



# GOP

## County Courier

NCRCO Newsletter – Legislative Edition

June, 2011

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**DON WALLACE, PRESIDENT**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

Updated July 15<sup>th</sup>!

On July 15 we will convene in Portland, Oregon, for the 2011 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference. During the conference we will have our NCRCO annual meeting and luncheon 12:00-1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 17, in Room D135-136 (LEVEL ONE) with guest speaker, Washington State Attorney General and Gubernatorial Candidate Rob McKenna. Be sure to update your dues at [www.ncrco.org](http://www.ncrco.org) or by stopping by the NCRCO booth so you can attend!

We look forward to seeing you there, as we work to promote Republican values and learn about ways to save money, reduce waste, and improve our community. I encourage each of you to take part in the NACo steering committees and workshops; listen carefully, then make sure that our conservative ideals are expressed and represented. I am confident we have the right answers.

As President, I realize how quickly the year goes by, but it will be one I will never forget. We had a great time with K Carl Smith, the Conservative Messenger, in Washington as he taught us how to be a Frederick Douglass Republican. Then, my County was hit by possibly 5 tornadoes in one day, April 27, 2011. One ripped through the heart of Tuscaloosa, barely missing the



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University of Alabama and the Regional Medical Center. We will rebuild and recover, and we thank the country for the outpouring of support. We thank God that the loss of life wasn't drastically higher. In Joplin, MO, they were not so lucky, with their hospital taking a direct hit. Some of our NCRCO members are not too far from Joplin. For many of us, this is a special time for which we have been called to lead, perhaps like no other.

The 2012 campaign for the White House is beginning to take shape. No doubt, many are disappointed by Huckabee and Trump deciding not to run, but we have several good candidates. More will likely decide by Portland or soon thereafter. It doesn't start there, however. It starts at the local level where we elect commissioners, supervisors, legislators and all those that meet needs closest to the people. There we can build the support to be elected or help elect others to serve in Congress and elsewhere.

Invite a friend to come to the NCRCO meeting, bring dues from a fellow local county official who can't make the meeting, and help us help NACo become a better organization by promoting sound fiscal, economic and social values. Let's lift each other up as well with 2012 just around the corner. The control of the White House and Congress is so important. It's time for Republicans to lead the country!

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**[NCRCO DEBT RESOLUTION](#)**

The National Conference of Republican County Officials recognizes that our nation is on an unsustainable track, having recorded federal deficits in excess of \$4 trillion over a three-year period. The NCRCO encourages our Republican House and Senate members to be firm and committed when they are negotiating future spending levels and entitlement reforms, so as to return our nation to a balanced budget as soon as possible.

We cannot continue to borrow funds and place such a heavy burden on future generations of Americans. It is time to get America's fiscal house in order. The NCRCO stands willing to assist our Republican members of Congress as they make serious, significant reforms in our federal budgets to eliminate recurring deficits and reduce the national debt.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Don Wallace, CPA**

President  
National Conference of  
Republican County Officials

## **PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*The following proposed bylaws change will be voted on by the membership in attendance at the Annual Membership Meeting at the NACo conference, Sunday July. New wording is represented by underlined text.*

### **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

Officers of NCRCO shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. All Officers shall be current elected or appointed Republican County Officials. Each office shall be filled by a vote of the NCRCO membership, at the Annual NCRCO Business Meeting during the NACo Annual Conference, from a slate of nominees selected by a Nominating Committee which shall be appointed by the President. However, nominations may be made from the floor for any office and all elections shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Officers shall hold office for the term of one year, or until their successor takes office. However, the Secretary and Treasurer will serve two-year, staggered terms beginning with 2011-12, such that a secretary will be approved in years beginning with odd numbers and a treasurer will be approved in years beginning with even numbers. Officers may hold only one office at a time and may not serve simultaneously as an Officer and as a Regional Director. There is no automatic ascension from one office to another office.

