We had three events in October 2026!





October 2nd the Club and the AC Democratic Party had the great pleasure to welcome Jerri Green to Oak Ridge! There were over 300 people in attendance at The Greens in Oak Ridge.

The venue was relaxed with outdoor seating, great craft beer and ciders, free sodas, gourmet hotdogs, and the energy that comes from standing room only.

Jerri is always inspiring and hits all the right notes of affordabilty, dignity, and quality of life issues. A highlight for many was the time and precision she put into answering questions from the attendees – with clarity, wisdom, and a common sense plan.

Even Mother Nature was a Jerri supporter! The downpour waited until Jerri had wrapped up. The clean-up crew got a nice refreshing shower!

October 5th was a candidate forum at the 201 Café and Wine Bar in Oak Ridge. There was not an empty seat in the house!

Anne Backus started off the evening with an amusing story about "Pot for Potholes," and then gave a brief history of what brought her to this moment. While volunteering as a CASA she learned that too often our systems fail the people they are intended to help. For instance, how do parents get the doctor's note for school if they have no insurance to afford taking the sick child to the doctor. When there is alcohol or drug issues in a home, by digging deeper the root cause is often untreated medical issues. Her core issues are: healthcare; living wages and support for unions; affordable housing; abolishing the tax on food; Pot for Potholes; and closing tax loopholes for the ultra-rich and corporations.

Anna Golladay treated the group to a fun game of trivia, with questions from music, books/movies, food, science, geography, and history. Anna's core issues are: prices for basic necessities such as healthcare, childcare, and housing – and the refusal to fairly tax those who have more. She told the story about her own recent experience with the ACA Marketplace when the Golladay household premium went from $950/month to $50,000/year for the same coverage and no change in their conditions. 7 counties in her District are in danger of losing their hospitals. Another issue is the Social Security payroll cap, currently at $184,000 – an upper-middle class salary. Increasing that cap to include those in the upper wealth classes would give Social Security at least another 30 years of solvency. The environment affects all locales, just in different ways. In Anderson County a

main concern is nuclear industry clean-up; however, other counties are concerned with data center issues and others with maintaining their tourism industry.

David Miller has a goal to break the current super-majority so Tennessee can come back to sane statesmanship. He would like to be a beacon for other districts that there are Democrats all across the state, and that regular people can get involved, run, and be elected. We can do this by coming together for the common cause.

Gina Grubb is running for AC Commissioner from District 8. Her goal is to serve people – not politics, and to protect the 1st and 4th Amendment rights. She believes her values of stewardship (the purpose of taxes is to serve the people); transparency (regular town halls with District 8 residents); and community (the environment and the people are precious and need to thrive – not just survive). Gina has a backgroud as a police officer and teacher, which will help her navigate the complex issues in law enforcement and the school system. UPDATE: We congratulate Gina on her decisive win and look forward to her leadership on the Anderson County Commission!

A fun made-goods auction really got competitive! There was a beautiful shawl made by Anne Backus, an apple cake, a children's book authored by David Miller's sister, 3-berry cobbler, a very fancy chocolate cake, and an Italian Cream Cake (won by the Scheffler's to celebrate their anniversary with the same cake as at their wedding).

Ali Simpson closed the evening with some of her spicy stand-up comedy. She poked fun at those who complain about people from blue states moving to Tennessee. They shouldn't complain – those transplants are paying a high price to get our lousy roads, low ranking schools, and the ?low? crime – "except for the Meth Head who drove his car into the Sonic while you were trying to enjoy your corndog!" She underscored the point that to move forward we MUST find common ground.

AND **October 25th** was a fun and relaxing picnic rally to celebrate the vote, and all the hard work the Club's members have put into upholding our democracy this election cycle. We should all take a moment to feel proud of the efforts to support the candidates, make calls, write postcards, knock doors, staff information tents, and speak up for Democratic values. Onward to 2028!