

# New Frontier Young Democrats

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2004

## President's Message

By Brent Tilley

These are heady times for Democrats, in less than a week we'll have the opportunity to elect a President who will enact a sensible policy in Iraq, protect public education, and appoint judges who will defend civil liberties to the Supreme Court.

So far I'm proud to report that NFYD members have answered the call to dump the most divisive President in recent memory. In addition to co-hosting a fundraiser for the reelection of Senator Barbara Boxer, members Elliott Petty and Shakari Cameron have taken leadership positions in the Inglewood and Crenshaw offices of Every Vote Counts while Kevin Jenkins is currently doing advance work for the Kerry campaign in Florida.

Locally, things are heating up in the mayoral race. In keeping with the group's objectives we will continue to host the candidates at our monthly meetings. Join us November 9<sup>th</sup> as Senator Richard Alarcon addresses the group. Until then make sure that you and yours help *get out the vote!*

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 1 Young Democrats of America Conference
- 2 What's in a Bond Measure?
- 2 Congressional Black Caucus
- 3 NFYD Co-Hosts Boxer Fundraiser
- 4 Calendar of Events

## New Frontier Young Democrats Attend YDA Conference

(Kansas City) - NFYD President, Brent Tilley and Political Director, Kevin A. Jenkins traveled to Kansas City, Missouri for the Young Democrats of America (YDA) annual conference.

Both Brent and Kevin had to opportunity to meet with young dems from across the country and discuss issues critical to young dems and the Democratic Party. At this conference, the site for next year's conference was also chosen. The YDA site selection committee narrowed it down to two choices, Salt Lake City, Utah, and San Francisco, CA. The winner was announced in Kansas City and the site for the 2005 YDA conference will be San Francisco, CA and will be hosted by the California Young Democrats (CYD).

CYD is planning several fundraising events to help offset the cost of what is hoping to be one of the best YDA conferences to date. We'll keep you posted as events come up and we'll let you know how you can help.

One of the highlights for Brent and Kevin was attending the minority caucus meeting. Led by Tara Martin of New York, the minority caucus is making a name for itself within YDA. For more information on the minority caucus and how you can get on the mailing list and receive updates, go to [www.yda.org](http://www.yda.org) and click on the link to the minority caucus.

## **What's in a Bond Measure?**

**By Marla Bleavins**

*Do your eyes glaze over when you see bond measures on your voting ballot? Do you ever wonder how this process works and where this money comes from?* In short, the process of selling or issuing bonds is the means by which governments borrow money. When bonds are sold, a governmental entity is promising to pay investors back the money plus interest. These payments are referred to as debt service payments. Usually a governmental entity pays debt service with money from its general fund, additional property tax revenues or revenues from projects that were financed with bond money.

*Where does bond money come from?* Usually a governmental entity will sell its bonds to an investment bank that then sells the bonds to an array of investors. Bond proceeds are the money a governmental entity receives from selling the bonds and are used for a variety of public purposes such as the construction of schools, parks and infrastructure. Financing the cost of these multi-million dollar projects over time allows governments to free up cash for operational expenses as well as share the burden of financing with future generations of taxpayers who receive the benefits of these projects.

*What makes municipal bonds distinct?* Most municipal bonds are deemed tax-exempt. This means that bondholders of tax-exempt municipal bonds do not pay federal income taxes on the interest they earn on these bonds. Tax-exempt municipal bonds allow governments to borrow money at the lowest possible rates. This form of borrowing is a "win-win" situation because investors receive tax-free returns on their investments and governments are able to borrow the money they need to finance essential public projects at low interest rates.

On the November 2, 2004 election ballot, the City of Los Angeles will be asking voters to approve \$500 million in general obligation bonds to pay for projects that will clean up polluted storm water and bacteria in the City's rivers, lakes, beaches and ocean in order to meet water quality standards. Debt service on the bonds would be paid from additional property tax revenues. In the past, the City has issued general obligation bonds to pay for libraries, police and fire

stations, and improvements to the Los Angeles Zoo. General obligation bonds require 2/3-voter approval to pass.

