

From: Diane Hoffmann

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 10:37 AM

To: Norm Sterzenbach, Executive Director – Iowa Democratic Party

Subject: RE: HD #33 Special Nominating convention

Dear Mr. Kiernan,

The Executive Board of the Linn County Democrats is deeply concerned regarding the proposed time line for the House District 33's Special Nominating Convention. It is our understanding that Speaker Murphy has indicated a preference of having the Convention take place directly after our October Central Committee meeting. We respectfully disagree and would offer an alternative view that it would be far more appropriate for this Convention to be held before our meeting for the following reasons.

Simply put, it is a fallacy to suggest that holding the Convention after the Central Committee meeting promotes party building within Linn County. The October meeting is our last business meeting for the calendar year and there will be little to no opportunity to train any newly elected central committee member. It is our belief that we will see these nominees once and then never see them again. Moreover, the January Caucuses will bring in a slew of new members who will fill these Central Committee positions, so we must ask, exactly how does this time line promote party building?

In contrast, we believe what will occur, if the proposed time line is adopted, is that the candidates will pack the room with nominees whose sole purpose will be the election of their candidate. Linn County Democrats will be placed into the position of conferring a right to vote without the individual providing demonstrable commitment to the responsibilities of that position. This is not a moot point to our membership. Within the last two years, we have amended our bylaws for the election of officers so as to allow membership a better opportunity to evaluate the qualifications of candidates vying for the executive board positions.

From our perspective, holding the Convention before the October Central Committee meeting, would be a superior time line. All votes would be cast by current Central Committee members, who through their past attendance and work, have shown a commitment to the Linn County Democrats. Our proposed time line would be ultimately fair to each of the candidates who will have equal opportunity to solicit the endorsement of the current Central Committee members. Moreover, Linn County would be spared the divisiveness and disruption that these events may promote.

In conclusion, we believe, setting the timeline for the Special Nominating Convention to precede our October meeting would be an efficient use of time, fair to all parties, and does not allow the exploitation of the process.

Sincerely,

Diane Hoffmann, Linn County Democrats, Chair
Bret Nilles, Linn County Democrats, 1st Chair
DJ Arnold, Linn County Democrats, Treasurer
Joe Stutler, Linn County Democrats, Secretary