

46th District Democrats

April 10, 2006

Dear Delegates, Alternates and Members of the 46th District Democrats:

Pursuant to the 2006 Washington State Democrats Delegate Selection Rules, you are hereby called to the **46th Legislative District Caucus on Saturday, April 22nd at Eckstein Middle School**, located at 3003 NE 75th St., Seattle, 98115.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 9:15 a.m. You can expect the caucus to take most of the morning—but we will adjourn no later than 1:00 p.m., and may adjourn sooner depending on our progress through the agenda. The proposed agenda and rules for the caucus are included in this packet. A \$10 registration fee will be requested when you register. Payment of the fee is not a condition of participation, but will help pay for the expenses of putting on the caucus.

The purpose of the 46th District Caucus is two-fold: **1)** elect Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention in Yakima on June 3rd, and **2)** adopt the 2006 Platform for the 46th Legislative District. Any resident registered voter of the 46th who is a Democrat may run to be a Delegate or Alternate to the State Convention. However, only seated Delegates from the Precinct Caucuses may vote on the election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention. Seated Delegates, PCOs *and all members* in good standing (paid dues on or before April 1st) will be eligible to vote on the platform and resolutions. All Delegates, Alternates and members are encouraged to attend.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 22nd. The caucus and convention cycle is an exciting time for Democrats to come together. Your participation is important as we embark on this next step to set the direction for our Democratic Party and take back our country!

Sincerely,

Scott

Scott White
Chair, 46th District Democrats

PS – Please bring this copy of the “Call” with you for use at the Caucus. Thanks!

Enclosures:

- Proposed Agenda, page 2
- Proposed Rules, pages 3-4
- Proposed Platform, pages 5-12
- Proposed Resolutions & Positions on Initiatives, pages 12-14

AGENDA

1. 8:30 a.m. – Registration
2. 9:15 a.m. – Call to order.
3. Flag salute
4. Appointment of Temporary Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian
5. Credentials Report, Seating of Alternates, Challenges
6. Adoption of Agenda and Rules
7. Election of Permanent Chair
8. Announcement of the Seating of Alternate Delegates
9. Appointment of Permanent Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian
10. Final Credentials Report
11. Election of State Convention Delegates and Alternates
12. Adoption of Platform and Resolutions
13. Good of the Order
14. Adjournment – no later than 1:00 p.m.

RULES

1. The Legislative District Caucus shall be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006, commencing at 9:15 a.m., at Eckstein Middle School, located at 3003 NE 75th St., Seattle.
 2. Delegates to the Legislative District Caucus shall be the Delegates and Alternates elected at the Precinct Caucuses. An Alternate shall not have a vote unless seated to replace an absent or ineligible Delegate. Alternates shall be listed and seated in the order in which they were elected and, to the extent possible, shall be the same gender as the Delegate being replaced. In addition to the allocated Delegates, Precinct Committee Officers serving prior to January 31, 2006, shall be automatic Delegates to the Legislative District Caucus. In such cases, an additional Alternate may be elected.
 3. Any duly elected Delegate or Alternate who moves from his or her precinct prior to the Legislative District Caucus shall automatically forfeit his or her seat and an Alternate shall be seated in his or her place.
 4. At the time of signing in, Delegates and Alternates shall sign in by Precinct. There will be a registration fee for all Delegates and Alternates to the Legislative District Caucus of \$10 at the door. Payment of this fee shall not be a condition of participation or election.
 5. The Legislative District Chair or the Chair's designee shall serve as the Temporary Chair of the Caucus.
 6. The Chair of the Credentials Committee shall present the report of the Credentials Committee which shall include the following:
 - a. the total number of Delegates certified elected within the District;
 - b. the total number of Delegates registered and seated at the time the report is given;
 - c. the total number of Alternates eligible to be seated at the time due to the absence of elected Delegates;
 - d. supervision by name and Precinct of the seating of eligible Alternates;
 - e. presentation of challenged Precinct documentation for decision by the Legislative District Caucus as a whole, starting with the lowest numbered Precinct and proceeding in alpha-numerical order until all challenges are resolved. If the challenged Delegate is not sustained, he or she shall be removed immediately and replaced by a qualified Alternate. A challenged Delegate may not vote on the question of his or her own challenge.
- The Credentials Committee may seat unchallenged Delegates arriving after the Credentials Committee report.
7. The Chair of the Rules Committee shall present the report of the Rules Committee.
 8. Any registered voter of the District who is a Democrat and is willing to be known as such may be nominated by a Delegate to the Legislative District Caucus for the position of Permanent Chair. Any registered voter of the District who is a Democrat and is willing to be known as such may nominate himself or herself. Nominations, seconding

speeches and speeches by the candidate on his or her own behalf shall not total more than three (3) minutes per nominee. A majority is required to elect. If no person has a majority, the candidate receiving the least votes is dropped and balloting shall be repeated using the remaining names. This procedure shall be repeated until a candidate receives a majority. If there is only one nominee the Chair shall be elected by a voice vote.