## **National Association of Counties Annual Conference 2011**



The Annual Conference, held each July, is hosted by a member county. This year, the conference will be held at the Oregon Convention Center July 15-19 in Multnomah County, (Portland) Oregon. The Annual Conference provides county officials with a great opportunity to vote on NACo's policies related to federal legislation and regulation; elect officers; network with colleagues; learn about innovative county programs; find out about issues impacting counties across the country; and view products and services from participating companies and exhibitors. NCRCO's annual membership meeting is held concurrent with the NACo event.

Keynote Speaker at the NCRCO Membership Luncheon Sunday July 17 will be Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna. McKenna is also a candidate for the Office of Governor for the State of Washington.

## BOARD MEMBERS' AND REGIONAL REPORTS

### Region 1: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Submitted by NCRCO President Don Wallace

#### 87% of New Hampshire GOP Voters Undecided

*43% not happy with current choices*

(NEWSER) – New Hampshire's Republican voters aren't too impressed by the party's current crop of candidates for 2012, according to the latest CNN poll. Some 87% of likely primary voters say they have no idea who they'll be voting for early next year, with only 9% leaning toward one candidate. Just 4% say they've definitely made their minds up, and 43% wish somebody else would enter the race.



"The race is likely to take some funny twists and turns between now and primary day," notes CNN polling director Keating Holland. A third of GOP voters said they'd vote for Mitt Romney if the election were held today. No other candidate made it into double figures: 9% said they'd vote for Ron Paul, 7% for Newt Gingrich. Tim Pawlenty and Rudy Giuliani—who hasn't taken any concrete steps toward a 2012 run—polled 6% each.

### Region 2: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

Submitted by NCRCO President Don Wallace

I commend former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Emil W. Henry Jr. on "The Debt Ceiling: Myths and Facts" (op-ed, April 28), in which he dispels the myths and demagoguery surrounding the debt limit debate. Specifically, he effectively explains that if Congress does not raise the debt limit, it need not, and will not, result in default on the national debt. Mr. Henry also points out that Congress can enact legislation, which I have introduced, to prioritize servicing our debt in order to remove any doubt in the market that may be provoked by the administration's shrill threats that default may be imminent. My legislation, the Full Faith and Credit Act, has received wide support from Republicans in the House and Senate and will take the possibility of default off the table.



Eventually, we will need to raise the debt limit, but we should not do so until we have enacted real spending cuts and reforms to the structural process that has gotten us into this fiscal mess. The most irresponsible thing we can do is raise the debt limit with no strings attached and continue the usual overspending in Washington.

**Sen. Pat Toomey (R., Pa.)**

*Zionsville, Pa.*

## Region 4: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Submitted by Region 4 Director Ray Valdes

The Florida and Georgia Legislatures ended their respective 2011 sessions after passing a number of innovative measures that should have long-range impact.

Both states addressed the problem of teachers' unions being the driving force in the entire educational system. Both attacked teacher tenure as an outdated concept, with Florida eliminating it for all future teachers in Florida effective July 1, 2011. More and more individuals are understanding that to reform the educational system locally, and at the state level, there has to be a major revision of who determines the number of school hours in a day, the number of school days in a year, and how to measure educational learning effectiveness by standardized testing at specific grade-level intervals. In addition, no longer will all teachers be given a 3% to 7% increase across the board year after year without distinguishing by merit those whose students perform at a higher level.



With redistricting based on the 2010 population census, our southern states are setting dates for public hearing and input on how State House and Senate districts should be determined, as well as Congressional redistricting. Florida will gain two additional Congressional seats, taking our total to 27, and moving us into 3<sup>rd</sup> place nationally. (Since New York loses two, we say that's where we gained them from.) The candidates and individuals who will fill these new seats will not have the same voting pattern history as those from New York where two seats were eliminated. Our Congressional districts will each contain an average population of 640,000 when completed.



Third-party participation in voter registration was also tightened and strengthened, in the ever-increasing attempt to reduce fraud.

With high unemployment in our slow economic recovery, balancing the state budget was a major concern. Most special interest groups were required to share the financial funding reduction pain to some degree. State employees will receive no salary increase for the fifth year in a row, while being required to contribute a new 3% percent of their income to healthcare and/or retirement benefits. The ripple down effect similarly impacts city, county, and district government employees as well.

