

TUESDAY TOPICS OCTOBER 1, 2024

President Mary Lou Davis opened the meeting. She announced that Gretchen Gleue has been busy with presentations and could use some help (please contact Gretchen for more information). Davis thanked Vicki Buening for her effort to reach the goal of sending 500 postcards to voters, urging them to vote again on the women's health issue that is on the November 5th ballot. The postcard writers exceeded the goal by another 500 postcards and as the stamp budget was for 500 postcards, they will accept contributions to help pay for more stamps.

President Davis also recognized all those who had written postcards or provided voter education at a community event. She gave special recognition to Jane Hani who had called volunteers. Davis also announced that we have 240 members. She noted that the attendees for the upcoming Meet and Greet include legislators from Districts 3, 19, 50, 52, 53, and 54.

Glennie Buckley introduced the speaker, Dr. Bob Beatty, Professor and Chairman of the Political Science Department at Washburn University. Dr. Beatty began his presentation by describing how he became interested in politics. He talked about his father who was a jazz musician and had introduced him to Bobby Kennedy. He described meeting Presidents Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Joe Biden (in 2008), and meeting presidential candidates John McCain and Nikki Haley.

He also described taking his political science students to Iowa, and three summer trips with students to Japan. He noted that he had been to nine conventions, moderated twenty debates, and produced a documentary on Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Moving on to Kansas politics, Beatty spoke about Rep. Jake La Turner, who is not running for re-election as he wants to spend time with his children. Republican candidates hoping to win in the primary for the 2nd Congressional District to replace Jake La Turner included Derek Schmidt, Shawn Tiffany, Jeff Kahrs, and two others not named. Dr. Beatty showed video clips of ads for Schmidt and Tiffany. Beatty mentioned the successful "Middle of the Road" ads for Gov. Kelly and noted that a Democrat can win in Kansas but must run a perfect campaign.

Beatty noted that the Kansas Republicans have a supermajority and can override a veto. To overcome the supermajority, Democrats would need to gain two seats in the House, three in the Senate and hold the seats they already have. He said that PAC money is at work, including dark money that doesn't identify donors. He said that Gov. Kelly doesn't have dark money contributions.

Dr. Beatty spoke about Democrats Nancy Boyda, newcomer Matt Kleiman and Sharice Davis in District 3. In showing some campaign advertisements, Beatty noted that Davis is popular in her district. The campaign videos that Dr. Beatty screened during his presentation are accessible on his website [Center for Kansas Politics and Kansas Political TV Ad Archive](#).

Dr. Beatty described the Electoral College as “bizarre” and biased. In the Electoral College 269-269 is a tie. To win, a candidate must have 270 votes. In case of a tie, the new Congress in January would choose the president and the Senate would choose the vice president. It could be possible to have the president from one party and the vice president from the opposite party. He said that everything matters in a close race; on the ground wins the race.

Following questions from the audience, the meeting was adjourned.