9. The Permanent Chair shall appoint a Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian.
10. The Chair shall announce the allocation of State Convention Delegates and Alternates to the Legislative District Caucus. The allocation to the 46th legislative district for 2006 is 43 Delegates and 22 Alternates. The 46th legislative district will endeavor to elect 22 female Delegates, 21 male Delegates, 11 female Alternates and 11 male Alternates. If there are not enough candidates to meet these gender balance ratios, then the gender allocation may be adjusted at the discretion of the Chair.
11. The Election of State Convention Delegates and Alternates:
 - a. Each candidate for State Convention Delegate or Alternate must be a resident registered voter in the Legislative District.
 - b. Each candidate for State Convention Delegate or Alternate shall be nominated individually. No second is required. A candidate who is not a Delegate to the Legislative District Caucus or who is not present must signify in advance, in writing individually, that he/she will serve if elected and that he/she is a Democrat and is willing to be known as such. The letter of any absent candidate shall be read by the Legislative District Caucus Chair and shall constitute a nomination, no second required. All other nominations shall be made by signing the nomination list at the registration table. Each candidate shall have up to one minute (including the time spent by the Chair reading an absent candidate's nomination letter) for speech on his/her behalf. Nomination of Alternates shall occur after the election of Delegates.
 - c. Voting shall be by signed ballot and a ballot to be counted must have all positions filled with no duplications. The Chair shall give clear notice to the Delegates that they must vote for the allotted number of candidates, give adequate time to do so, and ask voting Delegates to check their ballots before turning them in. A majority of those present and voting shall be required to elect. The Chair shall provide the ballots. After the votes are collected and tallied, the person receiving the most votes and a majority of the votes shall have been elected, the person receiving the next most votes and a majority of the votes shall have been elected, and so forth until all allotted Delegate positions are filled or until candidates are no longer receiving a majority of the vote. If candidates are no longer receiving a majority of the vote and Delegate slots are still available then a second vote must be taken to fill the remaining slots. Election as a Delegate will be contingent on the same factors as the first vote. This process shall continue until all Delegate slots are filled. In case of a tie vote, the assignment of a Delegate position shall be by lot. The election of Alternates shall be in the same manner as the election of Delegates, except that the Alternate receiving the most votes and a majority of the votes shall become Alternate number one, and the Alternate receiving the next most votes and a majority of the vote shall be Alternate number two, and so forth. In case of a tie vote, the assigning number to the Alternates shall be by lot. Legislative District delegations elected shall be equally divided between women and men in both the delegate and alternate categories unless there are an insufficient number of nominees from one gender to fill available positions.
12. At the time of the election, each elected State Convention Delegate shall be requested to pay the \$40.00 State Convention Registration fee to the Secretary who shall send fees and a list of Delegates and Alternates with addresses and phone numbers to the State Chair within five (5) days. No person shall be excluded or disqualified from any part of the process for failure to pay such fee.
13. At the discretion of the Chair, consideration of platform and resolutions may commence without suspension of the rules.
14. The motion "to table" shall be out of order at all times.
15. Debate shall alternate pro and con, limited to three speakers for and three speakers against any motion, each speaker to speak no more than one minute.
16. A quorum shall consist of 30 percent of the number eligible to vote as shown on the Credentials report, as most recently amended. The existence of a quorum may not be challenged before the adoption of the platform.

