



the yankee radical

Institute for
Democratic
Socialism

(617) 354-5078 <http://dsaboston.org/> September 2004

Health Care and the Election

What: Town Hall Meeting

When: Sunday, Oct 10, 4 pm

Where: Old West Church, 130
Cambridge St., Boston

The health care crisis continues to get worse. Here are the facts:

- Forty-four million Americans currently lack health insurance, and millions more are underinsured. Over the last four years, 4 million more people lost their health coverage. Eight out of ten uninsured are from working families.

- Nine million people have lost employer-sponsored health insurance coverage since 2001.

- Rather than deal with rising costs, employers are shifting those costs to workers with higher premiums, co-pays, deductibles, and huge cuts in benefits. And they are dropping retiree plans, so millions more are now underinsured.

- The United States spends \$1.8 trillion

on health care – more than twice the per person average of other developed nations. Yet it is behind most of the developed world on major health indicators such as infant mortality and life expectancy.

- Prescription drug costs consumed 1.8 percent of personal income in 2002 – up by half in just four years. Yet 1 in 4 Americans lacks drug coverage. The Bush Administration's Medicare prescription drug plan will cover just 25 percent of the average senior's expenses after 2006, while giving away billions to drug makers, HMOs, and employers.

- Instead of strengthening the largest and most successful public health insurance program – Medicare – the Administration's recent "reforms" promote Health Savings Accounts and high deductible insurance plans to make patients pay more.

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DSA Members Meetings

Dates: Wednesday, Sept. 15 & Oct. 13, 7-9 p.m.

Location: Harvest Food Co-op, 581 Mass Ave., Cambridge, Central Sq.

The September members meeting of Boston Democratic Socialists of America will review our participation in the campaigns of DSA-endorsed candidates in the November 2 election (see page 6), and take up the e-mail discussion initiated by Sacramento DSA on electoral strategy. We'll also discuss suggestions for restructuring Local Boston to better reflect our current capacities, given the downturn in both financial resources and member activism. Our October meeting will go over many of these same issues, and undoubtedly some new ones.

DSA Book Talks

What: Discussion of *After Capitalism*

When: Wednesday, Sept 22, 7:30 pm

Where: 20 Marshall St., Brookline

RSVP: rosen@tellus.org

What: Ellen Frank

When: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 pm

Where: Cambridge Library, 45 Pearl St.,
Central Square, Cambridge

By David Knuttunen

Boston DSA is sponsoring two upcoming talks on political economy. On September 22, Rich Rosen will lead a book discussion of *After Capitalism* by David Schweickart (Rowman & Littlefield, June 2002, ISBN 0742513009).

On October 26, economist and local DSA member Ellen Frank will discuss her own new book, *The Raw Deal: How Myths and Misinformation About the Deficit, Inflation and Wealth Impoverish*

America. This event is co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.

I have just finished the Schweickart book myself, and found it a good read. I think it would be of interest not just to people who think of themselves as Democratic Socialists, but to anyone involved in the global justice struggle, or any aspect of the development within capitalism of economic alternatives such as coops, anti-corporation

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2 Short Takes

By Mike Pattberg

Labor Notes Fundraiser

The Detroit-based publication *Labor Notes* is celebrating its 25 years of "putting the movement back in the labor movement" with a fundraising party on Sunday, September 12, 3-7:30 p.m., at 22 Aldworth St., Jamaica Plain.

Among the guest speakers are Pun Ngai and Yang Lie Ming from the Chinese Working Women Network, an independent grassroots organization of migrant factory workers in Shenzhen, Guan Dgong Province, China. Since 1996, the CWWN has assisted thousands of young women through a women worker's center, a mobile health education van, a worker's cooperative and an injured workers group. They'll also be reporting on the struggle for workers rights throughout China.

Labor Notes staffer Marsha Niemeijer will describe some of their current projects, including post-strike leadership training for grocery workers in California and contract campaign support for East Coast longshoremens. For more information, call Robert Schwartz at (617) 983-5199, or lsupport@aol.com.

Dust Reform

The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow is looking for Boston area families (with small children) to be part of a national study on chemical toxins in household dust. Previous tests have shown this dust may contain a surprising amount of toxic chemicals, many from common household products. The purpose of the project is to educate people in Massachusetts on the need to look for alternatives to the dangerous chemicals that end up in our homes, bodies and children, as well as more health protective state policies.

All you have to do is donate a used vacuum bag, and maybe attend a press conference when the report is released early next year. Call Meleah Houseknecht at Clean Water Action, (617) 338-8131.

