

46th Legislative District Democrats

DEMOGRAM



March 2001

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



Well, that sure was a shake up! I wish I could hear all of your stories about where you were at 10:59 am on Wed. Feb. 29. I have enjoyed hearing people's reactions. Whether you were on one of those high floors of the Columbia Tower, at the grocery store, at home or in your car, everyone has a very unique story to tell. Thankfully most of us have a few cracks, but happy endings.

I was on the fourth floor of Lincoln High School where Bryant Elementary is currently housed during its renovation. For me it was both a frightening and thrilling experience all at once. I feel most lucky to have been with children during the earthquake. It gave me a purpose—to help keep the kids safe and calm, to help the teacher, and to act like a grown up.

Later in the day I found out that I was in maybe the safest Seattle Public

School to be in during an earthquake. Lincoln was recently re-modeled and given seismic upgrades so it could be used as a temporary home for Ballard High School, Latona Elementary, and now Bryant. The need for retro-fitting the older buildings has become immediately so apparent. The schools have to be our community's top priority. (I understand I would have been equally safe if I had been at the Opera on Wed. morning, due to the Opera House's new earthquake status!)

This is my long, and personal way of saying THANK YOU to all of you who helped pass the two Seattle School Levies last month. While one of them will simply keep the school district running, the other will work toward making sure that more schools are safe and solid for when The Big One does come.

March Membership Meeting Washington's Future Primary System



Please join us THURSDAY MARCH 15 at Olympic View Church for our monthly meeting. This month the program will focus on THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY. David McDonald will speak about the changing face of the primary system in Washington. Mr. McDonald is a PCO in the 45th District, a member of the State Democratic Party Executive Committee, a board member of the Democratic National Committee, and a lead attorney for the Washington State Democrats regarding changes in the primary process.

A Supreme Court ruling in CA

has made the "blanket primary" system unconstitutional. The system in CA is extremely similar to the system in Washington. Therefore, Washington is forced to change its system here as well.

How will the system be changed? How will a new system reflect independent voters? Will it be a "closed" or "open" system? These are some of the questions that will be discussed on Thursday evening.

Please join us for this update and discussion about the status and future of elections in our state.

THEY REPRESENT YOU

LET THEM HEAR FROM YOU

Sen. Patty Murray

206-553-5545

Senator_Murray@Murray.senate.gov.

Sen. Maria Cantwell

Maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

Rep. Jim McDermott

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425-640-0233

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INSIDE:

Celebrating our Roots with Jim McDermott—Page 4

Wash. State Dems. Chili Feed-See Calendar of Events

Did You Miss It?

Here are some of the highlights from our Feb. Membership Meeting.



- We have a balance of \$3,386 in our account.
- We heard reports from both our State Committee People as well as our King County Delegates.
- We regretfully accepted Jan Ames' resignation as Secretary and then turned around and elected her as our Female Alternate to King County Democrats. We were unable to fill the position of Secretary and are still looking for a candidate.
- Jeff Kirltand gave an update on our plans to offer the Demogram via e-mail to anyone interested in receiving it that way. (WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH A HARD COPY OF THE DEMOGRAM.) He is also looking at ways to offer an e-group option to update members about upcoming events, urgent news and grassroots lobbying opportunities. If you are interested in either of these, please call or e-mail Jeff (find his numbers on page 4.)
- It was announced with fanfare that Gretchen Knappe will be the new Demogram Editor. Got ideas? Call or e-mail her.
- We had a short report from Angela Henry the newly elected Chair of the King County Young Democrats (KCYD). She is looking for more ways for young folks (under the age of 36) to become more active in the party. She suggested that the 46th District Democrats elect a liaison to represent us at the KCYDs. It was moved/seconded/passed to recommend to the bylaws committee that such a position be established.
- The program was THE NORTHWEST ENERGY CRISIS with speakers, Seattle City Council member Richard Conlin and Policy Director of NW Energy Coalition, Nancy Hirscht. Each of them brought us up to date on the state of the current crisis, as well as options and outlooks for the future.
- Please join us for the next meeting on March 15, 2001 at 7:30pm. Our program will be The Future of Our Democratic Party Primary, with speaker, David McDonald.

