



"Without you we cannot win," said Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, as he addressed an overflow audience at PCUN Saturday in Woodburn. Well over 100 Hispanics and Democrats attended the voter rally.

John Gervais/Independent



"If I don't vote, I don't count," said Leticia Chimal (second right), Woodburn, last Saturday, in response to encouragement to vote from Terry McAuliffe, Democratic National Committee chairman as he went door to door. Chimal is a new citizen and a new voter. McAuliffe encouraged her to vote Democratic.

Top Democrat visits Woodburn to stump for Hispanic votes

9-25-02

BY JOHN GERVAIS

gervais@eaglenewspapers.com

Woodburn Independent

People filled the chairs, aisles and sides, then spilled out into other rooms and onto the porch last Saturday at a local labor union (PCUN) to listen to Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Terry McAuliffe as he appealed to the audience to register and to vote — Democrat.

They came to see and hear the DNC chairman and they got what they came for as McAuliffe rallied the crowd as well as any national candidate on the stump.

"We cannot win without you!" said McAuliffe, appealing to Hispanics. He spoke of the historic 66 percent of Hispanic vote that is loyal to the Democratic Party, and chided Republicans, saying, "Support and outreach to Hispanics is more than 'bringing a Mariachi band to the White House (referring to George Bush) or serving tacos at \$100 a plate fund-raising dinners."

McAuliffe arrived early and he spent more than two hours speaking to the Hispanic community, Democrats and going door-to-door where Hispanics are registered.

"Let me be crystal clear, the Democratic Party cannot win elections in this country unless we have strong support from the Latino community."

"I need your help, the Democ-

atic Party needs your help, our country needs your help," said McAuliffe. "Democrats support you and your needs 365 days a year."

"We will not forget our commitment to immigration reform, Social Security, job creation and affordable prescription drugs," he added.

"One vote keeps us in control of the United States Senate and it is at risk," said McAuliffe, adding that Oregon may be the key state.

Democratic Secretary of State Bill Bradbury is running against first-term incumbent Republican Sen. Gordon Smith and the DNC is expending time and money in launching the party's Hispanic Outreach Program.

McAuliffe reminded the group that voter registration forms are available in English and Spanish in Oregon and asked their help in registering Hispanics, speaking in the heart of the Oregon legislative district with the largest concentration of Hispanics in Oregon.

Woodburn is estimated to have a population of just over 50 percent Hispanic and House District 22 (Woodburn, Gervais and north Salem) has 40 percent Hispanics, the strongest Hispanic district in the state.

However, the Hispanic voter turnout in the district has been estimated at 11 percent.

VISIT: McAuliffe visits Hispanic voters door-to-door

(Continued from page 1)

Following the rally, McAuliffe joined local democrats and spent an hour going door-to-door in south Woodburn, knocking on doors of registered Hispanics and asking them to be

sure to vote in the general election.

At his first door, McAuliffe talked with Leticia Chimal, a new citizen and a new voter. She responded to his message, saying "If I do not vote, I do not

count!"

During his visit, McAuliffe talked with people on the street, children playing in their yards and he showed off the enthusiasm he is known for, having historically wrestled an alligator on

a dare from a fund-raising prospect at the age of 22.

After two hours in Woodburn, it was off to Portland International Airport and on to Hawaii to energize Democrats in the Aloha State.

(See VISIT, page 2)