registered to drive. They had obtained licenses as required by the law.

The illegal voters, “wetback” welfare moms, and alien job thieves are just GOP website wet-dreams, but their mythic PR power helps the party’s electoral hacks chop away at voter rolls and civil rights with little more than a whimper from the Democrats.

Indeed, one reason, I discovered, that some Democrats are silent is that they are in on the game themselves. In New Mexico, Democratic Party bosses tossed away ballots of Pueblo Indians to cut native influence in party primaries.

But what’s wrong with requiring folks to prove they’re American if they want to vote and live in America? The answer: because the vast majority of perfectly legal voters and residents who lack ID sufficient for Ms. Brewer and Mr. Pearce are citizens of color, citizens of poverty.

According to a study by professor Matt Barreto of Washington State University, minority citizens are half as likely as whites to have government ID. The numbers are dreadfully worse when income is factored in.

Just outside Phoenix, without Brewer’s or Pearce’s help, I did locate one of these evil un-American voters, that is, someone who could not prove her citizenship: 100-year-old Shirley Preiss. Her US birth certificate was nowhere to be found as it never existed.

In Phoenix, I stopped in at the Maricopa County prison where Sheriff Joe Arpaio houses the captives of his campaign to stop illegal immigration. Arpaio, who under the new Arizona law will be empowered to choose his targets for citizenship testing, is already facing federal indictment for his racially-charged and legally suspect methods.

I admit, I was a little nervous, passing through the iron doors with a big sign, “NOTICE: ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE PROHIBITED FROM VISITING ANYONE IN THIS JAIL.” I mean, Grandma Palast snuck into the USA via Windsor, Canada. We Palasts are illegal as they come, but Arpaio’s sophisticated deportee-sniffer didn’t stop this white boy from entering his sanctum.

But that’s the point, isn’t it? Not to stop non-citizens from entering Arizona — after all, who else would care for the country club lawn? — but to harass folks of the wrong color: Democratic blue.

Greg Palast has investigated the illegal disenfranchisement of voters for BBC TV, Rolling Stone (with Robert Kennedy Jr.), Harper’s, The Nation and Truthout.org, where this appeared. Palast is the author of the bestseller, The Best Democracy Money Can Buy. See gregpalast.com.

In the history of secrets, withheld from the American people, this is the biggest secret: that there are classes with different interests in this country. To ignore that-not to know that the history of our country is a history of slaveowner against slave, landlord against tenant, corporation against worker, rich against poor-is to render us helpless before all the lesser lies told to us by people in power.

Howard Zinn

This is an article from Huffington Post which was also reprinted in The Progressive Populist. It's one of many articles which point out that, over the last 30 years there has been a redistribution of wealth and it has been upward towards the wealthy. If indeed, President Obama were to begin talking about taxing the rich, it would not be a redistribution of wealth, as the right wing claims. It would be a step towards the distribution of wealth that was present in the '80's, when the middle class was alive and kicking.

Arianna Huffington

Shorting The Middle Class: The Real Wall Street Crime

The press is all [abuzz](#) with news of the SEC suing Goldman Sachs for fraud. While this is certainly big news in itself, even more important is what it says about what the financial elite has been doing to America for the last 30 years: shorting the middle class.

The SEC's action is a perfect moment for us to look at the bigger picture of how the American people were sold on the promise of never-ending prosperity while Wall Street was overseeing a massive transfer of wealth from the middle class to the richest Americans.

The results have been devastating: a disappearing middle class, a precipitous drop in economic and social mobility, and ultimately, the undermining of the foundation of our democracy.

Thirty years ago, top executives at S&P 500 companies [made](#) an average of 30 times what their workers did -- now they make 300 times what their workers make. And between 2000 and 2008, the poverty rate in the suburbs of the largest metro areas in the U.S. [grew](#) by 25 percent -- making these suburbs home to the country's largest and fastest-growing segment of the poor.

The human toll of the shorting of the middle class is brought to life on sites like [Recessionwire.com](#), [LayoffSupportNetwork.com](#), and [HowIGotLaidOff.com](#) where the casualties of Wall Street's systemic scam share their personal stories.

Looking through these sites, I came upon a story that struck me as emblematic of where America's middle class finds itself these days. It feels like a dark reboot of the American Dream. Think Horatio Alger rewritten by O. Henry.

It's the story of Dean Blackburn of Alameda, California. The first part of his life was a classic American success story. Raised in Minnesota by a single mom, a teacher, he was "middle class by default." Through a combination of smarts and hard work, he made his way to Yale, then took a succession of jobs in the growing Internet world that had him steadily progressing up the economic ladder.

Then came February 2009, when he was laid off on the last day of the month. His boss chose that day because it meant the company wouldn't have to pay for another month of his health coverage. "Looking back on it," he told me, "that hurt more than the layoff itself -- just knowing that the president of the company was exactly

that calculating and that unfeeling about my own, and my family's wellbeing." The timing, Blackburn continued, "put those 'family days' and company picnics in a weird new light."

