

Off year. . . Wrong Again!

by IFRR President, Jeff Ward



Two years ago I wrote about how many political activists and contributors considered 2011 an "off year." It was an odd-numbered year so there were no Presidents, ~~Governors, Senators or Congressmen to elect. Heck, there were not even any state~~ legislators or county commissioners to support. It was time to rest, recharge and get ready for 2012, right? At that time, many assumed Republicans did not need to run hard in 2011 because it was just about little local non-partisan offices . . . so no big whoop. It was wrong then and that same kind of "off-year" thinking is wrong in 2013. Wrong, wrong, wrong. . . Really wrong.

This spring, as in the spring of 2011, we will elect members to taxing district boards: school boards trustees, highway district commissioners as well as fire district trustees and city councilmen and mayors in November. These folks determine the taxes and budgets for our local government. So what's the big deal, little local budgets of a few hundred thousand to a few million tops, right? Again wrong. Very, very, wrong. As I said two years ago, our local municipal government and taxing districts tax and spend hundreds . . . of millions; YES HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS right here in little old Kootenai County. Just the school districts that are all or partly in Kootenai County (to which we will elect Trustees in May) have combined annual revenues of over 140 million dollars! Add all the highway districts and the library district and you are approaching a 200 million dollar day on Tuesday May 21. But wait; don't forget November, when cities, water districts and fire districts elect officers. The city of Coeur d'Alene alone taxes and spends close to 100 million a year. Add Post Falls, Hayden, and the ten other cities in Kootenai County along with 14 fire and water districts and to quote the late Republican Senator Everett Dirksen "pretty soon, you're talking real money."

But it's not just about money. These elected officials will help shape our children's future, determine the safety of our roads and the quality of our water. They will decide how to protect our homes from fire and crime and plan our communities' futures. And yet there is not the glamour of a Governor's race or the media of the Congressional contest. There are no pictures with a future President or Senator for contributors and volunteers. There is only doing what is right and important: electing our neighbors to take our conservative values to board meetings once a month and fight for us and our future.

Just two years ago Reagan Republicans and our allies hit the streets, picked up the phones, stuffed the envelopes and created a revolution in Idaho politics that reverberated from here to Boise to Washington D.C. In May 2012, we surprised the political establishment by electing conservatives to school boards and maintaining highway district conservative leadership. In November of the same year, every endorsed KCRR candidate won, returning conservative officeholders, defeating incumbents and decisively winning open seats. 2013 is the year to finish the work we began two years ago.

Again this May, Reagan Republicans will happily support more conservative candidates in competitive races than we did in 2011. The Reagan Republican Victory Fund has a May election goal of just \$10,000 to make a huge impact in this election. Our opposition will have nearly unlimited support from the rich coffers of the public employee unions and the liberal establishment. In contrast our candidates will only have the Reagan Republicans as institutional financial support. We few, we happy few. . .

Please consider a donation to the Reagan Republican Victory Fund. The need for your support for conservatives is even greater than in 2011. You can contribute at our meetings, by sending a check (P.O. Box 1274, Post Falls ID 83877) or online by clicking here: [Donate](#).

Our club's namesake Ronald Reagan said it best, "Now I put the same question to all of you: If not us, who? And if not now, when?"