

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 1

# theShoreLine

*The newsletter of the Shore Democrats*

## Holiday Lunch

Wednesday, December 21  
(New Date)

11:30 A.M.

Cripple Creek Country Club  
North on Irons Road off Route 26

Enjoy **Sol Knopf**  
Singer and Guitarist  
[www.SolKnopf.com](http://www.SolKnopf.com)

Menu Choices  
(\$25/\$27 nonmembers):

*Sirloin Steak, Mushroom Demiglace  
or Flounder Picatta  
or Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Chocolate Truffle Cake*  
● Salad ● Tea & Coffee ● Cash Bar

Reserve by 11:00 A.M., December 19  
Ray Sander: 202-256-9501  
[raymondjsander@gmail.com](mailto:raymondjsander@gmail.com)

*If you are unable to join us for lunch,  
come at 1:00 for the guest (free)*

Bring a child's book to donate (see right)  
and your 2012 club dues



## La Red Health Center Provides Care for Sussex's Underserved

This holiday season the Shore Democrats will be supporting La Red Health Center, Inc., of Georgetown, Del. A ten-year-old nonprofit with a satellite office in Seaford, La Red is Sussex County's only federally qualified health center. It receives approximately 15,000 medical visits from 6,500 patients a year, filling needs from prenatal to Medicare-funded services. To support its childhood immunization program, the Shore Democrats are asking members to donate a children's book or books (to age 12) to be given to each child who comes in to be immunized. Bring your donation to the December luncheon, *unwrapped* please! See also [www.laredhealthcenter.org](http://www.laredhealthcenter.org)

### Save the Date!

#### January Dues Due

Don't forget to bring or send a check with your 2012 dues: \$40/couple or \$25/single. Dues support candidates.

#### January 18 Next Luncheon

Former state archivist Russ McCabe will give members a succinct tour through Sussex County history.

#### March 24 Spring Dinner

Join Sussex County Democrats for their annual dinner, Millsboro Fire Hall, 6-9:00 p.m. \$40. [obkeen@verizon.net](mailto:obkeen@verizon.net)



*President's Column by Lee I. Dogoloff*  
**Gray Skies Are Turning Blue**

The November 8 elections brought with them a lot of good news across the nation for Democrats and for what we believe in. Here are some examples:

- In Ohio voters overwhelmingly stood up for the rights of nurses, teachers, firefighters, and other public workers to bargain collectively—rejecting “Issue 2” by twenty-two points. This proposal would have stripped that state’s 350,000 public-service employees of most of their collective bargaining rights.
- In Mississippi, despite Mitt Romney’s backing of the measure, voters rejected what would have been the most radical restriction of women’s rights in a generation: a “personhood” amendment to criminalize all abortions and many forms of birth control.
- The people of Maine, by more than 80,000 votes, upheld the right to same-day voter registration, a practice that has helped expand access to voting in that state for nearly forty years.
- In Arizona voters, by an eight-point margin, recalled State Senate President Russell Pearce, architect of the stringent anti-immigration law passed there last year.
- In Kentucky Democrats won four out of five statewide races, with the Democratic



governor, Steve Beshear, winning in a landslide over his Republican challenger.

- In New Jersey a sizable number of Democratic wins were recorded.

These victories are important, but there are still numerous challenges ahead. We need look no further than the failure of the congressional “Super Committee” to agree on a deficit-reduction plan at the national level. While Democrats were willing to place many cuts on the table, including reductions in entitlement programs, Republicans refused to roll back the “temporary” Bush tax cuts on

those earning in excess of \$1 million a year. Republicans are even refusing to consider all but one of the Obama jobs plans. All that tells us is that there is a lot of work to do over the next eleven months to ensure the reelection of our president, to gain a greater majority in the Senate, and to recapture a majority of members in the House of Representatives.

Although the election may seem far off, the fact is that now is the time to get energized by signing up to help reelect President Obama and all local and statewide Democrats. We should be speaking out by writing letters to editors to educate readers about why electing Democrats is good for us and for our country. We should also be contributing to these campaigns, not only time but also money to the extent we are able.

[www.shoredemocrats.org](http://www.shoredemocrats.org)



*Bring your check to the December luncheon or mail it to the address on the back of the newsletter.*

## New Year, New Dues

Actually—no inflation this year. Annual dues for Shore Democrats remain \$40/couple, \$25/single

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Check out the 38th District Democratic Committee’s new blog at <http://sussexdems.blogspot.com>

# Rehoboth, Occupied

At least a hundred people turned out to Occupy Rehoboth on Saturday, November 5, filling the bandstand with signs, chants, and stories of hardship.

## The Lead Story

The rally was led by Joanne Cabry (*below left*), also chair of the Progressive Democrats of Sussex County. TV crews captured the scene, leading with the story on the night's newscasts (*below right*). November 5 was also Guy Fawkes

Day, the British observance of the 1605 plot to blow up Parliament; two of the day's occupiers came appropriately dressed in Guy Fawkes masks (*far left*).



## Homemade and Heartfelt

Signs carried by the occupiers were homemade and handlettered but got the message across to everyone passing by.

*To learn of new ideas for the next Occupy phase and to send your own proposals, contact [jcabry@gmail.com](mailto:jcabry@gmail.com).*



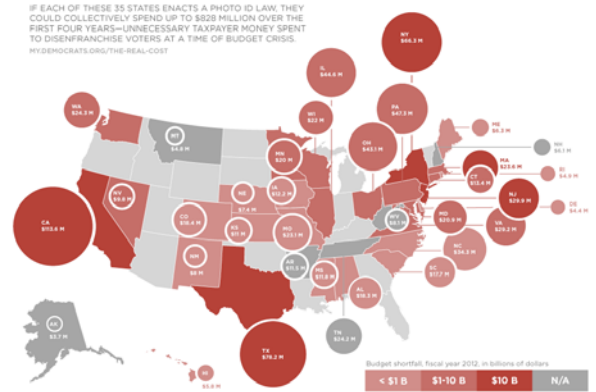
# News from Across the US and LSD

## Democrats Attacking Anti-Voter Laws

As congressional Democrats ratchet up efforts to combat restrictive voting laws adopted by or threatened in about three dozen states, the Voting Rights Institute has tried to calculate the costs to taxpayers of these discriminatory new regulations. "Photo ID mandates simply cannot be enacted without exacerbating state fiscal crises," it concluded. "We found that if each of these states enacts photo ID legislation, taxpayers across the country will pay at least \$276 million and up to \$828 million for this unnecessary legislation. State budgets are zero-sum games—a dollar spent on photo ID necessarily means one less for education and public safety."

THE REAL COST OF PHOTO ID LAWS

IF EACH OF THESE 35 STATES ENACTS A PHOTO ID LAW, THEY COULD COLLECTIVELY SPEND UP TO \$828 MILLION OVER THE FIRST FOUR YEARS—UNNECESSARY TAXPAYER MONEY SPENT TO DISENFRANCHISE VOTERS AT A TIME OF BUDGET CRISIS.



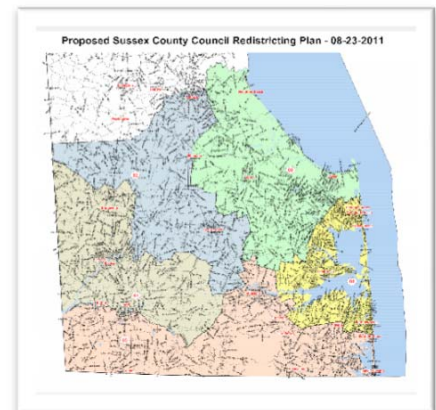
## Volunteers: 2012 Will Soon Be Here

Sussex Democrats are looking for someone to take a leadership role in working for the reelection of President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Other volunteers are also needed to build an enthusiastic base with efforts such as get-out-the-vote activities. Contact Lee Dogoloff at [lidog@mac.com](mailto:lidog@mac.com). In February the county party is opening an office at 10 Pine Street in Georgetown and asks for volunteers to make a strong presence. Contact Pete Keenan at [obkeen@verizon.net](mailto:obkeen@verizon.net).



## County Council Map Not Much Changed

On November 15 the Sussex County Council adopted a redistricting plan that establishes new council districts through 2021. Only one person, Jo Klinge of the League of Women Voters of Sussex County, testified at an earlier hearing, noting: "Our disappointment comes in the missed opportunity to reflect communities of interest in this process that occurs only once every ten years." She pointed out that beach communities with similar interests have been fragmented. "By changing districts as little as possible, the map ignored such significant communities of interest as the Cape Region and the Quiet Resorts," she said, adding that county officials should have considered the league's plan, which kept the Cape Region and Quiet Resort communities within two districts.