Fourteen months later, he is still looking for a new job. As he, his wife, and their 2-year-old daughter deal with the immediate financial struggles his extended unemployment has brought, Blackburn has become acutely aware of the broader implications of the shorting of the middle class. "Ultimately," he says, "it's not about a dip in corporate profits, but a change in corporate attitude -- a change that means no one's job is safe, and never will be, ever again."

It's one of the reasons he's decided to try to start his own company, NaviDate, a data-driven twist on online dating sites: "It's no longer a trade-off between doing what you love and having stability. Stability is long gone, so you better do something you love!"

Achieving middle class stability and having your children do better than you, the way you had done better than your parents, has always been the American Dream, but, as Blackburn notes, mobility now is increasingly one way: "The plateaus of each step, which can be a great place to stop a bit and catch your breath, are gone. Now, it's climb, climb, climb, or start sliding back down immediately." The result: "the odds are you're going to wind up at the bottom eventually, unless you get lucky."

Luck. That's what the American Dream now rests on. It used to be about education, hard work and perseverance, but the system is rigged to such an extent now that the way to keep your head above water is to get lucky. The middle class life is now the prize on a scratch-off lottery ticket.

In November 2008, as the initial aftershocks of the economic earthquake were being felt, David Brooks [predicted](#) the rise of a new social class -- "the formerly middle class" -- made up of those who had joined the middle class at the end of the boom only to fall back due to the recession. "To them," he wrote, "the gap between where they are and where they used to be will seem wide and daunting."

But, in the year and a half since Brooks wrote this, the ranks of the formerly middle class have swelled far beyond those who joined at the tail end of the boom.

The evidence that the middle class has been consistently shorted is so overwhelming -- and the results so potentially damaging to our society -- that even bastions of establishment thinking are on alert. In a new strategy paper, The Hamilton Project -- the economic think tank founded by Robert Rubin (a big beneficiary of the shorting of the middle class) -- [argues](#), in the Project's own words, "that the American tradition of expanding opportunity from one generation to the next is at risk because we are failing to make the necessary investments in human, physical, and environmental capital."

Of course, it's even worse than that. We are actually cutting back on our current investment in people ([see](#) the human cost of massive budget cuts in education, health care, and social services in state after state after state - all across America).

After reading the [details](#) of the SEC's filing against Goldman Sachs, it's hard not to come away thinking: "Why would anyone ever do business with that firm again?" Likewise, after even a cursory examination of the treatment of the American middle class by the Wall Street/Washington class over the past few decades, one should also wonder why anyone would ever do business with that crowd again. And yet, there they are, still running things at the Treasury, the Fed, and the National Economic Council.

The urgent need for the reorganization of our financial system goes far beyond the upcoming debate on new financial regulations. And it goes far beyond the media's right versus left framing. It's a question about the

future of our country, and whether we are going to stop the slide toward a Third World system in which there are just two classes: those at the bottom and those at the top.

A lot of people at the top of the economic food chain have done very well shorting the middle class. But the losers in those bets weren't Goldman Sachs investors -- they were millions of hard working Americans who had heard the pitch and bought into the American Dream, only to find it had been replaced by a sophisticated scam.

This is another rurally-oriented article that I found in The Progressive Populist that, I hope, people will find relevant. Its message is, essentially, that the worst enemy of the small farmer is the big farmer. R. Craig

Monopolies Are Killing Our Farms

by Timothy A. Wise

Has Big Ag gotten too big? And do consumers really benefit from the low prices farmers earn for selling livestock and grain to food giants like Cargill, Smithfield, and Tyson? After two decades standing idly by while those companies and seed behemoth Monsanto swallowed their competitors, a new Department of Justice anti-trust team is vowing to bust up companies that have gotten so big they're thwarting competition. And a new sheriff is taking the issue to the people.

In the first of five public hearings, Justice took its anti-trust rodeo to Ankeny, Iowa. The unprecedented public process has struck a nerve in the heartland, where family farmers and independent ranchers have watched as corporate mergers and takeovers left them with fewer buyers for their crops and animals, and fewer suppliers of basic inputs like seeds and fertilizer. Justice received more than 15,000 public comments before the hearings, and some 800 farmers jammed the community college auditorium in Ankeny on March 12, for a session that took aim at Monsanto and the seed conglomerates.

Monsanto is a textbook case of monopoly selling power. It controls seeds globally, including an estimated 93 percent of the U.S. soybean seed market. U.S. seed prices overall have risen an astounding 146 percent since 1999, and 64 percent in just the last three years. An Iowa grain farmer told the crowd that he had no choice but to buy Monsanto's genetically modified seeds, and that their rising prices eroded any gains he gets from higher output. Other farmers told of legal threats from Monsanto for planting its patented seeds without a license.

These hearings are also highlighting a more insidious type of monopoly power: the kind that drives down farm prices.