17. Resolutions shall be submitted in writing, with supporting signatures as set forth in Rule 19(g-k).
18. Seated Delegates, elected or appointed Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) and members in good standing of the 46th District Democrats shall be permitted to vote on platform and resolutions. For purposes of voting on the platform and resolutions, members in good standing shall include PCOs and members who paid dues on or before April 1, 2006, as prescribed in Article III, Section 2 of our Bylaws. Separate credentials shall be issued for non-delegates to allow participation in approval of platform and resolutions.
19. The order of consideration of platform and resolutions shall be as follows:
 - a. Each section of the Platform as proposed by the Platform Committee shall be considered as the equivalent of a motion to adopt (needing no second). Amendments will be considered for each section, if the proposed amendments meet the criteria in rules 19b and 19c and are not ruled out of order by the Chair.
 - b. Amendments to the platform submitted to the District Chair by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, 2006, with 15 signatures of elected delegates, PCOs or members in good standing and 100 printed copies, shall be considered at the time the relevant proposed section of the platform is considered.
 - c. Amendments to the platform submitted to the District Chair or the Co-Chairs of the Platform Committee by 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, with 25 signatures of delegates, PCOs or members in good standing and 100 printed copies, confirmed by the Chair of the Credentials Committee, shall be considered at the time the relevant proposed section of the platform is considered.
 - d. For all motions, the Chair will recognize three speakers pro and con, with each speaker to speak no more than one minute.
 - e. Sections of the platform passed shall constitute the platform as passed.
 - f. Any sections of the platform or amendments that meet the criteria for consideration at the caucus that are not considered prior to adjournment, shall be considered at the next regular meeting time of the 46th District Democrats.
 - g. Following adoption of the Platform, resolutions proposed by the Platform Committee shall be considered, with their recommendation serving as a motion to adopt, proceeding on the basis of each topical section of resolutions serving as a single motion. If the Chair determines there is substantial (not majority) interest in amending or opposing a resolution within a section, that resolution will be considered separately from the remainder of resolutions proposed by the Platform Committee, immediately following consideration of the relevant topical section of proposed resolutions.
 - h. Resolutions submitted to the District Chair by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, 2006, with 15 signatures of elected delegates, PCOs or members in good standing and 100 printed copies, shall be considered following resolutions proposed by the Platform Committee, and any amendments thereto.
 - i. Resolutions submitted by 9:15 a.m. Saturday, April 22, with 25 signatures of delegates, PCOs or members in good standing and 100 printed copies, confirmed by the Chair of the Credentials Committee, shall be considered after resolutions proposed by the Platform Committee, and any amendments thereto.
 - j. Resolutions submitted after 9:15 a.m. on the day of the caucus or submitted with insufficient signatures or insufficient copies shall not be considered.
 - k. Any resolutions that meet the criteria for consideration at the caucus but are not considered prior to adjournment or recess, shall be considered at the next regular meeting time of the 46th District Democrats.
20. The Chair shall appoint a representative Tally Committee of Alternates or non-Delegates. All ballots shall be returned to the State Democratic Headquarters and shall be retained by the State Chair until the State Convention has adjourned.
21. The unit rule shall not be permitted at any time.
22. Proxy voting shall not be allowed.
23. All possible efforts shall be made to insure maximum participation of ethnic minorities, women, youth, persons over 65 years of age, lesbians and gays, Labor, persons with a high school education or less, disabled, and persons of economic disadvantage.
24. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall prevail in other matters not specifically covered herein.

OUR VALUES

We Democrats are the party of the people. We are devoted to justice and opportunity for all.

We are dedicated to:

- Protecting human rights and individual freedoms
- Living-wage jobs and fairness in tax policy
- Health care for all
- Fighting poverty and providing a safety net for those in need
- Quality public education
- Protecting the environment for future generations
- Seeking peace, and using force only when necessary
- Fiscal responsibility and competence in government
- Integrity, openness and accountability in government

Good leaders admit their mistakes and right their wrongs.

We the people must take responsibility for the quality of our government.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND TAXES

We are committed to strong communities, opportunity, fairness, and shared prosperity.

We support:

1. Raising the Federal minimum wage to \$7.65, adjusted annually for inflation
2. Rollback of the Bush tax cuts for the very wealthy
3. Restoring the Federal estate tax for estates of \$5 million or more and retaining the Washington state estate tax
4. A progressive income tax for Washington, and reduced reliance on property tax, sales tax, and business and occupation (B&O) taxes
5. Automatic sunseting of special-interest state tax exemptions after 10 years
6. Including tax exemptions as revenue expenditures in the state budget
7. Repeal of arbitrary spending limits such as those prescribed by Initiative 601
8. Changing corporate bankruptcy rules to put pensioners on an equal footing with secured creditors
9. Requiring good corporate citizenship as a condition for any business seeking tax breaks, public financing, or government contracts. Good corporate citizens comply with International Labor Organization standards and environmental and human rights laws
10. Exempting the first \$30,000 of property tax valuation for all homeowners

We oppose U.S. businesses incorporating offshore to evade taxes

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

We Democrats know that our well-being and very survival depend on worldwide clean air, clean water, safe food and sustainable ecosystems, and that environmental protection will strengthen our economy.

