

Greetings All!

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1. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Johnson County Republican Central Committee meeting will be Monday, April 3rd at the Hawkeye Brokerage Center, 2010 Keokuk St, at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

2. Spaghetti Dinner Rescheduled

I'm pleased to announce that the 2006 Johnson County Republican Spaghetti Dinner has been rescheduled for May 12th at Montgomery Hall at the Johnson County Fairgrounds.

Our special guest will be our candidate for Governor, Rep. Jim Nussle. We will also be hosting our other great Republican candidates and officeholders in Johnson County.

Come out and enjoy a great evening of food and fellowship with your fellow Republicans and get the opportunity to meet our candidate for Governor, Jim Nussle.

Tickets for the event can be purchased from any Johnson County Republican Central Committee member or by contacting Deb Thornton at 338-5579. If you would like to pay by credit card, you may also purchase tickets online at <http://www.jcrepublicans.org/spagdinner.html> If you purchased tickets previously, they will be honored at the event.

3. Teacher Pay Proposal

Republicans in the Iowa Senate have put forth a proposal that would dedicate 450 million dollars to improve teacher pay over the next five years.

Coincidentally, this is the amount of money that Gov. Vilsack has demanded that the Legislature put towards improving teacher pay.

However, common sense demands that if the state is going to increase teacher pay, that the quality of education in Iowa be increased as well.

Therefore, Senate Republicans included teacher pay-for-performance as a part of the proposal. Just like other jobs, Republicans feel that teacher pay should be linked to improvements in their work--meaning better student achievement.

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats, directed by their outside special interests, are opposed to any proposal that has pay-for-performance as a part of increasing teacher salaries.

Iowans want quality education for their children. Is it so much to expect that teachers give that to them? We all want teachers to get paid adequately for doing their job. However, we should also expect results in making sure that Iowa children get a world class education.

4. Traveling Tom Neglects Iowa

All the while our state legislators are in Des Moines working towards crafting a state budget that satisfies the needs of Iowa, our soon to be ex-Governor, Tom Vilsack, has decided that his place is not in Des Moines working with our state legislators, but instead is in sunny Florida to court Democrats in that state as he prepares for a potential 2008 presidential bid.

Instead of working on legislative business like cutting taxes on senior pensions and Social Security benefits, Vilsack decides its more important to run down to Florida for his own little Spring Break.

Oh, by the way Gov. Vilsack, Florida doesn't tax senior income which is probably why Iowa seniors are leaving down to Florida!

5. County Fair

The Johnson County 4-H Fair is coming up from July 24 to July 27th. As always, the Johnson County Republicans will have a booth at the County Fair. We will be forming a Fair Committee at tomorrow nights meeting. The Central Committee has had comments from people as to how we can improve our booth and I think with a little better planning, our booth can be better than ever this year! So bring your ideas tomorrow night!

6. Quote of the Week

"How many officers would have to be punched before it becomes a big deal?" --spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert responding to Democrat Leader Nancy Pelosi's comment that "I would not make a big deal of this" about Rep. Cynthia McKinney's assault of a Capitol Police officer.

McKinney hit a Capitol Police officer in the chest after he stopped her from entering the building without going through a metal detector. McKinney admitted to not wearing her lapel pin identifying her as a Member of Congress.

We'll see everyone at the meeting tomorrow night! Hope to see everyone there!

With Republican Pride,

Todd Versteegh