"When agribusiness purchasing power is reduced to a small number of companies, does that create such an unlevel playing field that it compels those in the middle to either get bigger or get out?" asked U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in Iowa.

U.S. anti-trust law has always recognized buyer power as an anti-competitive practice, but authorities have rarely taken the issue seriously when reviewing the agribusiness mergers that in the last two decades have placed the majority of the world's food in the hands of a small number of corporations. Wal-Mart and other ever-larger supermarket chains force down prices from their giant suppliers, which in turn demand rock-bottom prices from theirs.

Farmers are at the bottom of this food chain. This race to the bottom squeezes the life out of farms, particularly the smallest farms. And it hurts rural communities not just by lowering farm prices, but by forcing

down wages for agricultural laborers, packing workers, and others in the food industry.

The issue is particularly urgent for independent livestock farmers, who have seen the meat conglomerates gobble each other up with the government blessing the carnage. The Justice Department did a pro-forma investigation of pork giant Smithfield's 2007 takeover of Premium Standard Farms, a merger that fattened the largest U.S. hog producer and pork packer by feeding it the country's second-largest producer and sixth-largest packer. In the Southeast, the merger left 2,500 independent hog producers with just one regional buyer. Smithfield could say to the hog farmers who weren't under contract to the company: Here's the price and, if you don't like it, good luck selling your hogs.

Despite Agriculture Department studies showing that Smithfield already wielded excessive buyer power in the region even before the merger, Bush-era Justice officials ruled that "the merged firm is not likely to harm competition, consumers or farmers." Bon appétit, Smithfield.

Is there a new anti-trust sheriff in town? Let's hope so. Our farmers shouldn't be gouged by input suppliers and buyers. Small businesses shouldn't be run out of town. Consumers shouldn't see grocery prices go up while farm prices go down, as they have with dairy products. By putting the teeth back in anti-trust enforcement, Obama can strike a blow for free and fair capitalist competition.

The government can't keep standing idly by as enormous agricultural monopolies squeeze the lifeblood out of the nation's farmers by dictating prices that don't cover their costs. We just can't afford that kind of cheap food.

Our Representatives-how to get hold of them

Senators: **Patty Murray (D)** and **Maria Cantwell**

Patty Murray- DC office phone: (202) 224-2621

Seattle Office
2988 Jackson Federal Bldg.
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174
Phone: (206) 553-5545
Fax: (206) 553-0891

Maria Cantwell- DC office phone (202) 224-3441

Seattle Office	Tacoma Office
915 Second Avenue	950 Pacific Avenue, Suite #615
Suite #3206	Tacoma, WA 98402
Seattle, WA 98174	253-572-2281
206-220-6400	253-572-5879 FAX
206-220-6404 – FAX	

8th CD Representative-**Dave Reichert (R)**

Dave Reichert- DC Office phone (202) 225-7761
District Office
2737 78th Avenue, S.E. Suite #202
Mercer Island, WA 98040
(206) 275-3438
(206) 275-3437 Fax

9th CD Representative-**Adam Smith (D)**

Adam Smith-DC office phone (202) 225-8901
District Office
2209 Pacific Ave, Suite B
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 593-6600
(253) 593-6776

State Senator-31st LD

Pam Roach (R)
POB 40431
Olympia, WA 98504

Office: 360-786-7660
Fax: 360-786-7173
Email: Roach.Pam@leg.wa.gov

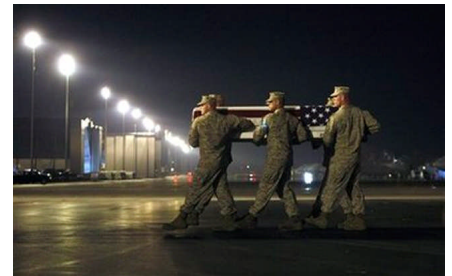
State Representatives-31st LD

Chris Hurst (ID)
POB 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
Office: 360-786-7866
Fax: 360-786-7317
Email: Hurst.Christopher@leg.wa.gov

Dan Roach (R)
POB 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
Office: 360-786-7846
Email: Roach.Dan@leg.wa.gov

Occupation Statistics (<http://www.antiwar.com/casualties>)

4,397 US Military Deaths (Iraq)
1,067 US Military Deaths (Afghanistan)
31,790 US Military Wounded (Iraq)
151,000-1,366,350 Iraq Civilian Deaths



DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR LOCAL POLITICAL SYSTEM?

YES!! Join us

Fill out the form below (questions are required by the state Public Disclosure Commission) and hand it in to one of our volunteers at our monthly meeting or mail it in (31st District Democrats, 20825 SR 410 E #130, Bonney Lake, WA 98391). You can pay 2010 dues now or later by check (made out to 31st District Democrats) or on-line by credit card. Dues are \$31 per year (January-December), but members can pay what they can afford with a minimum of \$5.

NAME _____
Street Address _____
Mailing Address (if different from above) _____
Telephone # _____
Email _____
Occupation _____
Employer _____