Voice for Choice

The pro-abortion rights March for Women's Lives in Washington D.C. last April 25 has been made into a feature length documentary, *A Voice for Choice*. Along with exclusive March footage, it features politicians (Sen. Hilary Clinton, Gov. Ann Richards, etc.) activists (Gloria Steinem, Ellie

Smeal, Kim Gandy, Kate Michelman, etc.) and artists (Sheryl Crow, Bill Maher, Lizz Winstead, etc.) as well as dozens of regular women who traveled to Washington to "highlight the current crisis in women's reproductive healthcare and the relentless attacks of the Bush administration."

A Voice for Choice is targeted at younger voters to give them a reason to turn out this November. The week of October 11 will see nationwide local screenings hosted by local activists, student groups and other organizations. To host a local "get out the vote" screening in October e-mail sean@waxbush2004.com

Apollo Alliance

One campaign trail declaration from aspiring candidates always seems to guarantee applause: emphatically supporting "energy independence from Mid East oil," usually with few follow-up details. What at least the Republicans seem to mean by this is less environmental regulation, allowing drilling in Anwar, coastal waters and western park lands, and more subsidies to the energy industry, especially coal and oil.

But a recently formed coalition of 23 international unions and 15 environmental groups, civil rights and political leaders has another idea. The Apollo Alliance, named after President Kennedy's program to send a man to the moon in the early 1960s, is pushing for social investments in renewable energy, mass transit, revitalized cities, more efficient factories and hybrid cars, which they believe will create good jobs while reducing pollution and dependence on foreign oil. They are trying this election year to inject their proposals for energy independence into political campaigns. Visit www.apolloalliance.org for more information.

Grovel, Grovel

Although the Presidential campaign is far from over, it appears our man Kerry is following the usual pattern of Democratic nominees on the issues of Cuba and Israel-Palestine, deferring to the ideological hard line and presumed electoral might of groups like the Cuban American National Foundation in Miami and the American-Israel Public Affairs Council in Washington, D.C.

Despite press reports of opposition within the Cuban American community in Florida to the Bush crackdown on travel to Cuba, despite Congressional votes against enforcement of the trade and travel embar-

gos, and despite the stated opposition of Cuba's beleaguered pro-democracy movement to both, Senator Kerry has been silent on these issues. (Although at least so far he's not pandering like Al Gore in the 2000 campaign, who broke with his own Administration to support the kidnapping of Elian Gonzalez in hopes of winning Florida votes.) The apparent reason ambitious politicians are too timid to criticize a bankrupt 40 year old policy is the political influence of the right wing Miami exile leadership, whose hopes for reclaiming their former property and power are more likely to be realized if the Castro dictatorship is removed by a US organized invasion than by internal democratic struggle.

But on Israel-Palestine Kerry is even worse. As the Bush campaign has accurately pointed out, he has flip-flopped on the "security wall" the Israelis are constructing in the West Bank. Speaking last December to an Arab-American audience in Detroit, Kerry described its erection on Palestinian territory (as opposed to Israel's recognized border) as "a barrier to peace"; two months later into the primary campaign he not only embraced the wall but now seems to have no recorded objection to Ariel Sharon's latest plans for expanding illegal settlements, or anything else Sharon has done (with US financial support), or might do. Meanwhile the Rejectionists and Fundamentalists on both sides appear to have worked out a kind of subliminal alliance going back at least to the election of Benjamin Netanyahu: Palestinian terrorism helps Israel's right-wing Likud Party to election victory, which then grabs more Palestinian land, which in turn fuels more suicide bombers, which then enables more settlements for "security," etc., etc.

At a July conference in Cambridge sponsored by Tikkun Magazine (www.Tikkun.org) around the Democratic Convention, Michael Lerner, Cornell West and others discussed many of these issues, including the stranglehold the Likud-leaning AIPAC has on many Democratic politicians. Their "Progressive pro-Israel and pro-Palestine Alternative to AIPAC" is similar to DSA's position on this issue, and their Tikkun Campus Network and Media Critique-Rapid Response Team provide practical opportunities to support the uphill struggle for a just two state solution.

Socialists Urge Support for Kerry

The following is the text of a press release issued by National DSA on July 23, 2004.

The Democratic Socialists of America Political Action Committee (DSAPAC) released a statement today urging its members to work for the election of John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election.

"Kerry was hardly the first choice of our members. Most supported Dennis Kucinich or Howard Dean in the Democratic primary elections and would be very critical of Senator Kerry's voting record on trade issues, as well as his support for the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq; but the most impor-

tant concern of our members now is to defeat Bush," said Frank Llewellyn, the National Director of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).

