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Bulletin Board

**Don't forget Election Day!
Tuesday, Nov. 4**

From the Organizers —

Your participation is the life force of Arise. This fall, your energy can help turn out the vote, gather input on health care and put our issues before lawmakers.

1. We're setting up phone bank centers in five cities to help get out the vote for Nov. 4. **Volunteer** by calling Pres or Rebecca at (334) 832-9060.

2. We're planning 36 listening sessions about health care issues in Alabama. **Host a meeting.** Just contact an Arise organizer.

3. We're meeting legislators to share the 2009 priority issues before Feb. 2. **Sign up to visit your legislator** by calling the Arise office.

Auburn Cluster meeting, Thurs., Oct. 30, Noon – 1 p.m., Auburn UU Busch Center.

Hold the date!

Tues., Feb. 10, 2009

Arise Health Care Access Conference

Birmingham-Southern
College

Stay tuned for details.

Report

This newsletter made possible by the members of Arise Citizens' Policy Project
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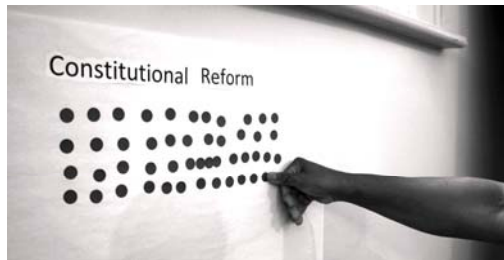
September 29, 2008

Annual Meeting 2008

Members set '09 legislative agenda

By *Jim Carnes, communications director*

After a stirring day of remembering, assessing and celebrating Arise's first 20 years, members at the Sept. 13 annual meeting "connected the dots" to vote for 2009 issue priorities. This marked the first year individual members have had a hand in the voting process.



Executive director Kimble Forrister announced this year's marching orders to members and staff. In addition to our permanent issues – tax reform and adequate budgets – the priorities include a moratorium on the death penalty, constitutional reform, state funding for public transportation, a state match for low-income worker savings, and fair and adequate Katrina relief.

"Our successes over two decades have made a difference," Forrister said. "In the early 1990s, we changed the welfare reform conversation from ending dependency to the need for jobs, child care and transportation. After an 18-year effort, we raised the income tax threshold halfway to the poverty line. And we hung in there for 13 years to win tenant protections. But this year's issue priorities remind us that we have a ways to go."

The keynote speaker for the day was **Katherine McFate**, ACPP's program officer at the Ford Foundation. She challenged the group to take a lesson from opponents of reform by "framing" our work in ways that tap into existing beliefs.

The common good, interdependence and collective action are three ideas about society that resonate with people, McFate said. "We need to be talking about the public structures and services we all depend on," she said. "Frames are just the entry point – a way to open up a new conversation with the people of Alabama about the future they want to see."



(From left) Arise members *Juliette Thomas* and *Alice Pierce* of Birmingham and *Sr. Nancy Clark* of Pine Apple.

Policy staff position open

Policy analyst for health coverage reform initiative. Health policy experience required, MPH degree preferred. Salary based on experience. Health & retirement plan. For detailed description, visit arisecitizens.org. Send resume and writing sample to ACPP, Box 1188, Montgomery, AL 36101. Minority applicants encouraged. *ACPP is an equal opportunity employer.*

A few words from Kimble —

Our members took no position on the Rainy Day Fund amend- ment

on the November ballot. Arise has been leery of tapping the Alabama Trust Fund. It's our grandkids' piggy bank, a \$3.2 billion fund created from a source (oil and gas royalties) that may end by 2022. Gov. Fob James created the fund to ensure interest income for future budgets without raiding the corpus.

We chose not to oppose it because the alternative could be devastating. Funding shortfalls for education could reverse our progress on innovations like the Alabama Reading Initiative. The General Fund gap could cause deep cuts in health and social services. Even with a Rainy Day Account, we still may not avoid cuts.

Using part of the fund as a Rainy Day Account may be OK as long as we pay it back, as the amendment requires. What makes us nervous is our leaders' temptation to look to a golden goose to bail us out of trouble rather than raise revenue to pay our bills. And what if one day the people vote to drop the requirement to repay the Rainy Day Account? If our generation carves up the goose, it can't lay golden eggs for our grandkids.

Looking for a way to get active in the election? Sign up to help out for three hours at one of our phone banks in five cities. We provide a call list, a script, food and a phone. If you make get-out-the-vote calls for two hours, odds are that 20 people will vote who would otherwise stay home. (We're not calling people who always vote; we're calling "seldom voters.") We want to have fun, make 3,500 calls and gain experience with something new. By the time tax reform or constitutional reform makes it to the ballot, we need to be experts at electoral organizing!

With peace,



Arise Citizens' Policy Project Report

Thanks for your support!

Arise Citizens' Policy Project thanks the following donors for their gifts received between Aug. 9 and Sept. 15, 2008:

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In memory of Kimble's mother, Carolyn Maddux:
The FOCAL Staff
Dot & Sam Shippen, Prattville
Jackie Tipper, Town Creek
Mary B. Weidler, Montgomery

In memory of Sr. of St. Joseph Mary Maloy, founder of Partners in Progress:
Dot & Sam Shippen, Prattville
Jackie Tipper, Town Creek
Mary B. Weidler, Montgomery

Voters face rainy day options on Nov. 4 ballot

By Chris Sanders, policy analyst

Should Alabama borrow more from its savings account to pay the bills in tough times? Alabamians will decide when they vote on Amendment 1 in November.

The amendment would establish a Rainy Day Account for the General Fund and enlarge the existing account for the Education Trust Fund. The GF account could be up to 10 percent of prior-year spending – about \$185 million next year. The ETF account would grow from \$248 million to 6.5 percent of prior-year spending – about \$437 million next year.

The money would come from the Alabama Trust Fund, a \$3.2 billion savings account for the state's offshore gas royalties. The money would have to be repaid in six years for the ETF account and in 10 years for the General Fund account.