



January 2019

Benton County Dems' World

David Bernstein, Editor

A reminder to all that it is time to renew your membership for '19. Dues remain \$20.00 per person and \$30 per couple, with \$10 for postage if you wish to receive our newsletter by mail. Your check, made out to BC Dems, may be sent to Benton County Dems, P.O. Box 2258, Bentonville, AR 72712-2258. If you need to update your address or e-mail, you can download a membership form at Bcdems.org

Table of Contents

[Upcoming Events](#)

[The President's Memo](#)

[The Shutdown Timeline](#)

[Chapter Treasurer's Report](#)

[James Farley](#)

[BCDems Board Members](#)

[This Month's Guest Speaker](#)

[Movie Poster Auction](#)

[Chapter Meeting Minutes](#)

[Odds & Ends](#)

[Annual Bean Dinner](#)

Upcoming Events

Mon, Jan 28

11:00 – 1:00

[Golden Corral Rogers](#)

BC Dems Luncheon

Mon., Feb 11

6:30 PM

[Guess Who? - B'ville](#)

Democratic Party of Benton Co.

Tues., Feb 19

NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon

1:30 PM

[Western Sizzlin'](#)

Mon., Feb 25

11:00 – 1:00

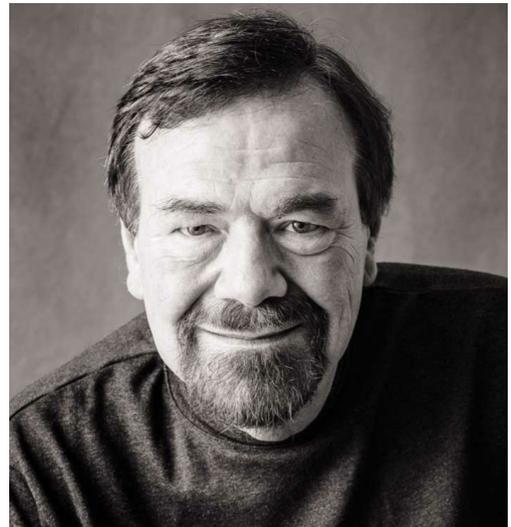
[Golden Corral Rogers](#)

BC Dems' Luncheon

This Month's Guest Speaker

Dr. Stephen Smith will be the guest speaker at the January BC Dems meeting on **“Fake News, Fox News, and A Big Fat Liar”**.

Dr. Smith is an Independent Scholar with Oxbridge Research Associates and **Emeritus Professor of Communication at the University of Arkansas**, where he joined the faculty in 1983. He received his Ph.D. in Communication at Northwestern University and completed special studies in First Amendment issues at Harvard Law School. Dr. Smith has been a Visiting Fellow and Faculty at a number of academic institutions in the U.S. and the U.K. He has served as a member of the **Arkansas House of Representatives, Vice President of the Arkansas Constitutional Convention, Chief of Staff to the Attorney General, and Executive Assistant to Governor Bill Clinton**. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Communication, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, and Rhetoric and has received numerous teaching awards and was named a Chancellor's Lecturer in 1993. Dr. Smith also received the **Fulbright Research Prize in Communication Studies and the Fulbright College Master Research Award**.



Smith has contributed more than 60 book chapters and scholarly articles in journals and he has written several books including *Myth, Media and the Southern Mind*; *Clinton on Stump, State, and Stage: The Rhetorical Road to the White House*; *Communication Shock*; and *Freedom of Religion: Foundational Documents and Historical Arguments*.

The President's Memo

Happy 2019 to all our faithful members of BC Dems!

I resolved at the start of the year that this, my first message to you as President, would be positive. I am not; therefore, going to address the tragedy and travesty that is our current partial government shutdown.

Although our wonderfully qualified and articulate candidates did not prevail here in our mid-term election in Benton County, these young, passionate Democrats are now eager to stay involved and to advocate for our ideals. We will see them often as they prepare for 2020.