Other public employees, such as firemen, have had their benefit packages modified by calling for a more realistic state retirement requirement, including increased years of service to qualify in their "special risk class."

The news media will mumble and grumble for weeks to come, but as required in our Florida Constitution, we have a balanced budget and carry no debt forward.

## Region 5: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee

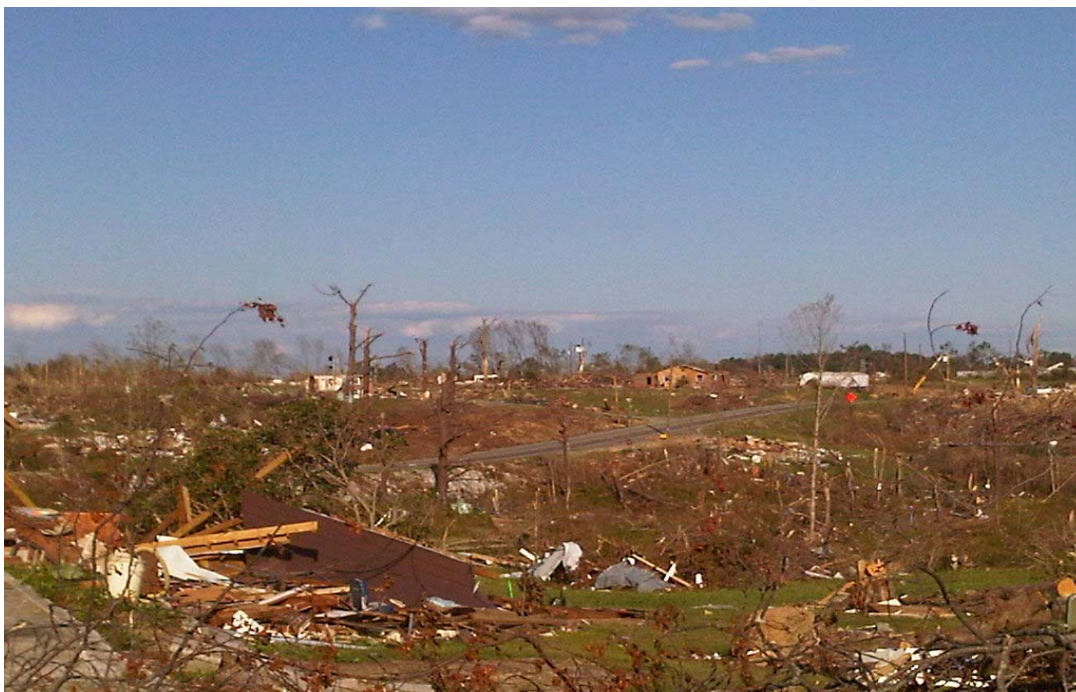
Submitted by President Don Wallace

In Alabama, voters elected supermajorities of Republicans in the House and Senate, who have had to deal with significant losses in revenue for the upcoming year. As a result, the education budget for fiscal 2012 would pay for 1,125 fewer teacher positions at public schools. Although overall state level tax dollars are expected to increase, the loss of \$462.5 million in federal stimulus money that has propped up the budget for 2 years will end. Republicans have been busy working on tenure reform and other budget adjustments to lay off as few classroom teachers as possible. The State Board of Education anticipates that the loss of jobs will occur through attrition primarily. The Legislature is also wrapping up work on a package of pro-life legislation that passed the Senate with bi-partisan, GOP-led support. It is also expected that Alabama will move its primary to March 13, 2012, to allow for greater impact on the Presidential selection process.

As many know, the communities of Smithville, MS, Tuscaloosa, AL, and many others were decimated by storms of April 27. Hackleburg and Phil Campbell, AL, were devastated by an F5 tornado. In times like these, the fragility of life underscores the need to concentrate on the most important things like protection of life, focus on family, return to faith and preservation of **freedom**.



Pictured are images of devastation from the tornadoes that struck Alabama in April. Above, wreckage left in the path of an F4 tornado that cut through the heart of Tuscaloosa County. Below, a wasteland created by an F5 tornado that hit the towns of Hackleburg and Phil Campbell.