The DSAPAC statement was very critical of the current direction of the Democratic Party, lamenting the strength of the Democratic Leadership Council as compared to the Congressional Progressive Caucus in Party circles. But the statement condemned the much greater threat to the interests of the average American posed by Republican control of all three branches of government.

The statement urged DSA members to participate in get-out-the-vote and voter education projects with other progres-

sive organizations. "It is very important that progressive movements keep organizing and mobilizing so that we will be in a position to make demands on a new administration," Llewellyn continued.

Democratic Socialists of America is the largest socialist organization in the United States, with 5500 members and local organizations in most large cities. It is affiliated to the Socialist International, a federation of the world's socialist, social democratic and labor parties.

The complete text of the DSAPAC statement can be viewed at: <http://dsausa.org/dsapac>.

Book Talks

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ratism or worker control – or just more equitable distribution of resources. Schweickart himself describes his purpose as an attempt to define a feasible "successor system" to global capitalism that could be used to guide the work of anyone involved in what he calls the "counterproject," which includes global justice activists and "movements for gender and racial equality, for ecological sanity, for peace; struggles against poverty, against homophobia, against militarism, and against prisons and executions as solutions to our social problems." He argues that even such a system as Marxist-Leninist Communism was enormously useful in the past century in motivating and giving coherence to various struggles for justice, and in these days of capital's super-hegemony (my term, not his), we need a coherent (hopefully better!) alternative, desperately.

Schweickart's proposed system, which he refers to as "Economic Democracy" is frankly market socialist. If the three foundation stones of capitalism are wage labor, markets, and private control of (and profit from) investment, he proposes to eliminate two of the three: wage labor, by making all enterprises worker-controlled, and private investment by essentially nationalizing capital. The market he leaves in place as, in the proper context, a reasonably efficient way of assessing demand and distributing resources, and one we have

never been able to articulate a really convincing way to do without. I've always been skeptical of market socialism, but Schweickart goes a long way to convincing me. There are certainly areas that need more fleshing out: for instance, I think he leaves a large pocket of ineradicable wage labor in government bureaucracies. Is he creating, really, two classes of workers? But that will just give us stuff to talk about on Sept. 22.

The book is pretty short (less than 200 pages, including preface), not unduly technical, and not at all jargony. (He says a more technical exposition is available in his longer book, *Against Capitalism*, which unfortunately is somewhat harder to get.) It may not be most people's idea of "summer reading," but if social justice and big ideas get you excited... well, it might not be completely out of place at the beach.

If you have time for a second book before the meeting, I strongly recommend Ellen Frank's *The Raw Deal*. Her book takes on all the same issues of neoliberal capitalism that are challenged in Schweickart, but she does it entirely within a framework of neoclassical economic analysis, without mentioning Karl Marx once! Besides being of interest in itself, and by way of compare-and-contrast with Schweickart, it is an excellent source of talking points for leftists who need to argue with non-socialists about economic policy. *Raw Deal* shows how most of the bad policy we're currently afflicted with is bad economics, even within the theoretical frame-

work supposedly accepted by the people who are force-feeding us this crap. Ellen's book is also very non-economist friendly, carefully explaining any jargon or technical concepts at the point they are first introduced, without getting in the way of the analytic flow. What really comes out is an idea that will not be new to most activists, socialist or otherwise: that economic policy debates are really political struggles between different class interests, masquerading as "technical debates."

After her October 26 talk, there will be an opportunity to purchase signed copies of the book.

David Knuttunen is a former Chair and current member of the Boston DSA Exec Board.

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Danger — Corporate Threat Advisory!

The Money and Politics Project of the Commonwealth Education Project, (a spin-off of the Commonwealth Coalition), has announced a new and important service for voters, the Special Interest Threat Advisory (SITA) system.

"When we identify a wealthy special interest that is trying to effect the outcome of legislation on Beacon Hill, we'll warn voters in the Commonwealth," said director Galen Nelson. The SITA can be found at www.comcoal.org/threatest.html.

The Project upgraded its Special Interest Threat Advisory from Yellow to Orange in mid-August, indicating a high risk that special interests would influence public policy sometime in the near future. Pharmaceutical companies have contributed over \$45,000 to

Speaker Finneran, Senate President Travaglini, and Governor Romney and the industry has spent over \$3 million lobbying the legislature between 2000 and 2003.