However, we can take heart from the wonderful tide that swept our party back into the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Here, too, we see young, passionate, Democratic members who are eager to enact reforms. Nothing could illustrate the stark difference between them and the new Republican class more than the following photo and its emoji:



Someone turned it into emoji form 🤗👏

116th Congress Members Elect:

GOP



Dem



There are 67 new Democrats and 44 new Republicans. The Dems reflect the reality of the changing American populace. They are the most racially diverse and most female group ever elected. ! A record

102 women will be in the U.S. House.

Actually, women won 60% of the seats that were flipped. 38% of Democrats are white men while 90% of the Republicans are. Many of our 24 people of color represent mostly white districts!

Among the new group: the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, the first two Native American women, the two first Muslim-American congresswomen, one of whom was the first Palestinian-American woman and another the first Somali-American. Iowa (my home state) elected two women to the House, their first, and also a record number to Iowa's House.

Democrats won 77% of Senate races, although they needed to win 83% to take control. The Senate will have the highest number of women ever – 25. Several Senators elected were the first women to represent their states – Tennessee and Arizona (2). Massachusetts elected its first black woman. Two women will now represent six states. Fifty-six women have ever served in the U.S. Senate, 34 Democrats and 18 Republicans. Seven were elected this year, meaning that there are now 25, a record 25%.

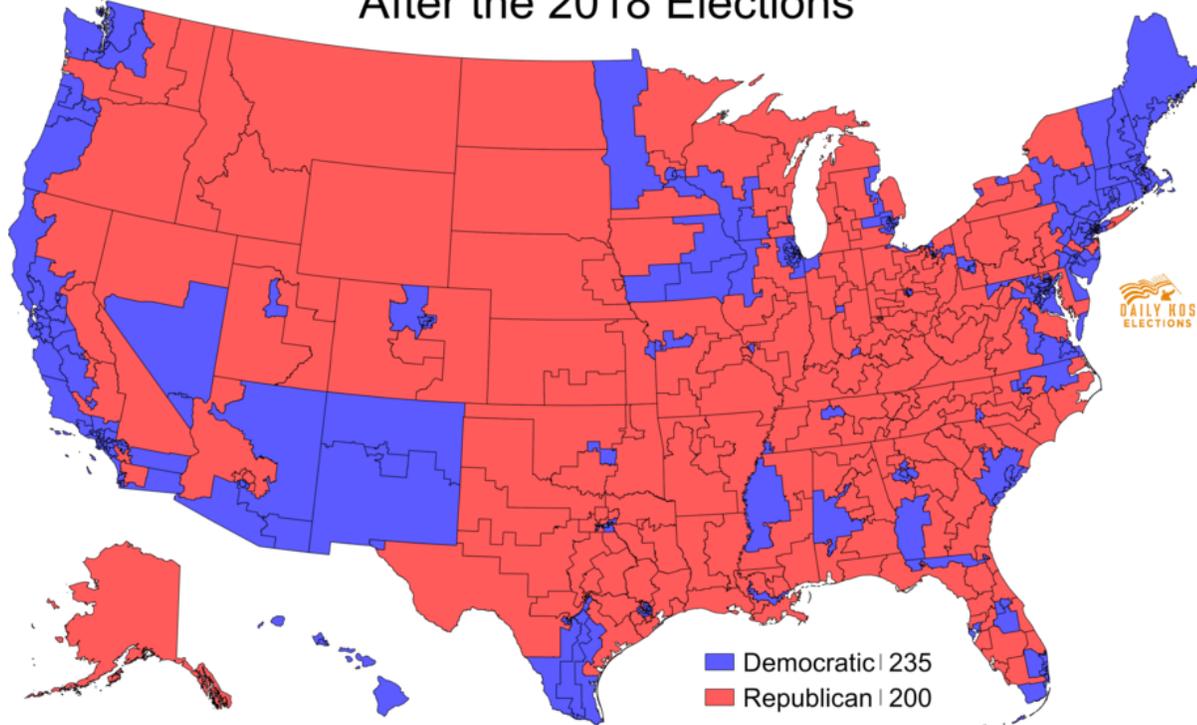
There was a net gain of seven governorships for Democrats. Nine women became governors of their states – firsts in Rhode Island, Maine, South Dakota, Oregon, and the territory of Guam, and (Republicans) in Iowa and Alabama. This is three more than last year and matches a record set twice previously. In our nation's history 44 women have been governors.

