

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club (ACDWC) News

May 2024

May Program: Sam McKenzie speaks on the recent Tennessee General Assembly Legislative Session followed by ACDWC's 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Monday, May 20th, 2024, 5:30pm, potluck, bring a dish to share

Clinton Community Center, 101 S. Hicks Street, Clinton, TN

Sam McKenzie, the Tennessee State Representative for District 15 in the Tennessee General Assembly and the Chairman of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, will speak on the recent legislative session.

Sam attended Austin-East High School in Knoxville before graduating from Fisk University with a B.S. in Physics. After Fisk University, Rep. McKenzie graduated from the University of Memphis with a M.S. in Physics. Currently, Rep. McKenzie is retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he was the Environment, Safety, Health, and Quality Group Leader. He is currently a small business owner in Knoxville. He is on the Board of Directors at Tennova Healthcare, ORNL Federal Credit Union, and the Fisk University Board of Trustees. He is also the former District Representative for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Beta Theta Boulé. Prior to serving in the Tennessee General Assembly, Rep. McKenzie was on the Knox County Commission from 2008 until 2016.

We will also welcome the new President of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women, Edee Webb, attending to congratulate our club on our 75th Anniversary, with birthday cake!

The ACDWC does not endorse candidates in contested primary elections, however we are happy to share information about campaign events for any primary candidate who asks.

Friday, May 10 5:00pm – 7:00pm, Tickets are free

Anderson County Commission for District 6 Jazzy Kickoff & Fundraiser for Ebony Capshaw

The Scotsman Grill, Oak Ridge, 101 Centennial Blvd, Oak Ridge

For tickets (free): [Ebony Capshaw Campaign Eventbrite](#)

Friday, May 31st 5:30pm, Tickets \$100

Meet and Greet Fundraiser for Gloria Johnson, with food, music and wine

408 N. Roane Street, 2nd floor, Gates Hall, Harriman (a nice 25-minute drive from Oak Ridge)

Sign up link is: <https://secure.numero.ai/contribute/240531-Harriman>

Future ACDWC Events

June 24th program: Debbie Helsley, Knoxville City Council, will speak first, then other candidates running for office. This is in conjunction with Women in Politics group, at 5:30pm at 201 Café, Oak Ridge

July 22nd or 29th program at IBEW union hall – James Taylor speaking about the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)

August 26th program – Miria Webb will speak on the State of the Anderson County Library Board and the Clinton Public Library at Clinton Community Center.

September 7th – Anderson County Democratic Party picnic

October 28th program – Marsha Livingston and Bob Smallridge speak on public education

November – business meeting

December – holiday party

The Importance of Voting in the Democratic Primary

Tennessee voters will elect one member to the U.S. Senate on November 5, 2024. The primary is August 1, 2024 with **early voting Friday, July 12th – Saturday, July 27th**.

The election will fill the Senate seat currently held by Marsha Blackburn (R) for a six year term. Marsha has raised over \$12 million but she's not unbeatable.

There are four Democrats running: Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, Marquita Bradshaw of Memphis, Lola Denise Brown of Nashville, and Civil Miller-Watkins of Fayette County.

You have the chance to vote for a candidate who you believe can win in the general election against Marsha Blackburn, assuming Marsha wins her Primary. Don't throw your vote away by voting in the Republican Primary to swing votes for people you don't want in office anyway.

This race will affect the partisan balance of the U.S. Senate. Thirty-four of 100 seats are up for election with one special election. Democrats have a 51-49 majority. Of the seats up for election, Democrats hold 20, Republicans hold 11, and independents hold three. Eight members of the U.S. Senate have announced they are not running for election.

Candidate Openings for the November 5, 2024, Election

Qualifying Deadline for all City Councils is Noon August 15th.

OAK RIDGE

City of Oak Ridge Council Seats

Jim Dodson
Derrick Hammond
Chuck Hope

CLINTON

City of Clinton City Council Seats

Rob Herrell Ward 1
Larry Gann Ward 2
Jim McBride Ward 3

Clinton City School Board, now partisan, August Primary

Joey Smith
Merle Pryse
KK Meredith

NORRIS

City of Norris City Council Seats - All 5 seats up for election

Chris Mitchell, Mayor
Chuck Nicholson
Bill Grieve
Will Grinder
Loretta Painter

Tree Commission

Norris Archives

If you are interested in serving on Tree Commission or Archives, contact Mayor Chris Mitchell,
Email chris@chrismitchellmc.com, Phone 865-494-7645

Upcoming Public Meetings:

Oak Ridge

City Council Regular Meeting, May 13th 6pm, Municipal Building Courtroom
City Council/Manager Work Session, May 21st 6pm, Municipal Building Courtroom
Municipal Planning Commission, May 16th 5:30pm, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom
Oak Ridge Land Bank business meeting, May 21st 8:30am, Municipal Building Courtroom
Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7pm Second Thursday of month, Civic Center Social Room
Disability Advisory Board, 11am Third Monday of Month, Senior Center
Senior Advisory Board, 9:30am, First Monday of the month, Senior Center
Industrial Development Board, 4pm First Monday of the month, Municipal Building Courtroom
Traffic Safety Advisory Board, 7pm Third Monday of month, Central Services Complex Conf Room

Clinton

Clinton City Council, May 28th 5:30pm, Clinton City Hall
Clinton Board of Zoning Appeals/Planning Commission, May 13th 6pm, Clinton City Hall

Anderson County

Anderson County Commission May 20th 6:30pm, Anderson County Courthouse Rm 312
Anderson County Library Board, May 9th 5:30pm, Clinton Public Library
Anderson County Planning Commission, May 7th, May 14th 6:00pm, Courthouse Room 312
Anderson County Operations Committee, May 13th 6:00pm, Courthouse Room 312

Anderson County Democratic Party:

Saturday, May 18th at 11:00am Democratic Headquarters Opening!
Tuesday, May 7th at 5pm Running Local, Winning Local in '24! Teamwork Tuesday

Club Updates/Member News

Member news:

Congratulations to Glenda Whitfield who was elected East Tennessee Vice President of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women, the statewide organization!

Recap of the Program on the Budget Deficit

April 22, 2024, 5:30pm, Clinton Community Center, 101 S. Hicks Street, Clinton, Tennessee



Joe Zitka, Pellissippi State Associate Professor of Economics and Management, and Jack Allen, a retired bank President, running for Tennessee 3rd Congressional District against Chuck Fleischmann, both spoke to the crowd about the National Deficit and its impact on the U.S. economy.

Joe Zitka began the talk with some good basic economics reminders, a “deficit” is when we spend more money than we take in, and “debt” is the accumulation of that deficit over time. He showed a breakdown of where the government’s income comes from, with over 50% from income taxes as the largest component, and social security payroll taxes as the next largest. Zitka then covered spending – with social security (20%), healthcare (23%), and defense (12%) programs as the largest budget items. It was interesting to note that the interest on the national debt is 7% of the overall spending currently.

Using the example of a single dollar, Zitka gave us insight into how extreme our 34 trillion-dollar national debt is. The government took on substantial debt during WWII and then paid it down steadily until the 1980s, when it began rising again. During the Clinton administration the debt was again paid down using a surplus budget. The debt rose sharply during the 2007-2008 financial crisis and continued steadily rising through the COVID pandemic stimulus payments. Although the national debt is a worry, we are not as indebted as many other nations – the United Kingdom, Greece and Japan have far more debt than the U.S.

To counter the deficit, and consequently the debt, is income. Our primary source of funds is individual income taxes and social security payroll tax payments. The income tax payments are down slightly from 2022, and the social security and corporate income taxes are up slightly in the same time period. Immigration is a big driver of the economy and a boost to taxes. Medicare, specialized government

trusts for highways, bank deposit insurance, civil service and military retirement programs have loaned the federal government nearly 22% of the debt, Bonds, such as T-Bills, also hold significant amounts of the government debt. Japan, China, the United Kingdom, and Belgium have also loaned significant amounts of money to the U.S.

Debt has the added burden of being inflationary, and a threat to the strength of the dollar. Our strength as a global exporter depends on a strong dollar.

Jack Allen also spoke on the deficit and resulting debt. He pointed out that a not insignificant portion of the COVID stimulus payments were made to people who invested the money rather than using it to purchase goods and services. As taxpayers we should expect to get something in return for our debt payments -- creating more wealth for the wealthy is not a good use of the money. The tax cuts for the wealthy have compounded the problem by bringing in less income and making a balanced budget even more difficult. Fair share income tax on the wealthy is reasonable, and was proven to not hurt business in the years prior to the late 1980s when the top tax rates were 65-94%.

Allen also echoed Zitka's comments about immigration, and pointed out that immigrants are often scapegoated as a negative factor for the economy. However, the percentage of immigrants in the U.S. is fairly constant over time and has been proven to be a positive force in the economy. A real effort should be put toward legalizing immigrants rather than penalizing them. Jack shared his concern about the increasing divide between the rich and the rest of America, and how that divide is not good for society or the economy overall. He pointed out that collectively we have plenty of money; however, currently the money is just going to the wrong places.

Contact the ACDWC

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