Draft 2001 Budget

This is a draft budget for 2001, the membership will approve a budget at the March Meeting

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2001 Budget</u>
Balance for'd from previous yr.	3,507.12
Membership Dues	6,000.00
Friends of 46th Dues (\$46)	2,300.00
4600 Club Dues (\$100)	3,000.00
Party Building Fund	2,500.00
Holiday Party	500.00
Dessert Buffet	250.00
Demogram Advertising	300.00
Donations for Refreshments	75.00
Total Revenues	18,432.12
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Postage - Demogram	1,500.00
Post Office Mail Permit	100.00
Contrib. To King Co. Dems.	500.00
Contrib. To WA State Dems.	
Travel	500.00
Web Page	150.00
Printing Demogram	1,500.00
Printing - Misc.	400.00
Mtg. Room Rental -OVCC	420.00
Admin. Expenses	200.00
Fundraising Expenses	300.00
Sample Ballots	3,000.00
Membership Drive	4,000.00
PCO - Recruitment	150.00
PCO - Support	300.00
Special Program Expenses	200.00
League of Women Voters	100.00
Reserve/Carryover to next year	3,000.00
Total Expenditures	16,320.00

Keep primary as open as possible

Sunday, January 28, 2001

POST-INTELLIGENCER EDITORIAL BOARD

As if it weren't enough that the Legislature has to slog through another divided session and wrestle with the biggest state budget challenge in years; it also has to find a way to scrap a wildly popular primary election system. And while legislators are loath to be the ones to toss out the state's beloved "blanket primary" system, it's a task better completed in the Legislature than in the courts. It's a complex issue but one that demands resolution early in the session.

Washington state is forced to act because of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last June that found unconstitutional a virtually identical primary system in California. The California suit was brought by the Republican and Democratic parties there, and the major parties in Washington followed suit in the wake of the ruling.

Last September's primary was saved from disruption when both parties agreed to a temporary court injunction on changes. That injunction expired last month and the need to change the primary won't go away. Even if the two political parties were persuaded to back off, any group or individual could likely bring a successful suit on the basis of the California ruling.

So the question is no longer *if* the primary system will be changed but *how*.

What did the Supreme Court find wrong with the primary the state has used for more than 65 years, in which any voter could choose among a slate of candidates from any and all parties?

It infringed unacceptably on the parties' freedom to choose their own champions for the general election. Not only were the parties unable to control who ran under their banners in the primary, they were unable to control who got to vote for their candidates. Under those circumstances, the high court agreed, it was inevitable, "that parties will be forced in some circumstances to give their official designation to a candidate who's not preferred by a majority or even a plurality of party members." The court also found a "clear and present danger" of "the prospect of having a party's nominee determined by adherents of an opposing party."

The court ruled that the parties' interest in determining their own candidates outweighs the public interest. Something else worries a lot of Washington's voters -- at least a third of whom consider themselves independents. It is that the parties' rights may trump state voters' traditional assumption of privacy by identifying to the parties which voters cast primary ballots for which party.

But if primaries are done primarily for the sake of the political parties, why should the cost of the election be borne by all the taxpayers? Should the political parties pay the cost of holding primary elections? Should we even hold primaries? Why not let the parties pick their candidates through conventions or petition drives?

According to research compiled by the Washington Institute Foundation, primary practices vary across the country. In some states, party conventions determine which candidates are designated on the primary ballot as "official" or "party-endorsed" candidates.

Under Louisiana's so-called "jungle primary," a holdover from the days of virtual one-party rule in the South, spots on the general election ballot go to the top two vote-getters in the primary, regardless of party affiliation. Primary rules also vary from party to party. In Oregon, for example, the Democrats open their primary to independents. Republicans do not.

Other options include making all offices non-partisan or choosing between "open" and "closed" partisan primaries. In the "closed" primary, voters must register a party affiliation in advance of the election; an unpopular idea in this fiercely independent state.

The "open" primary simply requires voters to choose between different party ballots on Election Day, or when ordering absentee ballots. That limits voters' choices to those on that ballot.

If this option requires that the names of those who choose each ballot are shared with the political parties, this idea, too, is dead on arrival.

It was the Washington State Grange that championed the blanket primary in 1934 and the Grange is the first to officially wade in on the new primary debate, filing an initiative to the people Jan. 8. Under the Grange proposal, parties could chose which candidates would be designated on the primary ballot as "official" party candidates. Those without the parties' blessings would be listed as "affiliate" party candidates.

The best and safest course for the Legislature to follow in trying to resolve the situation is to select a primary process as open as possible and to keep any legislation broad in scope, giving the political parties the greatest possible leeway in determining their particular primary rules.

46th District Executive Board

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McDermott to Honor Jan Ames at Annual Festival

On Saturday March 17th, Rep. Jim McDermott will honor Jan Ames at the 7th annual "Celebrating Our Roots Potato Festival."

Jan is a life long Democrat and a long time resident of our district. She is a wonderful example of grassroots activism and Democratic values. Please join us to toast her.

