

The Tale of Two Recalls

By IFRR President Jeffrey Ward



Last night Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin successfully defended his office against a recall attempt by the Democratic Party and its cornerstone constituency, the government employee unions. This election was a huge success for Republicans and an epic fail for the Democrats (and by consequence President Obama) that may foreshadow the November elections.

This recall election was simply about two things - money and power. Walker dared to challenge a corrupt system in which a special interest (government employees unions) exchange power (the Democrat electorate) for money (high salaries and almost free benefits.) Collective bargaining is simply about giving public employees an extra vote and veto, diminishing the voters' rights to spend tax dollars as they see fit. It is anti-democratic, especially when both sides of the bargaining table have the same goal: benefiting the union.

The next possible recall election is right here in Coeur d'Alene. Recall CDA is expected to submit recall petitions for the Mayor and three council members to the City Clerk on Monday. If enough signatures are certified there will be an upcoming recall election in the city. Although many individual Reagan Republicans have been active in gathering signatures and promoting the Recall, as an organization we have not taken an official stand. KCRP encourages members to be actively involved and participate whether they support or oppose the recall petitions. Frankly, from my personal standpoint, the issue in this recall is the same as in Wisconsin. Will special interests continue to exchange power for money? While Gov. Walker made a stand against this system, the four officials from Coeur d'Alene subject to recall stand for it. In the case of Coeur d'Alene the interests in the coalition that opposes the recall are familiar: public employees, city officials, and special interests with a financial interest in the perpetuation of the status quo. In this case the special interest are those who would use our tax dollars to maintain their high salaries, enhance their property values or increase their businesses through expansion of government and initiation of public works. The people's money is used to perpetuate the self-interested "vision" of a select few. The city employees, unions, developers or downtown property owners (or the numerous lawyers, bankers, associations, the Democrat Party, politicians, and family members that support them) don't want the gravy train of tax dollars to end. Beware of those who fear a vote of the people.

The people of Coeur d'Alene, like the people of Wisconsin before them, get to determine whether they will maintain a government by the self-interested few or by their votes bring fiscal sanity and rule of the people back to the Lake City.

Whether you agree with me or not, get involved. There is only a few days left until the time runs out on the recall. Sign or don't sign, gather or don't gather but do something to make a difference. That's what Reagan Republicans is all about.