## Suit Says Council Prayer Unconstitutional

Americans United for Separation of Church and State is challenging the Sussex County Council's long-standing practice of opening each of its meetings with the recitation of a Protestant version of the Lord's Prayer, led by Council President Michael H. Vincent. On December 1 it asked a federal court to grant a preliminary injunction to stop the practice, saying that it is so patently unconstitutional that it should be blocked while the group's lawsuit, *Mullin v. Sussex County* (filed in June) is under way. "Sussex County's promotion of the Lord's Prayer shows favoritism toward the majority religion and excludes those residents who don't share that faith," said a spokesman. "Residents are pressured to participate in the prayer, as the council members can see who in their meeting audience is taking part."



## *Governor Jack Markell on Fracking:* “The ‘Faucet’ Cannot Be Turned Off”

PROPOSED REGULATIONS THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE drilling and hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) to begin in the Delaware River Basin lack critical details on how public health and safety would be protected, Governor Jack Markell wrote in a November 17 letter to the other voting members of the Delaware River Basin Commission. In the letter, Markell made clear that Delaware’s representative would vote against the Natural Gas Development Regulations at the commission’s meeting in Trenton.

“Instead of beginning the exploration in the Delaware River Basin and hoping we get a proper regulatory framework in place after-the-fact, it is Delaware’s view the commission has an obligation to ensure that critical issues regarding well construction and operation are finalized first and not subject to subsequent dilution,” Markell wrote.

More than 3,000 wells have already been drilled in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to harness natural gas out of the Marcellus Shale. While the watershed area that would be opened up to drilling under the commission’s proposed regulations covers only a small portion of the shale, it serves as the primary water supply source for at least two-thirds of Delaware’s citizens.

“By far, the single most important issue for a downstream state like Delaware is whether the wells are being drilled, constructed, and operated in a manner that adequately protects our public and private water supplies. Once hydrofracturing begins in the basin, the proverbial “faucet” cannot be turned off, with any damage to our freshwater supplies likely requiring generations of effort

to clean up. In this case, it is more important to get it right, than to be fast,” Markell wrote.

Markell made clear that he believes the nation can pursue the promise of this important domestic energy source without compromising the quality of our water supply. However, doing so demands the close coordination of multiple regulatory bodies, including the state and local governments of Pennsylvania and New York, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and

the commission. Some of these regulatory offerings under consideration in each of these jurisdictions have (1) yet to be finalized; (2) have just been finalized but not fully evaluated; or (3) are final but inadequate to protect public safety.

For example, Pennsylvania’s legislative bodies are currently debating the science that underlies two separate pieces of legislation

that would strengthen the rules regarding well construction and operation. In New York, scientists and citizens are still reviewing and commenting on New York’s draft regulations regarding well construction. Because those and other regulatory debates are still underway, Markell continues “to have significant concerns that the regulations may not adequately safe guard our regional water supply by adopting best practices for water withdrawal, siting and setback requirements, drilling and construction standards, ongoing operational protections, and clean up protocols and financial assurances should a release occur.”

Added Markell: “As Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley of Pennsylvania has stated, ‘No amount of economic benefit would justify the degradation of our land, air and water.’”



*Governor Jack Markell greeting Delaware National Guard troops in Afghanistan during a November visit.*

# “We Did What We Said We Would Do”



“My term will be a success if kids’ lives are better afterward,” Delaware’s lieutenant governor, Matt Denn, told Shore Democrats at their November 16 luncheon at NorthEast Seafood Kitchen. He cited a number of accomplishments over the past three years: removing dry cleaning chemicals from the water that children drink, improving screening for early developmental disabilities, expanding the nurse visitation program to help more parents, increasing wages for those who care for children, retaining and attracting better teachers, and starting an Academic Achievement Awards program. “We did what we said we would do,” Denn recounted.

**Quote of the Month:** “Opinions differ about what sparked the fall of Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the mid-1950s and the ending of the anti-communist witch hunts he spearheaded, but some historians peg the moment at June 9, 1954, when chief Army counsel Joseph Welch uttered his famous rebuke: “Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?” We’re reminded of this because today there’s another bully whose stranglehold over Congress is paralyzing that body, to the detriment of the majority of Americans who disagree with his single-minded crusade. This time his name is Grover Norquist, and his grip over the nation’s budget will only be loosened if more GOP lawmakers find the courage to defy him.... How much more damage does he have to do before more leaders stand up for decency?” Editorial, *Los Angeles Times*, November 5, 2011

## Shore Democrats

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