The threat level increase was ordered after the Project intercepted "chatter" indicating that there was an increasingly slim chance that two key pharmaceutical drug pricing bills — meant to control the escalating costs of prescription drugs — would be attached to supplemental budget bills and sent to Governor Romney.

According to Director Nelson, "The biggest economic threat to families in Massachusetts right now, particularly seniors, is the escalating cost of pharmaceutical drugs." Our best protection? "Massachusetts needs a campaign finance system that won't sell

out to the highest bidder."

The targeted bills, S559 and H3762 would have allowed the state to purchase prescription drugs in bulk, much like a private employer.

"We want Massachusetts residents to know that a valiant effort by some legislators to control the costs of prescription drugs has been targeted by one of the most powerful lobbies in the United States — pharmaceutical drug manufacturers," said Nelson.

Bills to reduce the cost of drugs have been sidelined in both chambers and Governor Romney did not include either drug cost reduction measure in his budget.

Adapted from the August 12 edition of the online newsletter of the Commonwealth Coalition.

Health Care

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It's time for action to make health care an issue that all candidates feel compelled to address prior to the Nov. 2 election.

To that end, Jobs with Justice — a coalition of labor unions and community groups including Boston DSA — is spon-

soring another "Health Care for All" week of action October 3 -10 to put pressure on employers and government for immediate action to expand and improve Medicare-type coverage, not undermine and privatize it. Participants will engage in rallies, door to door canvassing, passing resolutions, and a protest at WalMart.

To drive the point home, a 'Town Hall Meeting on the Healthcare Crisis' will be

held at the Old West Church on Sunday, October 10. People who take part in the week of action can use this forum to reflect on their experiences and discuss an action plan for meaningful healthcare reform as November 2 approaches.

Adapted from Jobs with Justice material. For more information, call (617) 524-8778, www.massjwj.net

Letters

Dear DSA,

Thank you very much for your endorsement! It was quite a surprise to get your newsletter with my picture and endorsement inside.

I face a socially and fiscally hard-core Republican conservative opponent, and I need your help. If your members could come out to Acton for I weekend between now and November it would be terrific.

Please contact me at (978) 263-4244 or james@repeldridge.com.

Sincerely,

**Rep. Jamie Eldridge
Acton**

DSA — Wanna Join?

Members of Democratic Socialists of America are active in campaigns to organize unions, for racial and gender equality, for a democratic foreign policy, and in other struggles for a more just world. As the U.S. affiliate of the Socialist International, DSA works for freedom, justice and democracy everywhere while seeking to build a movement capable of challenging the power of large corporations. Join us!

- Enclosed are membership dues (\$65 sustainer, \$35 regular, \$20 limited income).
 Enclosed is a contribution of (make check payable to DSA).
 I am renewing.
 My address has changed.
 Please send me more information about DSA.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Union/School _____ E-mail _____

Boston DSA * P.O. Box 1356 * Boston, MA 02205

Health Care for People – Not For Profit

Real health care reform should be designed to meet the needs of you and your family, not to preserve the profits and prerogatives of insurance companies. Real health care reform will provide:

- **Guaranteed Coverage for All in a Single Class of Care.** We'll know we have high quality care because U.S. Senators, corporate executives, and professional athletes will be in the same system as factory workers, store managers, and homemakers.
- **Comprehensive Benefits with an Emphasis on Preventive Care.** All medically necessary treatment will be covered, including long term care, mental health and prescription drugs. Preventable problems won't end up in the emergency room.
- **Consumer Choice of Provider and Patient/Doctor Control of Treatment.** You will be able to see any doctor you wish, without having to pay more. You and your doctor will determine your treatment - not your insurance company.
- **Fair Financing.** We will all pay our fair share based on our ability to pay. No one will be denied care because they don't have enough money.
- **Cost Control.** Wasteful bureaucracy and unnecessary profits will be eliminated. Expensive equipment will not be unnecessarily duplicated by competing hospitals. Hospital costs, doctors' fees and drug prices will be limited.
- **Public Accountability.** The voters will make fundamental decisions about health care, not corporate executives. If the system isn't meeting our needs, we can change it, because we control the plan.

Single Payer – The Proven Solution

Only a single payer health care system can deliver on all these promises. A single payer system replaces the hundreds of insurance companies in the current system with a single government agency which collects premiums (through taxes) and pays medical bills. Studies, including one by Congress's General Accounting Office (GAO) have demonstrated the efficiency of single payer. A single payer system can cover everyone, with the same high quality care, without costing any more than our present, inefficient system. Cost savings are built in through simplification of billing and administration, and elimination of insurance company profits. The health care authority, as the sole purchaser of health care, bargains with providers over fees and budgets; it has the clout to keep costs down.