We Support:

1. Basing environmental decisions on sound scientific facts
2. Acting to significantly reduce human impacts that cause global climate change, by:
 - a. Signing and strengthening the Kyoto protocols
 - b. Taking aggressive actions to minimize greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting chemicals
 - c. Assisting other nations in implementing appropriate technology, energy efficiency and alternative renewable energy systems
3. Increasing global conservation of energy and resources

4. Reducing our dependency on foreign oil by working for energy self-sufficiency
5. Using renewable, non-polluting, non-nuclear energy sources such as wind, solar, hydrogen, ocean, micro-hydro, geothermal and biomass
6. Reducing toxic waste and using sound science to clean up and dispose of existing waste
7. Making Hanford cleanup a top priority
8. Treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes near their origin.
9. Assessing the toxicity of chemicals prior to their manufacture and release in the environment
10. Reducing use of herbicides, pesticides and other toxic materials to decrease environmental contamination and protect our food supply and health
11. Increased funding and support of organic farming and sustainable agriculture
12. Promotion of local farmers' markets
13. Incentives for businesses that conserve energy or utilize technologies that reduce pollution and keep toxic chemicals out of the environment
14. Reinstating the Superfund Tax to make polluters pay for cleanup
15. Reversing Bush's gutting of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts and other environmental laws
16. Protecting and preserving environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands, the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, and other wild areas
17. Maintaining the viability and diversity of plants and animals within watersheds and other ecosystems
18. Protecting the habitat of wild salmon and steelhead, including preserving Northwest forests and maintaining adequate river flows
19. Enforcing and strengthening our state's Growth Management Act to protect against further urban sprawl that consumes farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and natural resources
20. Maintaining our National Parks and wilderness areas as pristine national treasures
21. Permanently protecting threatened wild and roadless areas from road building, logging, motorized recreation, and any other type of development
22. Expanding efforts to reduce residential and business waste and promote the reuse and recycling of materials.
23. Continue development of recycled-material markets that meet strict environmental and worker health standards
24. Requiring electronic equipment manufacturers to recycle and safely dispose of computers, televisions and other e-waste

We Oppose:

1. Washington State's being a depository for the nation's radioactive waste
2. Shipping more waste to Hanford until the site is brought into compliance with existing regulations and the impact of past waste disposal has been fully remedied
3. Exporting banned chemicals and toxic waste to other countries
4. Selling public lands to developers or speculators
5. Mining, drilling, and any other activity likely to deface or pollute our National Parks, wilderness areas and other public lands
6. Privatizing professional staff in National Parks and National Forests
7. Offshore oil and natural gas drilling
8. Efforts to undermine land-use planning by indiscriminately treating it as a taking of private property

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The rights guaranteed by our Constitution and by international human rights law are at the heart of the American identity and should not be compromised for any reason and that their preservation requires our vigorous defense.

We support:

1. Repeal of provisions of the USAPATRIOT Act that infringe on constitutional rights or freedoms
2. An end to warrantless governmental eavesdropping on communications within the United States
3. Strong antidiscrimination and affirmative action laws and policies to ensure that prejudices based on gender, race, age, ethnic or national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, gender identity, or

political affiliation do not prevent qualified persons from obtaining employment, promotion, education, housing or any other social good

4. The right to marry for all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity
5. Every woman's right of reproductive choice, as well as programs to make abortions less necessary and less frequent
6. The right to medically assisted death with dignity, with suitable safeguards
7. Full rights of people with disabilities to equal access to public accommodations, employment, transportation, telecommunications, voting, and government services, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act
8. The rights of immigrants and foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a crime within the United States
9. The right of refugees to gain asylum in the U.S., and oppose any measure to return refugees to a nation where they face persecution
10. Greater legal immigration and options for undocumented immigrants to normalize their status
11. Increased due process rights in immigration proceedings

We oppose:

1. Prisoners and detainees in U.S. custody being subjected to torture as an interrogation technique here or abroad, or being removed to other countries where they may face torture
2. The use of military tribunals and the indeterminate detention of "enemy combatants"

MEDIA AND CULTURE

A free press is essential for democracy to flourish. All people should have the opportunity to participate in and experience the cultural life of the community.

We support:

1. Multicultural media and ownership
2. Government funding of politically independent public radio and public television
3. Fair compensation by cable companies for their use of the public right-of-way
4. Establishment of low-power broadcasting for educational and non-profit institutions
5. Increased funding for public libraries
6. Wider access to opportunities for participating in and experiencing arts and cultural events
7. One percent for art programs
8. Reinstitution of individual artist grants from the National Endowment for the Arts

We Oppose:

1. Concentration of media ownership
2. Political control of Public Radio and TV
3. Government-funded propaganda disguised as news
4. Government intimidation of the news media

EDUCATION

Education is a basic right. It is the responsibility of our state and its citizens to provide a high quality education for all children.