In CNN exit polls, almost 80% of voters said it was very or somewhat important to see more women elected. That was a higher priority for women than for men, but not by much, CNN said.

Eunice Van Tuyl. BC Dems President

From The Daily Kos:

116th Congress Districts by Party After the 2018 Elections



116th Congress Member Demographics - U.S. House						
Category	Democrats		Republicans		Total	
Party	235	54%	200	46%	435	
Newly Elected Member	62	26%	31	16%	93	21%
Took Office Since 2014	101	43%	88	44%	189	43%
Split-Ticket District	31	13%	3	2%	34	8%
Women	89	38%	13	7%	102	23%
Black	51	22%	1	1%	52	12%
Hispanic or Latino	33	14%	6	3%	39	9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	14	6%	0	0%	14	3%
Native American	2	1%	2	1%	4	1%
White (Non-Hispanic)	136	58%	190	95%	326	75%
LGBTQ	8	3%	0	0%	8	2%
Women/Minorities/LGBTQ	150	64%	22	11%	172	40%
Median Age	59		57		58	

116th Congress Member Demographics - U.S. Senate						
Category	Democrats		Republicans		Total	
Party	47	47%	53	53%	100	
New Member	2	4%	6	11%	8	8%
Took Office Since 2014	10	21%	21	40%	31	31%
Split-Ticket State	9	19%	2	4%	11	11%
Women	17	36%	7	13%	24	24%
Black	2	4%	1	2%	3	3%
Hispanic or Latino	2	4%	2	4%	4	4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	3	6%	0	0%	3	3%
White (Non-Hispanic)	41	87%	50	94%	91	91%
LGBTQ	2	4%	0	0%	2	2%
Women/Minorities/LGBTQ	21	45%	10	19%	31	31%
Median Age	62		64		64	

The new House will have more than 100 women for the first time in history, but at 23 percent, women are still far from parity with men. However, 2018 marked a massive divergence by party when it comes to women representatives: A full 38 percent of House Democrats are women, but only a paltry 7 percent of House Republicans are. That's a record high for Democrats and a historic low for Republicans.

People of color also make up a record 25 percent of the House, but those numbers again wildly diverge by party. Among Democrats, 42 percent of House members are people of color, but only 5 percent of House Republicans are.

In total, heterosexual non-Hispanic white men still make up 60 percent of the House, but those numbers also diverge by party: They're just 36 percent of House Democrats but a staggering 89 percent of House Republicans.

Women make up 24 percent of the total chamber but only 36 percent of Democrats and 13 percent of Republicans. The Senate is dramatically whiter than the House: People of color are only 9 percent of the chamber, including just 13 percent of Democrats and 6 percent of Republicans. Heterosexual non-Hispanic white men comprise 70 percent of the Senate, but just like the House, those numbers are significantly different by party: They make up 55 percent of Democratic senators and 81 percent of Republican senators.

MLK Day Perspectives

- Ninety percent (90%) of Americans have a favorable opinion of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A ScottRasmussen.com national survey found that just 5% hold an unfavorable view and 6% have no opinion.
- Sixty-three percent (63%) of African Americans consider it one of our most important holidays along with 49% of Hispanics. Only 19% of white Americans share that view.



