

Chairman confident, Obama, Clinton will stop by, but when?

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He doesn't know where. He doesn't know when.

But Roger Lund is pretty darn sure that either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton - or perhaps both - will make a stop in Adams County soon.

"I absolutely would expect that before the April 22 primary that we're going to see one or both of them here," said Lund, chairman of the Adams County Democratic Committee.

But there won't be any visits from the candidates this weekend, as local Democrats had hoped.

There was the potential for an appearance from Obama Saturday, though no plans had ever been solidified, Lund said.

"There's been no cancellation because nothing was ever promised," he said.

Instead of a candidate appearance this weekend, both campaigns planned to send other politicians to speak on behalf of Clinton and Obama at a committee breakfast, Lund said.

Illinois Congressman Danny Davis will be in town on behalf of Obama.

Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown's scheduled visit on behalf of Clinton was postponed, however. In his place, Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell will appear.

While there is reason to believe both candidates will visit Adams County before the state primary, Lund said an appearance by Obama is more likely at this point.

"There is no question that Gettysburg is on their radar," he said of the Obama campaign. "I am very, very confident that we will see Senator Obama."

As for Clinton, "I'm simply not sure yet," Lund said.

Lund said he and other local Democrats have stepped up efforts to talk campaign officials into bringing the candidates to Adams County since early March, when Pennsylvania's role in the primary process was solidified on a national scale.

"Most of us thought that wasn't going to happen," Lund said of the state's newfound importance in national politics.

Lately, energies have gone into establishing grassroots organizations and campaign offices

in downtown Gettysburg for each candidate.

An Obama office opens today at 233 W. High St. and a Clinton office opens today at 45 Chambersburg St.

Those offices are independent of the Democratic Committee, which will not be endorsing either presidential candidate, Lund said.

However, the committee is still involved in efforts to get one or both of the candidates to Adams County, he said.

Lund said the process of inviting the candidates to Adams County is relatively simple. Local Democrats send a proposal to the campaigns, and those officials decide whether or not to accept, he said.

Gettysburg College has also extended invitations to each of the campaigns, including that of Republican John McCain, to use the college as a venue for appearances, Lund said.

"I think for this county, that's the most appropriate venue," Lund said.

However, one reason for his optimism about a potential Obama appearance is the campaign's interest in the Hundredfold Farm, a co-housing community west of Cashtown that places an emphasis on environmental friendliness.

"All of the information about that farm has been requested by the Obama campaign," Lund said. "They're looking at that very carefully as a place."

Calls seeking comment from Gettysburg College and Hundredfold Farm representatives were not returned Friday.

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