We support:

1. Full funding for public schools in compliance with the provisions of our State Constitution
2. Full federal funding or repeal of the No Child Left Behind Act
3. Universal pre-school and kindergarten
4. A state educational system that prioritizes and funds:
 - a. Decreased class size to below the national average
 - b. Early learning and pre-kindergarten services, including, Head Start to assure that all students are prepared for school

- c. After-school programs
 - d. Counselors and nurses in every school
 - e. Job training, vocational education, and apprenticeship programs for non-college bound students
 - f. Strong environmental education programs in schools
 - g. Regular energy and resource-use audits to reduce school operating costs
 - h. Strong programs for students needing extra help and for gifted students
 - i. Competitive compensation and benefits for all public educators
 - j. Upgrading school facilities, libraries, computer systems and other resources
 - k. Continuing education and training for teachers
5. Including of fine arts education in the Basic Education Act
 6. Passing of school levies by a simple majority vote
 7. Multiple WASL retake opportunities and remediation options, and alternative methods of assessment
 8. Equal opportunities for women as mandated by Title IX
 9. Making public college tuition affordable, and providing equate financial aid for low income students
 10. Making college tuition tax-deductible or a tax credit
 11. Increased capacity to accommodate all who wish to pursue higher education
 12. College loan adjustments for graduates who choose public service careers
 13. Increasing government funding for basic research in science, medicine, engineering and technology
 14. Sustainable use of public lands that produce revenue for Washington schools

We oppose:

1. Charter schools and private school vouchers because they drain resources from our public schools
2. Commercial exploitation through marketing to captive audiences of students in public schools
3. Aggressive military recruiting in the public schools

FOREIGN POLICY

America should work within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation, generosity, and democracy.

We support:

1. Resolving international conflict and addressing terrorism through multilateral international institutions such as the United Nations
2. Compliance with all provisions of all international human rights treaties which we are party to including the Geneva Conventions and Torture Convention
3. Strengthening and full funding our share of the United Nations
4. Withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq
5. Rebuilding the shattered infrastructure of Iraq, instead of prisons and military bases
6. International aid for family planning
7. Humanitarian programs that address the root causes of instability and terrorism
8. Strengthening international nuclear disarmament treaties, and compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and Space Preservation Treaty against space-based weapons.
9. Ratification of and compliance with the:
 - a. Kyoto Protocol on climate change
 - b. International Land Mines treaties
 - c. International Criminal Court
10. Recognition that Palestinian and Israeli lives are equally precious and that both are entitled to peace, justice, and security. Further U.S. aid to the region should be contingent on:
 - a. Commitments not to use the aid for killing each other or for one to occupy the other's territory
 - b. Dismantling of the Israeli "security" wall and return of all lands confiscated by the wall's construction
 - c. Compensation of dispossessed Palestinians for their losses
 - d. Withdrawal of Israeli troops and settlers from the West Bank
11. The Cuban people's right to political and economic self-determination
12. Normalizing relations with Cuba, including lifting the U.S.-imposed embargo and travel ban

13. Withdrawal from international trade treaties, such as the WTO, NAFTA, and CAFTA that undermine basic human and labor rights, restrict our ability to protect the environment and public health, and override U.S. laws. Those treaties must be replaced by agreements that incorporate human rights, labor rights, public health, and environmental justice

We oppose:

1. Military action in Iran or any other country without clearly expressed authorization from Congress
2. Preemptive war
3. Efforts, covert as well as overt, to destabilize other national governments
4. Permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq
5. Using contractors not subject to the rule of law in the handling of prisoners
6. Development of new nuclear weapons
7. Exporting weapons systems that contribute to the international arms race
8. Procurement of unneeded weaponry and deployment of destabilizing weapons systems
9. U.S. training of foreign military or police forces that suppress human rights in their own countries
10. International Monetary Fund policies that compel privatization of vital government services, such as water, as a condition of refinancing national debt
11. Entering into the proposed Global Agreement on Trade in Services which would privatize such necessities as education, water, firefighting, and electricity
12. Entering into the proposed Free Trade Agreement of the Americas

HEALTH CARE

Health care is a basic human right. Our government must recognize, as does the rest of the industrialized world, its responsibility to ensure the health and safety of its citizens.

We support:

1. Establishment of a nationwide, publicly funded, nonprofit single-payer universal health care plan, including affordable prescription drug coverage. Until then, we support:
 - a. Fully funded federal physical and mental health benefits for veterans
 - b. Increased access to the Washington Basic Health Plan
 - c. Legislation to make universal health care state law
 - d. Adequate funding for Medicare and Medicaid
 - e. Inclusion of dental, vision, mental health, contraceptive, substance abuse treatment and alternative therapies in all medical coverage
2. Emphasis on preventative care
3. The timely dispensing of all legally prescribed medicines by every pharmacy
4. Public funding of quality long-term care, including adequate training and living wages for caregivers and options for in-home care
5. Regulating tobacco as a drug
6. A strong Patient's Bill of Rights
7. Removing politically motivated restrictions from medical research, including stem cell research
8. Repealing the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act section that prohibits negotiation of volume discounts on prescription drugs
9. Establishing programs to combat obesity

HUMAN SERVICES

A caring community provides a safety net of social services to meet people's basic needs so they can attain their full potential, especially those on the margins of society: children, the elderly, and people who are impoverished, homeless, mentally ill, disabled, or living with addictions.