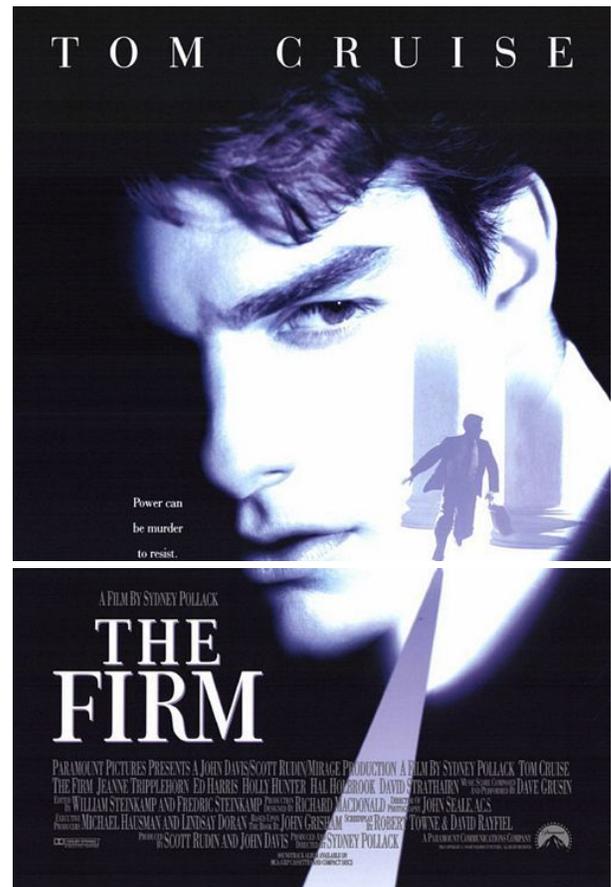
Source: Rasmussen, PJ (2019, Jan 15). *Crosstabs Jan 14-15*. (<https://scottrasmussen.com/crosstabs-jan-14-15-3/>)

Win a Piece of Film History

Bill Beck is generously donating a movie 1 sheet (also called a movie poster) for auction at our January meeting. It is for the **1993 movie "The Firm" by John Grisham**, who also wrote the novel on which the movie was based. **This framed poster, which is among a very limited number, is autographed by Grisham** and would make a fabulous gift for any Grisham fan. Just the poster is listed on Amazon for \$75, and a single framed, autographed one is listed for \$275.

The bidding will start at \$100 and the proceeds will go to the BC Dems.

Bid High. Bid Often!



Shutdown: Who's To Blame?

The media likes to portray the government shutdown as a fight between Trump and Nancy Pelosi.

Actually, it is Mitch McConnell who will not allow bills Democrats have passed to open portions of the government to come to a vote. He -- and he alone -- is right now blocking any possible progress.

- [Dec. 19](#): McConnell's Senate unanimously passes a bill to fund the government without Trump's racist (and ineffective) wall
- [Dec. 20](#): Paul Ryan — in his final act as Trump's puppet House speaker—amends the funding bill to add billions for Trump's wall
- [Dec. 22](#): The government shuts down, as McConnell's Senate doesn't have the votes to build the wall
- [Jan. 3](#): Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats take power and immediately pass essentially the same funding bill that McConnell's Senate had passed unanimously in December
- [Jan. 3–present](#): Mitch McConnell does nothing

Mitch McConnell is single-handedly stopping the Senate from taking up the bill passed by the House — again, essentially the same bill the Senate passed unanimously in December.

According to Ballotpedia, thirty-three percent (33%) of American adults now believe the U.S. economy is getting worse, while just 31% believe it is getting better. That reflects a marked decline in confidence from a month ago when 36% thought things were getting better and just 26% said worse.

Source: Rasmussen, S. (2019, Jan 17). Retrieved from https://ballotpedia.org/Scott_Rasmussen%27s_Number_of_the_Day_for_January_17,_2019

Meeting Minutes

BENTON COUNTY DEMS

Nov. 26, 2018, General Meeting

Golden Corral, Rogers, AR

President Richard Bland called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. He welcomed new attendees, and then Mary Ann Boyer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Suzanne Miltich introduced the speaker, Steve Copley, Executive Director of Interfaith

Arkansas and Chair of the Democratic Party of Arkansas Faith Caucus.

