

**Steve Bruno, temporary acting chairman of the Kootenai County Democratic Party offered this prepared statement for Huckleberries Online:**

Larry Spencer's decision to run as a Democrat is a cynical move, but it does operate as a clarion call to defend Democratic principals in Kootenai County. I think Republicans are so fractured in their own party they feel they need to co-opt the Democratic Party's central committee to get themselves elected. The reality is the radical element in the Republican party has made it difficult for reasonable moderate Republicans to get elected, and instead of making the obvious choice which is to vote for a reasonable moderate Democrat in the general election they have typically chosen to vote a straight party ticket thus sustaining their own radical group in the legislature.

When democrats of conscience cross over to vote in the Republican primary they are doing in the primary what Republicans of conscience ought to be doing in the General election- Voting for the moderate Democratic who runs against a radical Republican from the Republican party. There is a difference between individuals of conscience deciding to put themselves in a position to vote for a Republican candidate that has been chosen by the Republican party to run as a Republican VS., a group of Republicans deciding that the avenue to get elected is try to take over the Democratic party's central committee.

The Democratic party has no interest in interfering with the process by which Republicans choose Republican candidates. Furthermore, the Democrats have no interest in manipulating the Republican central committee.

What Larry Spencer is trying to do, adopt the Democratic mantle, is disingenuous and dishonest;. How do we know? Many a truth is told in jest....His jest about agreeing with a Democratic platform from 1892, is a tell tale for the drift going on in the Republican party in Idaho, a drift to try to go backward in time, to an imagined better world where the gun and a philosophy .....of every man for himself.... were considered by some to be the great equalizers.

The Democratic party understands and promotes the idea that education and equal rights are the great equalizers of history. Education and equal rights made America the land of opportunity. That is the center of gravity of the Democratic party and that center of gravity we will defend from the central committee through the county, state and federal levels of government.

**Stephen D. Bruno**

Vice Chair and temporary acting Chair of the Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee