



Contact Candy Neville
Eugene, Oregon
Tel: 541-683-4003
E-mail: inklinks@comcast.net

My name is Candy Neville. I am running for U.S. senator from Oregon against Gordon Smith. I am not running against other Democrats in the primary. Democrats do not know I am running, and when they find out, they probably will not care. But I care and hope to rouse you to care too. Not about whether I win or lose — or whether any one person wins or loses.

The time to depend on winners or losers is over. We must care about ourselves and each other and take action. Not in 2008, but today. We must stand up, speak up, starting here, starting now.

We are not in Iraq to give our troops something to do. The majority of them want to come home and dedicate their patriotism, talents, skills, lives to their own families and their own country. Their predicament haunts me, and I am certain it haunts the multitude of you. I am told that almost 1/2 of Americans believe there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and that Iraq was associated with Bin Laden. Not only can ignorance no longer be an excuse, it can no longer be an option. Ignorance is a luxury we cannot afford.

We must return representative government to the United States. Many of our politicians and congressmen do not answer our contacts, respond to our e-mails, return our phone calls — and too often do not even have somebody else do so. They do not keep track of our opinions, and they do not even pay attention to the polls regarding what the American people want. Senator Gordon Smith is a prime example. This is not acceptable. Each one of us, Democrats and Republicans, must make it known without a doubt that this will no longer be tolerated regarding the representatives we have elected to our own parties.

We are very fortunate in Oregon to have Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Peter DeFazio vote the desires of the people - to take an on-going and intelligent stand against the war, and to oppose the abdication of Congressional power. They have been the minority who have utilized common sense, courage and integrity. As the senseless war wages, and our nations' and Oregonian lives are sacrificed, we must as a state embolden our congressmen even more and call on them to stand up and speak up louder and more adamantly until this national disgrace ends.

We must lift a finger to call, write or e-mail. If that does not work, we must yell, stomp our feet and meet on street corners. We must stand up, speak up, starting here, starting now. We Americans must cease bickering among ourselves and falling for slogans, shenanigans and foolish rhetoric. We must turn our ire and insistence to making our own chosen representatives listen to and represent us. Democrats to Democrats. Republicans to Republicans. We must cease to be "the little people" and become the big citizens who demand respect and representation.

We must remove from office those who do not serve our purpose — who block us from getting any meaningful work done. Who ignore our poor and, indeed, produce more poor. We must do our patriotic duty and even impeach when necessary. If we collectively do not approve of the direction we are going, we must collectively remove those elected officials from office who force wrong and disastrous direction upon us. We must dust off the courage we claim to have and use it here at home.

We are a good nation. We are a good people. I miss us. I miss our personal power. I miss our bravery — and loath our rhetoric about bravery - while we express through our actions and voting and paralysis - terror and fear — terror and fear — for all the world to witness. Our nation must cease to cringe in fear and weakness; and we must rise again here at home. We must preserve and protect our national resources and treasures — starting with our troops, our Katrina victims, each other and the environment that feeds and nurtures us.

We must individually cease falling for slogans and political tricks, while doing nothing ourselves. Oddly, this should be a fantastic time in American history. The majority of us agree about what must be done. Now it remains to be seen if the majority of us will act.

I have much to learn. I have never chosen politics as a career. But like so many of us, I have been sickened at the turn our country has taken. It is time for me and you to stand up, speak up, starting here and starting now. I have often wondered how people look back on times of cowardice in history and try to explain to their families why they, as individuals, did nothing. This also haunts me and it is an answer I do not want to know.

I do not offer you a false hope and promise about my personal power. I offer you a true hope and promise about yours. You have it. Please use it. Starting here and starting now. I do not ask for your endorsement - you do not know me. But I do ask for your encouragement and that we encourage each other to return our nation to a position of pride, dignity, courage and peace.