Steve said as a general rule, Democrats focus on concerns around the Golden Rule, addressing issues involved with how we treat our neighbors and how we treat the environment. He said these are the issues that should be addressed by Democrats. He quoted Hubert Humphrey, "The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." He said this should be the focus and the message of Democrats, and that our responsibility is to get this message across to the faith community. He distributed a brochure which outlined the core values of the Faith Caucus on the following: Discrimination; Diversity; Education; Environment; Equal Pay; Freedom of Religion; Health care; Immigration; Justice, Rights and Liberties; and Social Security-Medicare-Medicaid.

After the program, Richard called the business meeting to order by asking for approval of the minutes of the Oct. 22 meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted. The treasurer's report was also approved as submitted.

The next item of business was the election of the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee: Eunice VanTuyl, president; Julia Bailey, vice president; Diana Kolman, secretary; and David Cauldwell, treasurer. Bill Beck moved the slate be accepted as submitted. Marge Boyer seconded the motion, and it carried.

Announcements:

- Connie Hoffman thanked all those who had helped at the Democratic headquarters for the mid-term elections. Suzanne Miltich announced that the Democratic Party of Benton County is in the process of accepting nominations for new officers. The nominations will remain open until Wednesday. Anyone interested in serving should contact Suzanne Jessup.
- Betty Cauldwell, Eunice VanTuyl, and Diana Kolman are working on another Bean Supper to be held in the spring. More information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.
- Richard announced that the program initiated by Blanca Estevez to get students to take a field trip to go to the polls to vote was successful with approximately 100 students participating.
- BC Dems membership renewals are due now. Please see Gaye Bland to renew your membership.
- Bill Beck recognized Richard's two years of serving as club president with the gift of a book. He thanked Richard for his service and dedication to the club.
- Richard announced that David Bernstein will be taking over the publication of the monthly newsletter.

Before the meeting adjourned, a painting of the Bill Clinton family by Wanda Roe was auctioned for \$50 to Connie Holtman.

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be Jan. 28 at the Golden Corral. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kolman, Secretary

Treasurer's Summary

November / December 2018

by David Cauldwell, Treasurer

Beginning Balance:		\$1,594.84		
Income:	Blue Bowls:	\$39.00	Expenses:	
	Dues:	\$240.00		
	Postage:		Meeting expense-lunch	\$19.25
	Donations:		Sound system	\$50.00
	Misc. Sales:	\$50.00		
	Total:	\$329.00	Total Exp:	\$69.25
Ending Balance:		\$1,854.59		

Odds & Ends

Melania Trump's parents recently received U.S. citizenship after she sponsored them through the immigration program that her husband has denounced as **"chain migration."**

Dominique Crenn became the first woman in the United States to receive Michelin's highest distinction of three stars in its annual ranking of top restaurants in the San Francisco area released on Thursday. Atelier Crenn's elevation from last year's two-star status was unanimous among Michelin reviewers.

Between 10 and 15 percent of Americans, depending on age groups, **cannot locate the U.S. on a world map.**

For the first time, there are teacher shortages here in Arkansas in English and Social Studies as well as those traditional ones such as the Sciences, Technology, Math, Spanish and Special Education.



*Our sympathies are extended
to the family of
James Farley
who recently passed away.*

*He was among our longest-
time members and
will be missed.*

Annual Bean Dinner



Please note on your calendars the date for this year's Bean Supper. It will be on Friday, April 26. Clarke Tucker, 35, a two-term Arkansas legislator who ran for Congress against French Hill in Little Rock, will be our featured speaker.

More details will follow later.

2019 Benton County Democrats Officers & Committee Chairs

Position

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Past President
Membership Chair
Social Media Chair
Newsletter Chair
Publicity Chair
Corresponding Secretary
Reservations Chair

Name

Eunice Van Tuyl
Julia K. Bailey
David Cauldwell
Diana Kolman
Richard Bland
Gaye Bland
Joel Ewing
David Bernstein
Jerri Cooper

Betty Cauldwell