We support:

1. Welfare reform that will reduce poverty, not just the welfare rolls
 2. Quality, affordable childcare, education, training and substance-abuse treatment to help working parents get off welfare
 3. Galvanizing the political will to end homelessness and to ensure that all people have access to safe and affordable housing
 4. Weighting affordable-housing subsidies toward those who need them most
 5. Programs to enable more widespread home ownership
 6. Lifting the cap on Social Security tax on income above \$90,000, to avoid the future funding shortfall
 7. Public assistance (General Assistance-Unemployable) and Medicaid to safeguard the vulnerable poor and people with disabilities who cannot reasonably provide for themselves
 8. Family planning and science-based sex education to give individuals and families control over their reproductive decisions
 9. Education and access to birth control and family services to minimize the need for abortion
- We oppose privatizing Social Security or reducing its benefits

LABOR

We believe in the dignity of work and demand fair wages and benefits in return. We insist on the right of all workers to join labor unions, to bargain collectively and to take part in setting their working conditions.

We support:

1. Establishment of a living wage, starting in Seattle
2. Equal pay for equal work
3. A Workers' Bill of Rights that includes:
 - a. Rights of association, assembly and free speech in the workplace
 - b. A safe and healthy workplace
 - c. Due process in the workplace, including "just cause" protections, progressive discipline and protection for whistleblowers and union activities
 - d. Democratic and fair elections within unions
4. Automatic (card-check) recognition of a union upon its obtaining a majority of the cards signed in a bargaining unit
5. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, which tilted labor law in favor of employers by outlawing several forms of boycott, strikes, and political action on the part of unions
6. The right to mandatory arbitration of first contracts
7. The right to strike without fear of reprisal or permanent replacement
8. A streamlined appeals process in the National Labor Relations Board
9. Meaningful financial penalties for employers found to have engaged in unfair labor practices
10. Prevailing wage rates on all government contracts, and 15% set-asides for apprentices
11. Extended unemployment benefits and retraining opportunities for workers who are locked out or on strike
12. Safe and adequate housing, medical care, education, and sanitary facilities for migrant and seasonal workers and their families
13. Accurate unemployment statistics, counting persons whose benefits have been exhausted

We oppose:

1. Mandatory overtime
2. All so-called right-to-work laws
3. Captive-audience and one-on-one anti-union meetings

TRANSPORTATION

We believe in public transportation to ensure equal opportunity and a greater quality of life for all

We Support:

1. Development and funding of multiple forms of public transportation, to better serve the public and reduce single-occupancy auto use and greenhouse gas emissions
2. High-density development and economical mass transit in urban areas, including light rail connections to Northgate and SeaTac airport
3. Keeping roads, bridges and ferries in good repair, with Replacement of the Alaskan Way viaduct and seawall as our highest transportation and public safety priority.
4. Repeal of the 18th Amendment to the Washington Constitution so that state gasoline taxes may be used to fund mass transit instead of only highways
5. Increasing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and applying them fully to SUVs and light trucks, and eliminating all tax breaks for such vehicles
6. A luxury tax on low-mileage or heavy automobiles and limousines
7. Safe facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchairs, including:
 - a. Well-lit bus stops and shelters
 - b. Side-walks and marked crosswalks
 - c. Secure storage of bicycles
 - d. Bicycle lanes on arterials
8. Safe and reliable school bus transportation for all public school students

LAW AND JUSTICE

A good government provides for the safety and security of the general public with care, even-handedness and respect for the individual.

We support:

1. Reasonable security measures at airports, bus and train stations, border crossings and ports, to protect the public from terrorism without sacrificing important civil liberties
2. The U.S. Attorney General appointing an independent Special Counsel to investigate and prosecute any government officer responsible for having ordered or participated in violations of law
3. Impeachment of any member of the Executive Branch who has ordered violations of law
4. Legislation to prevent state and local governments from exercising their eminent domain power to take property on behalf of a private developer in order to increase their tax base
5. Legislation to prohibit predatory practices in payday lending
6. Greater emphasis on preventive and rehabilitative measures in criminal justice
7. Assuring each detainee his/her Constitutionally guaranteed right to counsel, habeas corpus, and a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury, with adequate funding for the defense in cases of indigency
8. DNA testing to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent
9. Redefinition of corporate rights and responsibilities, including a rollback of Constitutional protections afforded on the pretext that a corporation is a "person"
10. Subjecting corporate executives' economic crime to imprisonment on the same basis as other nonviolent thefts
11. Including, in state and federal substance-abuse policy:
 - a. Drug education reflective of established scientific knowledge rather than outdated political dogma and myth
 - b. More drug courts
 - c. Greater emphasis on treatment and rehabilitation of drug and alcohol addiction
 - d. A reduced priority for minor drug offenses
 - e. Basing asset forfeitures on conviction of a crime rather than mere arrest or assumption of guilt
12. Universal gun registration and licensing, a completed background check before each gun sale (including at gun shows), required safe gun storage in the home, and prohibition of fully automatic weapons
13. Protecting individual liberty and restoring balance in our courts by confirming only judges who have a proven record of adhering to the law without promoting extremist views or personal political agendas