## **Brown vs. the Board of Education**

On May 19, 2004, the New Frontier Democratic Club, New Frontier Young Democrats and the Western Regional Director of the NAACP sponsored an event to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

This landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine and overturned legal segregation in the nation's public schools. The event was held at the California African-American Museum. Educators from throughout Los Angeles County were honored for their contributions to the field of education.

## **NFYD at the CBC**

**By Kevin Jenkins**

The 2004 Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend, held in Washington D.C., was the place to be September 8<sup>th</sup> –11<sup>th</sup>. This year, President Brent Tilley, Political Director Kevin A. Jenkins, Treasurer Marla Bleavins, and Dinesa Thomas were there to take in four days of issues forums, town hall meetings and receptions, and yes parties.

For many of the young democrats there, the forums with the most excitement and standing room only crowd were the forums sponsored by Congressman Harold Ford, Jr. (D-TN) and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA).

Congressman Ford's forum featured Author and former Vice President Gore's 2000 campaign manager, Donna Brazile and Mark Morial, President/CEO of the National Urban League who took questions from the audience on a variety of topics that included how to get out the young African-American vote, civic participation and even how to run for office and win.

*Continued from page 2*

Congresswoman Waters' forum featured Hip Hop/Rap icon Russell Simmons, rap legend Dougie Fresh and rapper Kanye West who enthralled the audience well after the mic was turned off and people were ushered out to make way for the next forum to be held in that room. Congresswoman Waters also hosted a reception at the Fairmont Hotel that was well attended.

Not to be outdone, Congresswoman Diane Watson (D-CA) hosted her annual Midnight Soiree at the swank club H2O on the waterfront. This event was one of the hottest tickets of the weekend and featured free drinks, food and live music. Other events attended by NFYD members were: the Annual Alpha Phi Alpha reception honoring Alpha members in congress, the Kappa Alpha Psi reception honoring HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, AFLAC reception honoring National Urban League President, Marc Morial, the 100 Black Men Annual Gala honoring Los Angeles Urban League President John Mack, and also featured a Prayer Breakfast where Sen. John Edwards spoke and the CBC Awards Gala where Sen. John Kerry spoke. NFYD also attended receptions, fundraisers and parties hosted by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Artur Davis (D-AL), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Harold Ford, Jr. (D-TN), Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL), Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and the City of Detroit, CBC Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and the up all night "Chicago party" at H2O club.

Other local leaders spotted by NFYD included: Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, former Assemblyman Rod Wright, Gardena City Councilman and 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District candidate Steven Bradford, Inglewood Mayor Roosevelt Dorn, President of the Los Angeles Urban League John Mack, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Brian Williams, and Senior Deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke, Mike Davis.

All in all, NFYD members had a great time and received information needed to get back to our respective communities and make a difference on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and after.

## **NFYD Co-Hosts Senator Boxer Fundraiser**

On August 16, 2004 New Frontier Young Democrats along with New Frontier Democratic Club and leaders in the African-American community hosted a fundraiser for the re-election campaign of United States Senator Barbara Boxer.

This fundraiser represented a great opportunity for key members of the African-American community to meet with Senator Boxer to ask her questions about her campaign and to voice concerns about the state of the nation.

According to the Boxer Campaign this event exceeded the amount of attendees estimated and the financial expectations of the fundraiser.

So often the African-American community is left out of the political discourse. This fundraiser was the first attempt that Senator Boxer has made to outreach to the black community in Los Angeles, and hopefully it will not be the last. It is vital that we participate in campaigns at this level and that we continue to hold our elected officials accountable for the promises made during the campaign season.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**NFYD MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

NOVEMBER 9, 2004 (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE)

JEFFERSON BRANCH LIBRARY

2211 W. JEFFERSON BLVD., LOS ANGELES

6:30 P.M.

**NFYD MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

DECEMBER 7, 2004

JEFFERSON BRANCH LIBRARY

2211 W. JEFFERSON BLVD., LOS ANGELES

6:30 P.M.

**NFYD HOLIDAY MIXER**

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