The festival will be held at the Town Hall,



5:30 pm-7:30 pm
March 17, 2001
Town Hall
Seattle, WA

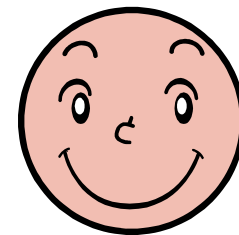
1119 8th Ave., 5:30 pm—7:30 pm. There is a \$25 suggested donation. For more information, please contact Brooke Belman at 206-281-4341 or Joyce Lindsay at 206-478-9287.

Newsletter Takes on a New Face

The March edition of the Demogram has taken on a new format and a new editor. Gretchen Knappe has taken on the assignment of becoming the editor of the Demogram.

My goals for this newsletter are to expand the content, to involve more writers from within the 46th district and also to eventually make our Demogram e-mailable and fit for the web-site.

Please contact me with any input; regarding the new format, newsworthy items, or if you would like to write a story. My phone is: 206-517-5041. My e-mail is: gknappe@yahoo.com.



A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **ANNETTE UTEVSKY** who celebrated her 90th Birthday last month. Way to go Annette. We look forward to seeing you back in the front row after you recover from all of the fun!



We would also like to welcome **PATTY ARNOLD's** new hip to the district. We wish her well as she recovers from her replacement surgery. We look forward to seeing her back in her old routines of coming to meetings, walking her dog and visiting Starbucks.



King County Democrats to Hold Annual Fundraiser

The King County Democrats Cordially invite other fellow democrats to attend and participate in their annual fundraiser on Saturday May 12, 4 pm—8 pm, at the Aerospace Machinists District Lodge 751 Hall. The address is 9125 15th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108.

This year a special guest will be present, our former Governor, the honorable **Booth Gardner**. Annual awards for King

County Democrats will be presented as well. Several activities will take place throughout the event. Those include, a hosted-high donor reception, dinner, entertainment, a live auction, a silent auction and a raffle.

Your continued support of grass roots efforts is essential if Democrats are to take the State House in Olympia and the Congress in Washington D.C.

Please contact the King County Democrats for more information.

Help We Need Somebody, Help Not Just Anybody

Last year's Florida election debacle is still all too fresh in our minds. The Democratic Party, the county elections office and the 46th District Democrats are making every effort to make sure this kind of thing could never happen in Washington. As a party, to a large extent, we determine who actually performs the election. We designate who the lead supervisor (inspector) is in each polling place. We designate who half of the rest of the poll workers (judges) are in each polling place. And we also designate other observers for each

state of the vote tabulation and handling process.

PCOs have the right and responsibility to recommend one poll worker for his or her precinct. PCOs should be hearing soon from the party about how to make those appointments. We also need a couple of volunteers, who enjoy phone work, to follow up with current poll workers and PCOs. If you have some time to help with this project in the next two months, please call Janet at 206-528-0078.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____	
HOME PHONE _____	WORK PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____	Please send me the Demogram by e-mail to save the district \$.60/edition. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 "4600 Club" <input type="checkbox"/> \$46 Donor <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Couple/Family Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Student/Retired/Fixed Income	Please make checks payable to "46th District Democrats." Mail this form to our mailbox: PO BOX 15435 Seattle, WA 98115-0435
Your membership makes our efforts possible to elect Democrats and involve more Northeast Seattle voters. Thank you.	



Calendar of Events

March

- Tuesday, March 6 [46th District Executive Committee Meeting](#)
Olympic View Church, 7:30pm
- Thursday, March 15 [46th District Membership Meeting, Program: The Primary](#)
Olympic View Church, 5th NE and NE 95th, 7:30pm
- Saturday, March 17 [Jim McDermott's 7th Annual Celebrating Our Roots Potato Festival](#)
Town Hall, 1119 8th Avenue - 5:30 pm—7:30pm
- Wednesday, March 28 [A Public Hearing on the Arboretum Master Plan](#)
Sign-in begins at 5 pm. Hearing starts at 5:30 pm. City Council Chambers—11th floor of the Municipal Building. 600 4th Avenue. To testify by telephone, please call 206-684-8821 beginning at 5 pm.
- Saturday, March 31 [Washington State Democrats & PCO Training](#)
Chili Feed—Aerospace Machinists' Hall
Seattle, 3pm. Call Nick Demerice for more info. @206-583-0664.

April

- Tuesday, April 3 [46th District Executive Committee Meeting](#)
Olympic View Church, 7:30 pm
- Thursday, April 19 [46th District Membership Meeting](#)
Olympic View Church, 7:30 pm

May

- Saturday, May 12 [King County Democrats Annual Fundraiser](#)
Aerospace Machinists District Lodge, 4 pm—8 pm.

46th District Democrats
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The Future of Our Democratic Party Primary: How will it change for elections to come?
Program Meeting March 15, 7:30 pm