14. Accountability in law enforcement. To this end, each major city and county should establish, for investigating complaints of police misconduct, an effective review process that is independent, open, responsive, thorough, and includes meaningful civilian participation

We oppose:

1. Capital punishment, because execution of a human being in our name is unacceptable
2. Giving any legal effect to Presidential "signing statements," executed when signing bills into law

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

A real democracy ensures that its voting process is fair, transparent and open to all citizens.

We support:

1. Vigorous enforcement of the right to vote for all citizens
2. Direct election of the U.S. President, and abolition of the Electoral College that unduly magnifies the role of small states and narrow pluralities
3. Making the general election day a holiday to encourage voting
4. Use of electronic voting machines only if accompanied by a verifiable paper record of each vote cast
5. Increased security for electronic vote-counting machines
6. State funding of public debates for statewide offices
7. Public funding for all countywide, statewide and legislative district election campaigns
8. Free radio and television airtime allocations for major-party candidates and ballot issues before each election
9. Reinstating the media Fairness Doctrine in election campaigns to promote more balanced reporting by broadcast media, including cable networks
10. Limits on lobbyists' use of corporate and special-interest funds to influence legislative votes and executive decisions
11. Full disclosure of the source of campaign funds, including separately controlled campaigns and issue advertising
12. Extending elective-office contribution limits to include contributions made to any PAC or other organization supporting a candidate
13. Holding our state primary in June instead of August, to provide more time prior to the general election
14. Instant runoff voting for non-partisan races (city councils, ports, commissions and judicial races)
15. Restoring felons' right to vote once they have served their time
16. Requiring that Congressional bills, amendments and earmarks be publicly posted on the Internet for three days before a floor vote

We oppose:

1. Use of proprietary software in voting machines that cannot be verified or audited
2. Improperly removing or challenging registered voters from the voting rolls
3. Voter registration that requires expensive IDs
4. Any Secretary of State's participation in a partisan election campaign, because it is a conflict of interest for the person overseeing elections

RESOLUTIONS

1. Impeach Bush (passed)

2. Impeach Cheney

Be it resolved that we urge all Democratic Party National Representatives and Senators to demand Vice President Cheney's immediate resignation and take immediate steps to impeach him for the good of our nation and our prosperity.

3. HR 676 – Universal Health Insurance

Be it resolved that Members of Congress are hereby instructed to support and enact HR 676, to provide health care insurance coverage for all.

4. Key Arena

Be it resolved that we call upon all elected representatives to ensure that no further public funds be provided to renovate Key Arena.

5. Department of Peace

Be it resolved that Congress enact legislation to create a cabinet level Department of Peace for the purposes of implementing nonviolent approaches for domestic programs and foreign mediation.

6. Endorse 937 – Renewable energy

Be it resolved that we join with Washingtonians for Energy Security in endorsing Initiative 937 to the people that will ensure electric utilities purchase 15% of their power from clean, appropriately sited renewable resources by 2020, and realize all available cost-saving energy efficiency.

7. Sen. Cantwell disappointment

Be it resolved that the 46th District Democrats declare to Senator Maria Cantwell in no uncertain terms their profound disappointment in the Senator's refusal to support the Alito filibuster and for her continued support of the Iraq war.

8. Fair Share Health Care – Walmart Bill

Be it resolved that we join with the Fair Share Care Coalition of church organizations, business leaders, unions and retirees in supporting Fair Share Care legislation in the 2007 Washington State Legislative session to require large employers to provide adequate health care for their employees.

INITIATIVES

What follows are Ballot Measure Summaries. The full texts of all 2006 Washington State Initiatives to the people can be found at: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/people.aspx>

We Support Initiative 937

Sponsored by Mr. Robert Jay Pregulman, this measure would require investor-owned and consumer-owned utilities with 25,000 or more customers to meet designated targets for energy conservation, including cogeneration as defined, and use of eligible renewable energy resources. Renewable energy resource targets may be met by designated investment levels, including energy resource credits. Utilities not meeting conservation and renewable energy resource targets would pay penalties to the state, to be used for purchase of renewable energy credits or certain energy conservation purposes.