## Region 6: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

### Rebranding GM, Chrysler Bailouts Means Michigan is in Play for 2012

The fact that President Obama is trying to turn the negative of his unpopular bailout of General Motors and Chrysler into a political positive tells us two things:



First, at a time of high unemployment, Obama is digging hard for an argument that he has been a jobs president.

Second, the president thinks Michigan is in play for 2012.

The Great Lakes State hasn't been seriously contested by the GOP in presidential elections since 1992, when it made the switch from Republican-leaning swing state to Democratic stalwart. As the state's automotive economy foundered and suburban Detroit began to empty out, the GOP just couldn't compete.

But in the run-up to the 2010 election, depopulation began to work to Republicans' advantage. The economic collapse of the state was so complete after the Panic of 2008 that it was no longer just affluent residents with portable skills who fled the state, but also the former plant workers and other laborers at the core of past Democratic domination. In the 2010 Census, Wayne County, home to Detroit, had a population of 1.8 million. In 2000, it had been 2.1 million.

The reduction in reliably Democratic precincts, combined with the high intensity of conservative-leaning voters in the rest of the state – voters antagonized by the Obama agenda and appalling economic conditions – brought a major reordering of Michigan politics.

In 2010, Republicans led by gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder, swept statewide offices and flipped two congressional seats to retake the majority of the state's 15-member House delegation.

While Democrats are betting that a high turnout for Obama among the state's large black population and a softening of the economic gales blowing against Michigan will be enough, they are acting a little worried.

The party has trumpeted the news that GM and Chrysler have paid back big chunks of their public debt and are accusing the frontrunners of the Republican presidential field of wanting to "let Detroit go bankrupt." The party has tapped former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, who was washed out in the political tide of 2008, to join with the UAW to sell the bailouts as a success and to cast Republicans as rooting for the failure of GM and Chrysler.

Part of this is in an effort to rebrand the bailout blitz of 2009, one of the least popular Obama policies, as a bold but limited move to save the Midwestern economy and keep Michigan from collapsing.

Republicans argue that by keeping the failed companies afloat and stiffing creditors, the administration has stunted reform in the industry. They point to the continued success of privately held Ford as a template for the industry.

But the Democratic rebranding effort may be more about Michigan's 16 electoral votes – as many as Missouri and Nevada combined – than the national debate over bailouts and nationalization.

Michigan looks very much like a swing state right now.

We have read a lot lately about the Obama campaign's strategy for raiding Republican turf in the West and South, leaving whomever the GOP nominates to spend time and resources defending votes in places like North Carolina. Boosters have even suggested the president may make a pass at Texas.

A raiding strategy, though, only works if your own firewall holds. And if Michigan doesn't stay true blue in 2012, Obama doesn't have a logical path to victory.

## Region 7: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Submitted by Region 7 Director Charlotte Sandvik

North Dakota politics will get interesting with Senator Kent Conrad not running again for the U.S. Senate. So far, we have two North Dakota Republicans that have announced their candidacy for that Senate seat. Republican Rick Berg ran last year against Earl Pomeroy's congressional seat and won. Berg now has announced that he will run for the Senate seat. Republican Brian Kalk, North Dakota's Public Service Commissioner, has announced that he will run for the Senate seat as well. There has not been a Democrat that has announced to run. Word is out that some other Republican officials from around the state also will announce to run for the Senate. If Berg gets the endorsement for the Senate then we will have candidates to run for the House seat. We will find out who will be on the ticket in March during a very exciting North Dakota Republican endorsing convention. It would be great if North Dakota Republicans can take all three seats.



## Region 8: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Republican Pawlenty betting it all on Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Republican Tim Pawlenty on Monday pledged to be a president who levels with the American people and accused President Barack Obama of doing just the opposite as the former Minnesota governor launched his candidacy for the GOP nomination in a pivotal state.



"President Obama's policies have failed. But more than that, he won't even tell us the truth about what it's really going to take to get out of the mess we're in," Pawlenty said in prepared remarks. "I'm going to take a different approach. I am going to tell you the truth."

