

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
Minutes of the September 29, 2005, Endorsement Meeting  
Olympic View School, Seattle WA

Meeting was called to order at 7:39 PM

Al Forget led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scott welcomed our PCOs & Members, especially new ones to the meeting.

Donations to tonight's dessert buffet will go to "Washington Cares," Governor Gregoire's disaster relief effort.

Patrick Hogan is leaving the district, so his At-Large position on the Executive Board is open. Scott welcomed volunteers to apply for the position. Scott also asked for volunteers to help with the Demogram.

Norma Miller announced a fund-raising event this Sunday at Magnuson Park.

Bob Ferguson thanked the group for endorsing him and looked forward to working with Democrats in the future.

Credentials Report. Betty Means reported 83 members signed in, ready to vote.

### **Ballot Initiatives**

Initiative 330 - would limit non-economic damages in claims of negligence in healthcare. No speakers were present to speak in favor of I-330.

Reed Schifferman spoke against I-330. He is a lawyer who handles malpractice cases. He said the initiative has nothing in it that helps healthcare consumers, but lots to help insurance companies. Doctors and insurance companies won't take responsibility for mistakes, and legal action is often the only recourse. Under I-330, doctors and insurance companies can insist that patients waive their right to legal recourse.

Vote on I-330: **reject** 0-79-1 (support-reject-no position).

Initiative 336 - provisions about malpractice lawsuits, and establishing a malpractice insurance program.

Reed Schifferman spoke in favor of I-336, saying that insurance companies have made record profits in malpractice insurance. I-336 would provide for suspending licenses of doctors with 3 malpractice incidents.

Chad Lupkes spoke in favor of "take no position" on I-336. Chad said the issues are complicated and the language should go back through the legislature, where it can be considered in detail.

Jeannie Hale spoke in favor of I-336. She is a former PCO. Jeannie helped the League of Women Voters analyze proposals. Jeannie is certain that lobbyists in Olympia would block any new legislation. Jeannie says I-336 is well written and we should support it.

Vote on I-336: **support** 60-7-16 (support-reject-no position)

Initiative 900 - performance audits of governmental entities.

No one present wanted to speak in favor of I-900.

Jim McIntyre spoke against. He said the State Auditor is an elected position. We don't need an initiative to duplicate that existing function.

Vote on I-900: **reject** 2-79-2 (support-reject-no position)

Initiative 901 - prohibit smoking in certain public places and work areas.

Cleve Stockmeyer spoke in favor of I-901. He represented plaintiffs in smoking cases, and believes the public has a strong interest in maintaining smoke-free areas where people must work or congregate.

Stewart Ferguson spoke against I-901. He believes I-901 "piles on" the issue of smoking in public. Smoking is already restricted, and adding more restrictions "smells."

Nancy Malmgren spoke in favor of I-901. Her husband was a lifelong smoker and had lung cancer, which was treated but may have come back. Second-hand smoke is bad for everybody.

Ed Doyle spoke to take no position. Ed smoked until 1942. However, Ed thinks initiatives make bad laws. Better decisions are reached in the legislative process, and tested in court.

Barbara Stein quit smoking a few years ago. The initiative looks to her like prohibition, which is not good policy.

Vote on I-901: 57-14-17 (support-reject-no position) Lacking a two-thirds count for one of the options, eliminate the option with the fewest votes ("reject " in this case) and re-vote. Revote: **support** 61-26 (support - no position)

Initiative 912 - Repeal motor vehicle fuel tax

Kathryn Gardow spoke against I-912. Kathryn attended committee meetings in Olympia this past session, and heard testimony of the critical transportation needs we have in the state. The gas tax passed with bi-partisan support, and we should support their decision.

Mike Purpose spoke in support. He likes the Alaska Way viaduct and doesn't want to replace it. Substitutes are not convincing. If part of it falls down, we can replace that section.

Sarajane Siegfriedt spoke against I-912. This is a safety issue. 241 projects are fully funded by the increased gas tax.

Cat Sullivan spoke in favor. She is part of the tax fairness coalition. Gas taxes are regressive.

Vote on I-912: **reject** 6-81-2 (support-reject- no position)

Treasurer's Report. Gail Chiarello reported on revenues and expenses. A fund-raising event will be held at Pat Emerson's house. Members of the 4600 Club, anyone who increases their support to \$100, and elected officials are invited. [As of October 12, 2005, this event has been postponed...]

### **Seattle Mayor**

Nancy Malmgren nominated Greg Nickels, nomination was seconded  
Justin Simmons nominated Al Runte, nomination was seconded.

Nancy Malmgren spoke in favor of Mayor Nickels. Greg is a lifelong resident of Seattle, and Nancy has known him for many years. Nancy said Greg is terrific on the environment and works on behalf of all people in the city. Nancy urged those present to vote for Greg Nickels.

Justin Simmons spoke in favor of Al Runte. Al was recently endorsed by the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. Justin asked support in endorsing Al Runte.

Jim McIntyre spoke on behalf of Greg Nickels. Jim acknowledged some frustrations others may have had with the Mayor. Jim's experience in Olympia was that Nickels was an effective official in Olympia.

Al Forget spoke in favor of Al Runte. Al Forget supported Mayor Nickels. But became frustrated and cast a protest vote in the last election. Forget supports Al Runte as a candidate for change.

First vote for Mayor: Nickels 29, Runte 49, no endorsement 15. No option received two-thirds of votes cast.

Second vote: Nickels 33, Runte 50 - still not a 2/3rds majority so **no endorsement.**

### **City Council, Position 4**

Jeannette Williams nominated the dashing and splendidly dressed Casey Corr. The nomination was seconded.

Gerry Pollet nominated Jan Drago - seconded.

Jeannette Williams spoke in favor of Casey Corr. Jeanette Williams served many years in elected office. Casey lives in the District and is sensitive to local issues. Williams said Casey Corr is smart and is a good solid Democrat who responds to the community.

Gerry Pollet spoke in support of Jan Drago. Gerry said Jan has been effective in funding social services, protecting the environment and supporting schools. She has broad endorsement in the community. Gerry objected to Casey Corr's record.

Casey Corr spoke on his own behalf. He defended his record, and pointed to his endorsements. Top issues are transportation, schools, and public safety. He expresses his love for Seattle.

Peter Steinbrueck spoke in favor of Jan Drago. He said Casey Corr wrote Mayor Nickels' speeches, and never showed independence. Jan has been committed and voted for the right issues. Al Forget also spoke in favor of Jan Drago, and said he wants independence and elected officials to balance the mayor.

Vote for City Council: **support** Jan Drago 60, Casey Corr received 18, no endorsement 12.

## **Reports**

John Webber gave the State Party Report. Rules were set for putting caucuses on the Rules Committee. Some existing caucuses are grandfathered in. Janet reported that Pat Notter was elected to the National Committee. The State Party debt is \$700,000 so we will need to catch up this year. The National Party is funding 4 staff positions in Washington State. The State Party will conduct a survey of PCO's.

King County Report by Sarajane Siegfriedt. We are on schedule for paying down the fine from the State Disclosure Commission. The State endorsed I-901 and opposes I-912. The State Party endorsed the shortened monorail route. Dean Fournier reported on endorsement votes on other ballot items.

## **King County Sheriff**

Nomination of Sue Rahr by Dean Fournier, and seconded

The meeting rules conflict with the Bylaws regarding party affiliation. The Chair ruled that the conflict would be settled in favor of the language in the Bylaws language, making Sue Rahr eligible for endorsement.

Dean Fournier spoke in support of Sue Rahr. Dean said that Rahr has done a good job after being appointed to the position by the County Council. She has experience and bipartisan support on the Council.

Dan Becraft spoke in favor of Sue Rahr. Dan said Rahr would not be affiliated with either the Democratic or Republican Parties. Dan spoke to her recently for over an hour and was very impressed. Dan was a fire-fighter for several years.

Al Forget said the Sheriff must have the support of police officers in the department. Sue Rahr should be held responsible for atrocious things that happened under Dave Reichert's administration, which she should have been aware of.

Vote on Sheriff: **No endorsement**

**Motion:** for dual endorsement for Nickels and Runte. (2/3rds majority needed). PCOs distribute literature provided by the District. Literature is not available without the District's endorsement. With a dual endorsement, PCO's can choose to distribute literature for either both or neither of the candidates.

Jim Mullins spoke in favor of a dual endorsement. This would allow us to distribute materials about the candidates. Al Forget spoke against a dual endorsement. Dual endorsements are typically made when the vote was close, but this was 50-33 in favor of Al Runte. Al Forget said that endorsing Greg Nickels would be working against our future.

**Motion failed** by show of hands.

### **Monorail Authority Position 8**

Beth Goldberg - nominated and seconded  
Cindi Laws - nominated and seconded.

Virginia Gunby spoke in favor of Beth Goldberg. Virginia is a former State Transportation commissioner. Beth had strong support in the primary. She is experienced and has a strong financial and budget background. Beth will sort out the details of managing the monorail.

Chad Lupkes spoke in favor of Cindi Laws. Chad said Beth will vote to shut down the monorail, and that Beth never attended a monorail meeting. Cindi will work to build the monorail.

Scott spoke in favor of Beth Goldberg and said she would deconstruct the project in a responsible manner.

Gerry Pollet spoke in favor of Cindi Laws. He said Beth Goldberg would dismantle the project. That would prevent her from working effectively with Monorail supporters. Gerry said Beth should be a critic from outside the Board.

First Vote: Goldberg 33, Cindi Laws 25, no endorsement 5.

Second Vote: 35 Goldberg, Laws 20 = **no endorsement**.

**Motion** for dual endorsement made and seconded. **Motion failed** by show of hands.

### **Monorail Authority Position 9**

Cleve Stockmeyer was nominated by Sarajane and seconded.

Sarajane spoke in favor of Cleve Stockmeyer. Cleve has been a PCO in the 46<sup>th</sup> District. He worked to put both Monorail proposals on the ballot, and is trying to find a sensible acceptable solution.

Cleve said his dream is to have Eastside and Westside transit lines that intersect, downtown. If we lose monorail now, we will lose the opportunity to finish the project. Sound Transit shortened their line to match that project to funding.

Vote Monorail, Position 9: **support** Stockmeyer - 19-5 (support, no endorsement)

### **School Board Dist 4.**

Michael DeBell was nominated and seconded

Michael agreed to pay his dues and spoke on his own behalf. He was endorsed by the 36 and 43<sup>rd</sup> Districts. He was a PTA president for 6 years. Academic achievement should be the primary mission of the schools.

Vote: **support** Michael De Bell 49-11.

### **School Board District 5**

Mary Bass was nominated by Justin Simmons.

Jane Fellner was nominated and seconded.

Justin spoke in favor of Mary Bass citing her experience and that she was a vote of conscience. She supported bus drivers and was a lone voice in several votes.

Michelle worked with Jane Fellner for about 7 years. Jane Fellner will help us get past "no." She has a vision of excellence and has a sense of compassion and commitment.

Another speaker in favor of Mary Bass is a retired school teacher, and has been to many schools in the district. The district is recovering and is working very hard. Mary Bass deserves credit for progress made by the schools.

Janet Miller spoke in favor of Jane Fellner. Jane Fellner understands families and their kids and will be a strong advocate. The Board is not functioning very effectively, and Jane Fellner would bring strong leadership.

First Vote: Mary Bass 29, Jane Fellner 24, no endorsement 3

Second Vote: Bass 23 Fellner 28

**Motion: Dual endorsement. Motion passed.**

### **Seattle School Board District 7**

Cheryl Chow was nominated and seconded

Linda Thompson-Black was nominated and seconded.

A speaker in favor of Cheryl Chow said Cheryl is a strong advocate for children and has experience in public service. We have hard choices, but Cheryl Chow will help get full funding for our schools.

Dan Becraft spoke in favor of Linda Thompson-Black. Dan is on the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, where he sees a lot of support for Linda Thomson-Black. In fact, Thompson-Black has a very broad range of support and endorsements from the community. As a parent Dan feels great she is involved in the schools.

Dean Fournier spoke in favor of Cheryl Chow. His daughter attended school where Cheryl Chow was principal and was pleased the experience. Cheryl Chow can shake up the School Board.

Julius Deveraux spoke in favor of Linda Thompson-Black. He said we need people working with black kids. Linda Thompson-Black said she will serve all the kids. Even though Cheryl Chow is also committed to the community, he asked for endorsement of Linda Thompson-Black

Vote on School Board, District 7: **support** Thompson Black 25, Cheryl Chow 8

### **King County Property Tax Levy**

Health and human services funding - half for veterans and half for services for all populations.

Al Forget spoke in favor of the levy. He is a veteran and was at the VA Hospital today and saw people in need, but others are in need, too. This levy helps everyone.

Gretchen spoke against, saying this is a bad way to fund services.

Sarajane Siegfriedt spoke in favor, saying we need stable funding for human services, but this is a compromise, covering everyone one way or another.

Ed Doyle spoke against, saying this is a bad way to finance services. We should reform the regressive tax structure.

First vote support 29; reject 10; no position 6

Second vote: support 25, reject 23 = **No position**

**Seattle Monorail - build monorail with a shortened route**

Cleve Stockmeyer spoke in favor of the measure. If Monorail is defeated, no rail service will be available in those neighborhoods. Monorail is cheaper per mile than other projects in the city.

Virginia Gunby spoke against, saying she's heard lies about the monorail. She spoke about funding problems.

Dick Lee spoke in support. He voted many times for Monorail. Special interests are trying to block the project. Monorail is the solution to our problem.

Jordan Bader spoke against the measure, referring to it as a blank check. A route down Second Avenue would be cheaper. Monorail has no arrangements with Metro about feeder buses.

Vote: **No position**

**Seattle Monorail Increase Board Membership**

Dan Becraft spoke in favor, saying accountability is important in this project, so electing board members is good.

Vote: **Support**

**Seattle Advisory Vote #1**

Passed by a show of hands

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM PM.

Submitted by Stan Sorscher