Other health care reform proposals are based on complicated, unproven ideas. "Managed Care" in HMO's has been a disaster! Yet a simple, single payer system has been working in Canada for years. Canadians pay far less for their health care than we do, yet by all measurable standards, their health care is as good as ours, or better. And they cover everybody!

Support the Single Payer Health Care Solution

Boston Democratic Socialists of America

P.O. Box 51356

Boston, MA 02205

(617) 354-5078

<http://dsaboston.org>

More Endorsements!

The July YR listed candidates for the Massachusetts legislature endorsed by the Commonwealth Coalition, a state-wide group of labor, women's, environmental and community organizations including Boston DSA. The additional candidates below have been endorsed since then after being interviewed and questioned by the Coalition on a variety of progressive issues. (The differing formats for some of these profiles only reflect their com-

pilation by different authors at different times, not favoritism toward any particular candidates.)

Although supporting all of the CC endorsements, Boston DSA has prioritized the campaign of Carl Sciortino for State Representative in Somerville. And in addition to our work with the Coalition, DSA is urging a vote for Andrea Cabral for Suffolk County Sheriff and John Kerry for President.

Remember that for the Sheriff's race

and some of the State House contests the key election date is the primary on September 14. All of these campaigns would appreciate your help on the weekend before the election and on election day itself.

A summary of our previous endorsements follows these most recent ones. Any late endorsements occurring after the YR deadline can be found on the Coalition website (www.81-21pac.com).

State House of Representatives

Deborah Blumer (Democrat)



Incumbent, 6th Middlesex
Contact Info: 7 Ledgewood Rd, Framingham MA 01701
Website: debby-blumer.org

Opponent: Karen Bognanni (Republican), Deborah Sanchez (Republican), Gerald Bloomfield (Unenrolled)

Key accomplishments: Rep. Blumer serves on the Personnel and Administration Committee, the Post Audit & Oversight Committee, and the Local Affairs and Regional Government Committee. During her tenure as State Representative, she has fought to pass numerous bills on healthcare, education, and civil rights.

Mark Falzone (Democrat)



Incumbent, 9th Essex
Contact Info: 9 Broadway, Saugus MA 01906
Website: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/member/mvf1.htm>

Opponent: Michael Motzkin (Republican), Debra Panetta (Democrat)

Key Accomplishments: Rep. Falzone has served on the Post Audit & Oversight Committee, the Science & Technology

Committee, the Taxation Committee, and the House Special Committee on Technology. Representative Falzone is supported by a broad coalition of progressive organizations.

John Keenan (Democrat)



Open Seat, 7th Essex
Contact Info: 6 Manning Street, Salem MA 0197-
DSA contact: Harris Gruman (617) 723-6866
Website: www.Elect-Keenan.com

Keenan.com

Opponent: David Summer (Republican), Joan Lovely (Democrat), Michael Biatty (Democrat), Richard Grabowski

Key Issues: Mr. Keenan has pledged to fight to lower healthcare and prescription costs, to improve education, and to guard the civil rights of all his constituents. Some of his key issues include improving economic growth, protecting the environment, and reducing crime.

Edward Quinn (Democrat)

Open Seat, 30th Middlesex
Contact Info: 4 Laurel Street, Woburn, MA 01801
Website: www.Ed-Quinn.org

Opponent: Patrick Natale (Democrat), William Rabbitt, Paul Meaney (Unenrolled)

Key Issues: Edward Quinn is a pro-

gressive Democratic who has a long history of activism around education, the environment and community development.

Marty Walz (Democrat)



Paul Demakis endorses Marty Walz

Open Seat, 8th Suffolk House District
Contact Info: 250 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 262-1934
Website: www.martywalz.com

Opponent: Kristine Glynn (Democrat), Tom White (AFP)

Key Issues: Ms. Walz has made issues such as housing, healthcare, and civil rights key issues in her campaign. She believes everyone is entitled to affordable and accessible health care, and seeks ways to ensure healthcare and lowered prescription costs. Marty also supports strategies to keep housing costs low for current residents, as well as the development of more affordable housing. She also supports equal rights to marriage for same-sex couples, as well as women's rights to reproductive freedom. Endorsed by AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, NOW, Byron Rushing.

