

Benton County Dems' World

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Richard Bland, President

Hal Spangenberg, Editor

Benton County Dems June Meeting

Monday, June 26, Lunch 11:00 am Meeting 12:00 noon
Golden Corral, 2605 W. Pleasant Crossing, Rogers



Speaker: Joshua Mahony, announced Democratic candidate for 3rd Congressional District:

"Joshua Mahony's Listening Tour Visits the Benton County Dems"

Website: <https://joshuamahony.com>

There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation.

For reservations please contact Rusty Mastricola 855-9588

or rusty1214@gmail.com or indicate "will attend" on meetup.com. Reservations are not required but appreciated by the Friday prior to the meeting.

President's Message, June 2017

Presidential elections are exciting and much-followed extravaganzas of Super Bowl proportions. Fans check "Real Clear Politics," "538," and even the Las Vegas odds frequently for an advance clue as to the winner. They write checks, stuff envelopes, and make calls for their favorites. They sit up until the wee hours for the returns and experience depression or exhilaration, depending on how their favored team fares, once the results are apparent.

Much of this enthusiasm is lacking for elections at the state level. Many voters don't know who their state legislators are, nor are they aware of the identities of the state constitutional officers except perhaps the governor. Often office-holders are elected by default, with no primary challenge from within their own party and no candidate at all from the opposition party. Much of what

happens in the state capital goes unnoticed by the voters, and if it is noticed, it often is forgotten when the election rolls around.

This is a dangerous situation, and one Democrats must address and do so quickly. There is a tipping point at which one party gains enough power to have additional leverage to gain more power. Currently, the Republicans control enough state legislatures and governorship to ensure a sizeable number of "safe seats" in Congress, through gerrymandering. This results in that party having more seats in the House of Representatives percentage-wise than popular votes for Republican candidates would reflect. In fact, there have been elections in which Democratic congressional candidates received more total votes than Republican candidates yet the Republicans gained a controlling majority in the House.