Pawlenty, who isn't well known nationally and ranks low in popularity polling, was making his first campaign appearance since announcing his bid for the Republican nomination in an Internet video late Sunday. It came just hours after Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels' decision against a bid jolted the GOP race and brought the field into clearer focus.

Pawlenty, who must win the party nomination before getting the chance to take on Obama, virtually ignores his GOP rivals in an announcement video, a column published in USA Today and in excerpts of his speech made available by his advisers.

"Politicians are often afraid that if they're too honest, they might lose an election. I'm afraid that in 2012, if we're not honest enough, we may lose our country," Pawlenty said, and then outlined bedrock conservative principles. "If we want to grow our economy, we need to shrink our government. If we want to create jobs, we need to encourage job creators. If we want our children to be free to pursue their dreams, we can't shackle them with our debts. This is a time for truth."

And, he added: "the truth is, we're all in this together. So we need to work to get out of this mess together. I'll unite our party and unite our nation."

Pawlenty's Monday visit was his 14th to Iowa since the 2008 election, more than any candidate except former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum.

## Region 9: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Submitted Cindy Bobbitt

**Arkansas:** The following information is from Bill Smith, Editor of ARRA News Service.

The Fourth District of Arkansas has been considered Democrat territory especially during the last 10 years. Recent

redistricting efforts by the Democrat-controlled Arkansas legislature, has created a potential for a political shift in the 4th District. The Democrats appear to have "overplayed their hand" in an effort to weaken the Republican growth in the 1st District by taking some poor counties from the 3rd District and moving them to the 1st District. Then without any real logic, they moved more conservative population areas into the 4th District. This effort alone raised the economic standing of the overall 4th district by a few points but did not affect the lives of the people already in the district.

### **Louisiana:**

When state Rep. Jonathan Perry, R-Kaplan, wrangled out a 688-vote victory in February in a hard-fought special election to fill an Acadiana-area state Senate seat, the Louisiana Republican Party completed a political sweep that would have seemed improbable just a few years ago.

Perry's victory over Democrat Nathan Granger gave Republicans a 20-19 majority in the state Senate, marking the first time since Reconstruction that the GOP has had majority control of the upper chamber. In a state where the GOP already holds the Governor's Mansion, a House majority and all of the constitutional statewide offices, it also means Republicans now control every significant office in state government for the first time in modern history.

**Oklahoma:** The following information is from Jeff Peters, Political Director, OKCOP

There is one voting bloc adding 4 million eligible voters nationally every year. By 2020 — the first presidential election in which this voting bloc will have all reached voting age — about 90 million of them will be eligible voters, close to 40 percent of America's total eligible voters.



Meet the youth vote, the Millennial Generation. In an effort to better reach this generation of voters in the 46th state in the union, the Oklahoma Republican Party today announced the launch of Emerge46.

The program is aimed at those in college, starting a career or starting a family. The program will connect emerging generation voters with College Republican and or Young Republican clubs and activities. The OKGOP will be a financial supporter of these organizations, and will provide them with training and tools to help further conservative Oklahoma candidates and causes.

Congressman James Lankford and Lt. Governor Todd Lamb, two of Oklahoma's youngest and brightest conservative statesmen, will serve as co-chairs. Also serving on the board will be Stephanie Milligan, state President of the Oklahoma Federation of Young Republicans and Megan Yarber, President of the Oklahoma Federation of College Republicans.

### **Texas:**

After Republicans successfully filibustered President Obama's judicial nomination of California law professor Goodwin Liu, Texas Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison are applauding a different nominee of his — J. Rodney Gilstrap for U.S. district judge in the eastern district of Texas.



In a reversal of a recent trend, Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, found himself in agreement with the Republican senators.

President Obama announced Thursday — after the Democratic congressional delegation's recommendation was made in March — that he plans to nominate Gilstrap to the position.

Texas is picking up four (4) new congressional seats, most of which should be picked up by Republicans. One of the biggest races will be for the U.S. Senate seat being left by Kay Bailey Hutchinson.

## Region 10: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

### Huntsman Faces Uphill Battle with Utah GOP

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman just wrapped up a successful campaign swing through New Hampshire, which holds the first GOP primary vote in the country. But back home, Utah Republicans seem to be backing former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney instead of the homegrown politico, the Deseret News reported Tuesday.