We Oppose Initiative 914

Sponsored by Mr. Tim Eyman, this measure would prohibit public agencies, and private employers, schools and contractors from using race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in employment, education and contracting policies and actions. Public educational institutions would be prohibited from using these factors in admissions or other policies. Schools would be prohibited from considering them in school assignment decisions. Public agencies would be prohibited from using these factors in contracting and subcontracting. Government collection of data would be limited.

We Oppose Initiative 917

Sponsored by Mr. Tim Eyman, this measure would limit motor vehicle registration charges to \$30 per year for vehicles weighing less than 22,000 pounds, and would repeal certain fees and charges exceeding the limit. Replacement and reflectorized plate fees would be reduced. A new valuation schedule based on purchase price would be used in calculating motor vehicle taxes and fees. Regional transit authorities would be required to retire or defease (satisfy without redeeming) outstanding bonds pledging motor vehicle taxes as security for repayment.

We Oppose Initiative 918

Sponsored by Mr. Tim Eyman, this measure would require carpool lanes to be open to all traffic, except weekdays 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. It would require sales and use taxes on motor vehicles to be used exclusively to expand road capacity and improve traffic flow. It would require the state to issue \$10 billion in general obligation bonds for traffic congestion relief projects, and would pledge the above taxes to repay the bonds.

We Oppose Initiative 920

Sponsored by Mr. Dennis Falk. Washington law currently imposes a graduated tax on the transfer of certain Washington

estates having a taxable value of more than 2 million dollars. Certain property, described in statute, is excluded from the taxable value. The revenues from this tax are deposited in the education legacy trust fund. This measure would repeal this estate tax. The repeal would apply to the taxable estates of persons dying on or after the effective date of the measure.

We Oppose Initiative 924

Sponsored by Mr. Brian Janssen, this measure requires school districts spend at least 65% of “operational expenditures” on “classroom instructional expenditures.” “Operational expenditures” is defined to exclude capital construction and debt payments. “Classroom instructional expenditures” is defined to include, amongst others, teachers, textbooks, computers, and libraries. Districts spending less than 65% in the 2006-2007 school year must increase “classroom instructional expenditures” by 2% annually, subject to waiver by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Annual reporting and performance audits are required.

We Oppose Initiative 926

Sponsored by Mr. John M. Smith, this measure would prohibit collective bargaining agreements for employees of the State of Washington, state colleges and universities, community colleges, and school districts from including a clause, known as a “union security clause,” that requires the payment of any fees, dues or other obligations to a bargaining representative as a condition of employment.

We Oppose Initiative 933

Sponsored by Mr. Daniel W. Wood, this measure would require government agencies to consider the effects of and alternatives to regulating private property. Compensation would be required when regulations are enforced that damage private property use or value, including regulations prohibiting or restricting property uses that were allowed as of January 1, 1996. Exceptions would exist for regulations applying equally to all property subject to the agency’s jurisdiction. Development regulations that would prohibit existing legal property uses would not be permitted.

We Oppose Initiative 944

Sponsored by Mr. Tim Eyman, this would require the state legislature and local taxing districts to gain two-thirds majority approval of the legislative body, or majority legislative approval and voter approval, before taking action that raises revenue or increases fees. “Raises state revenue” would include imposing new taxes, increasing a tax rate or tax base, or extending an expiring tax. The measure would not apply to revenue increases and fee increases by local taxing districts that require voter approval.

We Oppose Initiative 946

Sponsored by Mr. Robert D. Baker, this measure would require state and local government employees to verify the identity and immigration status of applicants for non-federally mandated public benefits, which the measure describes as including TANF, Medicaid, food stamps, WIC, and public housing, and cooperate in providing such information. Identification issued without verifying immigration status would not be accepted. Failure to report discovered immigration violations to federal officials.

Special Thanks to all of the volunteers who spent many hours preparing for this Legislative District Caucus. Committee members are listed here.

Planning Committee	Rules Committee	Platform Committee	Credentials Committee
Chad Lupkes	Scott White, Chair	Sarajane Siegfriedt, Co-Chair	Janet Miller, Chair
Betty Means	Bev Marcus	Jim Mullins, Co-Chair	Betty Means
Janet Miller	Gerry Pollet	Jamie Clausen	Dana O’day-Senior
Dana O’day-Senior	Betty Means	Dean Fournier	
Scott White	John Webber	Sylvia Haven	
		Larry Smith	
		Stan Sorscher	
		Tom Rogers	
		Steve Zemke	