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Endorsements

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Rep. Michael Festa (Democrat)



Incumbent, 32nd Middlesex/Melrose House District

Contact Information: P.O. Box 13, Melrose, MA 02176

Home: 127 Boston Rock Road, Melrose, MA 02176

Personal e-mail: rep.mikefesta@hou.state.ma.us

Website: www.mikefesta.com

Opponent: Thomas Quinn (Republican)

Education: Melrose High School; Tufts University, B.A.; Suffolk University Law School, J.D.

Endorsing Organizations: Mass NARAL, AFL-CIO

Denis Guyer (Democrat)



Open Seat, 2nd Berkshire House District

Contact Info: 1 Haworth Street, Dalton, MA 01226

Phone: 413-684-0063

Personal/Campaign e-mail: Denis@guyer2004.com

Website: Guyer2004.com

Opponent: Richard Stockwell (Republican)

Endorsing Organizations: Mass-NARAL, AFL-CIO

Rep. Jay Kaufman (Democrat)

Incumbent, 15th Middlesex House Dist.

Contact Info: One Childs Road, Lexington, MA 02421

Personal/Campaign e-mail: jrkock@rcn.com

Website: www.jaykaufman.com/

Opponent: Ed Crowley (Democrat), Katherine Ryan (Republican)

Education: Brandeis University (B.A. '68, M.A. '73), New York University (M.A. '71)

Endorsing Organizations: Mass NOW, Mass NARAL, AFL-CIO

Paul Meoni (Democrat)



Challenger, 1st Norfolk House District

Contact info: 16 Pine Road, Randolph MA 02368

Campaign Phone: 781-986-5588

Personal/Campaign e-mail: pjmeoni@comcast.net

Website: www.electmeoni.com

Opponent: Bruce Ayers (Democrat – incumbent), Marco Sandonato (Republican)

Endorsing Organizations: MassNOW, NARAL

Monica Palacios Boyce (Democrat)



Open Seat 1st Hampden House District

Contact info: PO Box 83, Wales, MA 01081

Campaign Phone: 413-244-6453

Home: 81 Haynes Hill

Rd, Wales, MA 01081

Website: www.monicaforstaterep.com

Personal/Campaign e-mail: monica@monicaforstaterep.com

Opponent: Todd Smola, (Republican)

Endorsing Organizations: AFL-CIO, AFCSME, NOW, PDMs, SEIU 509

Rep. Anne Paulsen (Democrat)

Incumbent, 24th Middlesex
Contact info: 90 School Street, Belmont, MA 02133

Website: www.mass.gov/legis/member/amp1.htm

Opponent: Kevin C u d d e b a c k (Republican)

E d u c a t i o n : Framingham State (B.S, Education) Boston State (M.Ed.) Harvard University Extension (Literature and Teaching Adults to Read)

Endorsing Organizations: MassNARAL, AFL-CIO

Ben Tafoya (Democrat)



Challenger, 20th Middlesex House District

Contact Info: 40 Oak Street, Reading, MA 01876

Campaign Phone: 781-994-3178

Campaign/Personal e-mail: ben@tafoya2004.com

Website: tafoya2004.com

Opponent: Bradley Jones (Republican – Incumbent)

Endorsing Organizations: Mass NARAL, AFL-CIO

Cleon Turner (Democrat)

Open Seat, 1st Barnstable House District

Contact info: PO Box 184, East Dennis, MA 02641

Campaign phone: 508-385-2561

Campaign/Personal e-mail: cleonh@comcast.net

Website: coming soon

Opponent: Cynthia Stead (Republican), Richard Neitz (Republican), James Matel (Republican)

Endorsing Organizations: AFL-CIO, SEIU 509

State Senate

Senator Hariette Chandler (Democrat)



Incumbent, 1st Worcester

Website: www.chandlerforsenate.com

Contact Info: 29 East Mountain Street, Worcester, MA 01606

Home: 9 Aylesbury Road, Worcester, MA 01609

Personal/Campaign e-mail: harleechandler3@aol.com

Opponent: Stephen Paige (Republican)

Education: Wellesley College, B.A. '59; Clark University, Ph.D. '73; Simmons Graduate School of Management, M.B.A. '83; Worcester State College, Honorary Doctorate Public Administration '88.

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Endorsements

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Candidate Statement: My voting record is a strong affirmation of my deep personal commitment to key progressive issues. My campaign will also focus on: 1) increasing job opportunities and economic development, 2) assuring that quality and affordability in housing and health care are available to every Massachusetts citizen, and 3) providing every child with the opportunity to experience educational excellence.