Meanwhile, even though Huntsman says he won't decide officially whether he's running until next month, The Salt Lake Tribune reported Tuesday that it's looking more and more like he's in the race.

Huntsman, who described his New Hampshire campaign swing as "exhilarating," philosophized during his final living room meeting on the trip: "Do we want to run for the presidency, the pain and anguish and challenges? Your logical side of the brain says, 'No sane person would want to do that.' Meanwhile, your patriotic side of your brain says, you love this country. This country is at a serious inflection point . . . Do you want to be sidelined in this time of change or do you want to be in the game?"

Huntsman refined his presidential pitch throughout his New Hampshire tour, touting his conservative record as a governor and lashing out at President Barack Obama.

John Weaver, Huntsman's chief political strategist, said the New Hampshire trip exceeded expectations. "I can't imagine not moving forward," Weaver said. "I would say it's more 'when' than 'if' [Huntsman announces]. We haven't finished our due diligence, but if this first trip is any indication of how we believe his message will be received, then we'll be going forward real soon."

## Region 11 Update: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

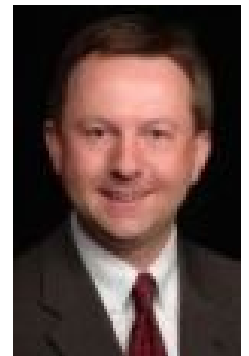
Submitted by Region 11 Director David Ferdinand

### PRIMARY ELECTION BILL PASSES IDAHO LEGISLATURE

Boise, ID – Earlier today, the Idaho Legislature gave final approval to House Bill 351, which allows the Idaho Republican Party to determine how to conduct its primary elections. House Bill 351 passed both the House and Senate and now goes to the Governor for final approval.

"I commend the Idaho Legislature, and would like to specifically thank Republican House and Senate Leadership for their efforts in passing legislation that ensures the Idaho Republican Party gets to select our candidates without interference by Democrats and their liberal allies," stated Idaho GOP Chairman Norm Semanko.

Semanko continued, "House Bill 351 ensures that registered Democrats cannot participate in Republican primaries, while at the same time allowing Independent voters to join the Republican Party at anytime, providing the Idaho Republican Party with a great opportunity to continue to attract and recruit like-minded folks to the cause of smaller government, less spending, lower taxes, personal responsibility and unlimited opportunity."



House Bill 351 is in response to a federal Court ruling that the State of Idaho's use of an open primary system to determine nominees for the general election violates the Idaho Republican Party's Constitutional Right of Association. House Bill 351 takes effect in the 2012 primary election.

## Region 12: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Submitted by Region 12 Director Michael Jeanes

ARIZONA – The Republican Speaker of the House has resigned and announced his candidacy for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Kirk Adams will be in at least a 3-way primary race against former Congressman and state party Chairman Matt Salmon and former state Senator Chuck Gray. Current State Senate President Russell Pearce is also considering the race. The seat is being vacated by Republican Jeff Flake. Congressman Flake has announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate to replace retiring Senator Jon Kyl.

CALIFORNIA – In early April, California Republican Party Chairman Tom Del Beccaro kicked off a year long “California Speaks Out” Tour. He said the statewide interactive town hall series will “talk with people where they live, in terms they understand.” One of the goals of the tour is to bring state and local Republican leaders together with voters to connect with them on a personal level.

HAWAII – State House Republican Representatives Gene Ward, Cynthia Thielen and Barbara Marumoto, recently expressed concern over Governor Abercrombie’s new agreement with the Hawaii Government Employees’ Association. The agreement provides an additional nine days of paid leave. State workers will now be eligible for up to 64 days a year of time off with pay. Thielen stated, “It is bad policy and with many Hawaii residents working two jobs to make ends meet, we can hardly afford to pay for government workers to stay home.”



NEVADA – Congressman Dean Heller, who visited with NCRCO members at the 2010 NACo/NCRCO meeting in Reno, has been appointed to the U.S. Senate. He is likely to face Democrat Rep. Shelley Berkley in the 2012 November elections.

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**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS**

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