Endorsing Organizations: Mass NARAL, AFL-CIO

Senator Cynthia Creem (Democrat)

Incumbent, 1st
Middlesex & Norfolk

Contact info: 110
Huntington Rd, Newton,
MA 02458

Home: 110 Huntington
Rd., Newton MA 02458

Website: www.mass.gov/legis/member/csc0.htm

Opponent: Mathew Fraser (Republican)
Education: Boston University, Boston
University Law School

Endorsing Organizations:
MassNARAL, AFL-CIO

Paul McGeary (Democrat)



Challenger, 1st Essex
& Middlesex Senate
District

Contact info: PO Box
3069, Gloucester, MA
01930

Phone: 978-283-8425

Campaign/Personal e-mail: paul@
McGeary2004.com

Website: www.McGeary2004.com

Opponent: Bruce Tarr (Republican)

Endorsing Organizations: AFL-CIO,
SEIU 509

Angus McQuilken (Democrat)



Challenger, Norfolk,
Bristol, and Middlesex
Senate District

Angusforsenate.org **Contact Info:** 210
May Street, Needham MA 02492

Campaign Phone Number: 508-376-
5389

Home: 3 Holbrook Way, Millis, MA
02054

Personal/Campaign e-mail: con-
tact@angusforsenate.org

Opponent: Scott Brown (Republican –
Incumbent), Patricia Ross (Democrat),
Louis Sinoff (Libertarian), Barbara Smith
(Democrat), Jerry Wasserman
(Democrat)

Education: University of
Massachusetts at Amherst (B.A.)

Candidate Statement: I am running
for the State Senate in order to restore
independent, effective leadership to
Beacon Hill. During my eleven years of
service as Chief of Staff to Senator
Cheryl Jacques, we were able to build
coalitions and pass significant legisla-
tion that has improved the quality of life
for the people of Massachusetts. I look
forward to working with the
Commonwealth Coalition to strengthen
our economy, improve our public
schools, broaden access to health
care, and protect the safety of our com-
munities.

Previous Picks

State House of Representatives

James Eldridge

Incumbent – Democrat (Acton)
(978) 263-4244
www.repeldridge.com

Robert Spellane

Incumbent – Democrat (Worcester)
www.bobspellane.com

Matthew Patrick

Incumbent – Democrat (Barnstable)
www.mass.gov/legis/member/m_pl.htm

Pat Jehlen

Incumbent – Democrat (Somerville)
www.patjehlen.org

Doug Petersen

Incumbent – Democrat (Marblehead)
(781) 631-5731
www.mass.gov/legis/member/dwp1.htm

Melissa Murgo

Challenger, Democrat (Worcester)

(508) 767-9916

www.melissamurgo.com

Carl Sciortino

Challenger, Democrat (Somerville)
(617) 625-2831, www.electcarl.org

State Senate

Robert O'Leary

Incumbent – Democrat (Cape Cod)
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Reforging the Democratic Coalition

By Carl Proper

John Kerry, John Edwards and the newly “united” Democratic Party face a daunting challenge if they intend to rebuild the Democratic coalition as the national majority party.

From the Roosevelt era through the Presidency of Lyndon Johnson, a Democratic coalition, including northern liberals and southern racists, blue-collar workers and big city bosses, normally governed America. This collapsed in the 1960s. Northerners and southerners, blue-collar workers and professionals split over the Vietnam War and civil rights. Differing interests and attitudes toward corporate-led globalization and a variety of cultural changes widened the split to a chasm in the latter part of the 20th century.

As this coalition fell apart, growing numbers of Americans stopped voting. The least educated – and less-well-paid – voters dropped out at more than twice the rate of college graduates. (From 1964 to 2000, reported voting for citizens with less than a high school diploma fell by half -- from about sixty to thirty percent, while voting by college graduates declined less than one quarter -- from 88 to 72 percent. The U.S. is the only developed country with a significant class differential in voting.) And large numbers of the remaining white working class voters, including the majority of males and of non-union workers, moved to the Republican Party, while organized labor stuck with the Democrats.

These voting shifts, and the underlying divisions they reflected, coincided with economic disaster for the working class. Private-sector unionization declined by two-thirds, blue-collar wages stagnated, upward mobility slowed, and the economic disparity between the rich and the working poor widened. The ratio of CEO to worker pay rose from 26 to 1 in 1965 to 310 to 1 in 2000, while the median wage for male hourly workers in 2000 remained below its 1979 level. The backdrop was

corporate-led globalization accompanied by a relentless reduction in corporate regulation and taxation, and a growing takeover by corporations of roles once filled by local, state and national government.

The radical right takeover represented by the Bush Administration may have finally forced the liberal elite and some elements of the white working class to eye each other once again as potential partners. During the Democratic primaries, anti-war Deaniacs seemed ready to back Howard Dean’s pitch to the economic interests of southern whites. John Edwards’ appeals to the common economic interests of black and white southern workers found an audience in a few Southern states. Polls also show that some upper middle class voters who are concerned about the globalization of advanced technology, R&D and the service economy want no part of further free trade deals. And labor has formed alliances in recent years with the environmental, women’s and gay rights, and civil and immigrant rights movements.

But how profound are the differences within a potential Democratic majority? What are the underlying bases for the forty-year split, and what would it take, for example, to pull the southern black and white working class into the same political party?

The class-linked decline in voting in the post-Vietnam war years was in part a “rational” response to the failure of government to deliver economic benefits to ordinary voters since Medicare in the 1960s. Many working-class Americans now utterly dismiss Democratic campaign promises of help on lunch-bucket issues. The voting decline, however, was clearly also a cause of workers’ troubles. The decline in government services to workers led to a fall off in worker voting, which then led to a further decline in government services, and so on.

What kicked this vicious cycle into motion? Certainly, corporate-led, out-

sourcing-based globalization was a critical factor, and somewhat earlier than generally recognized.

Corporate globalization prevailed by neutralizing workers’ most effective weapon – withholding of labor. To the extent that capital was able to turn to a third world labor pool for manufacturing work, and for a growing share of service and technical work as well, it had far less need for the labor of American workers. American workers, however – and workers around the world-- DO need or want the modern jobs corporations can now offer. The gross differential between the exploding supply of available labor and the more slowly expanding global demand for labor is the source of capital’s extraordinary power in our time. Labor’s failure to respond with an effective global strategy, in turn, yielded the new playing field to our class adversaries.

As the mid-west rust belt expanded in the ’70s and ’80s, access to the middle class for the industrial, especially black, proletariat came to an end. U.S. manufacturing workers naturally called for protectionist policies. Union leaders generally backed “fair trade” as a compromise in the new global economy, but the Clinton Administration’s all-out campaign for NAFTA slammed the door on that. American labor had enjoyed at least modest success in following runaway corporations into the southern United States in the mid-20th century. By contrast, unions made little headway in the ’70s, ’80s and ’90s in organizing and uniting with the workers in other nations who now manufacture our consumer products. This was true in part because global corporations abandoned their overseas employees in one country after another as soon as lower-cost alternatives appeared. Only European unions retained some of their former power by effectively resisting the extremes of free trade.

American elites, on the other hand – including cultural liberals – gorged on the booming profits from cheap global

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labor as corporate America restored its global hegemony. At the same time, liberals maintained a relatively clean conscience by expanding environmental protections along with a degree of access to power for women, gays and a new African-American elite. With Bill Clinton in office and the tech bubble expanding, there may have seemed to be no reason for elites, liberal or otherwise, to reach out to "reactionary" American workers.

Questions for a Coalition

The coming year may provide answers to a number of questions about the future of democracy in America. What sort of coalition will the Democrats now pull together?

On the positive side, African Americans and Latinos have largely displaced racist Dixiecrats as key Party constituencies. And the labor movement, while much weaker and less

influential than before, is also quicker to challenge Washington's foreign policy.

But will enough "NASCAR Dads" risk trusting the Democrats and set aside their "cultural" concerns for one more chance at economic reform? Will white workers return to voting as workers? Will upper-middle-class advocates of humane internationalism, responsible environmental policy and inclusive democracy accept that a once-again powerful organized labor movement is the essential mass base for a progressive party? Will more than a handful of American corporate leaders decide that, in a still-dangerous world, a degree of justice at home is needed (as it was during the Cold War) to rebuild alliances abroad? If the Democrats win the White House, and possibly one House of Congress, will they fight this time for labor law and health care reform? Will U.S. workers accept that their own standard of living can only be restored by integrating and globalizing the labor movement? And will the leadership of organized labor be united, far-

sighted and strong enough to pull American workers back into the electoral system, and away from a backward-looking vision of a middle-class America isolated from an impoverished world?

The basis for a restored (and improved) Democratic coalition would have to be the conviction that labor, liberals and Democrats all need each other to prosper. That conviction died 40 years ago. It will take far more than the political ambitions of John Kerry and John Edwards to bring it back to life.

Carl Proper is Director of Communications for the New England Joint Board of UNITE HERE.

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