

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats General Meeting minutes  
Olympic View Church, Seattle WA  
June 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

Bill Barbee led the pledge of allegiance.

Scott White asked for a moment of silence to recognize approximately 3500 US troops and countless civilians who have died in Iraq.

Scott welcomed PCO's , new members, and first time visitors. Scott took a straw poll on canceling the August General Meeting. A small preference was shown for canceling, with many members not voting either way.

**Motion** made and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion passed.**

Scott referred to blue sheets distributed in the room, with the rules for endorsements on one side and candidates on the other. The substance of the rules carries through from earlier years. Scott reviewed eligibility, voting processes, and dual endorsement provisions in the proposed rules. Scott drew attention to a typo - the printed rules leave off Harium Martin-Morris's name. He is eligible for endorsement, but his name was cut off by the printer.

Regarding candidates who have been in other parties, Scott explained that 3 years ago, rules were written to accept the candidates' statements as to their party affiliations for the prior year as covered by the proposed rules.

**Motion** by John Webber, seconded, to ratify the rules as proposed. Sally Soriano said she submitted her questionnaire to another district, with the understanding that it would go to King County.

**Motion passed** by show of credentials.

### **Endorsements.**

Several candidates have no opponents, or no opponents eligible for endorsement. Scott proposed to vote to endorse them as a slate. Scott went through the list, asking if any unopposed candidates should be flagged for individual discussion and vote.

Scott Noble  
Larry Gossett  
Larry Phillips  
Alec Fisker  
Peter Maier - flagged  
Harium Martin-Morris  
Tom Rasmussen  
Sally Clark  
Jean Godden

**Motion** by John Webber, seconded, to accept the slate, as vetted by the group.

**Motion passed** by voice vote.

Scott introduced several elected officials.

### Port of Seattle Position 2

**Motion** by Ken Jacobsen, seconded, to endorse Jack Block Jr.

**Motion** made and seconded to endorse Gael Tarleton.

For Jack Block Jr.: Ken Jacobsen asked for support for Jack Block Jr. Ken remembers Jack's father, and believes Jack has similar views. Ken says Jack is an environmentalist, cares for working people, and understands the issues.

For Gael Tarleton: Karen Morris worked with Gael at UW. Gael is qualified, and experienced in international issues. Karen says Gael is a "doer and gets things done." Gael is progressive and she has strong endorsements from individuals and organizations.

For Jack Block Jr.: Chad Lupkes says Jack has put his feet where our values are in his service on the Burien City Council. His leadership is the kind we need, and he has the support of neighbors and communities.

For Gael Tarleton: David Garcia spoke for Gael saying she worked hard for communities, and she can do the job in the right way.

First round:

Jack Block Jr 45,

Gael Tarleton 58,

no endorsement 1 (not two-thirds)

**Motion** by Pat Emerson, seconded, to go directly to a vote for dual endorsement. **Motion passed.**

Vote on the dual endorsement:

For 58,

against 30 - not two thirds, so no endorsement.

Given confusion about the process, the chair ruled we will vote the second round runoff between Gael Tarleton and Jack Block Jr.

Second round:

Jack Block Jr., 44

Gael Tarleton 59

**Motion** for dual endorsement; **Motion passed** by show of credentials.

Seattle School Board District 1.

**Motion** by Ken Jacobsen, seconded, to endorse Peter Maier.

Sylvia Haven asked about Sally Soriano's question about submitting her questionnaire to the 34<sup>th</sup> District. Scott ruled that we do not keep track of other Districts' questionnaires, and our rules require questionnaires be submitted to the 46<sup>th</sup> District.

For Peter Maier: Janet Miller asked the group to endorse Peter Maier. Janet's children are in Seattle Public Schools, and she is excited about having Peter on the School Board. Peter is a PCO and a strong supporter of schools and the issues in our platform. Peter was at the front and center on school levies and other school campaigns. The teachers union endorsed Peter.

For "No endorsement:" Justin Simmons spoke for "no endorsement." Justin says Sally is by far the better candidate, but she is not eligible because of a silly technicality. Justin doesn't want to send the wrong message to voters. Sally stood up to business and military recruiters. She worked for students of color. She is endorsed by the Washington State Labor Council and many other organizations.

For Peter Maier: Ken Jacobsen argued that we should not endorse anyone who supported the Green Party.

For "no endorsement:" Larry Smith knew Sally through many organizations and campaigns. Nobody has fought more ferociously for schools and teachers than Sally Soriano. Larry says the voters have come over to

her side, more than any other official.

First vote:

Peter Maier 63 (60.6%),

No endorsement 41

So we make no endorsement in this race. Betty Means says we have 106 voters registered for the meeting.

Gerry Pollet reminded the group that PCOs get literature only for candidates we endorse.

### School Board District 2

**Motion** by Karen Morris, seconded, for no endorsement

**Motion** by Janet Miller to endorse Sherry Carr

**Motion** made , seconded to endorse Lisa Stuebing

For no endorsement: Karen says the issues are very complex and we need more time to consider this. School Board races have become contentious and we need more unity.

For Sherry Carr: Janet Miller said that Karen's arguments can be used to support Sherry Carr. Sherry understands the budgets, buildings, the new superintendent and how everything fits together. Sherry won't micromanage, but will hold everyone accountable. Sherry has two kids in school. She is a consensus builder who can work cooperatively around the district.

For Lisa Stuebing: Angela Henry has known Lisa for several years. Lisa is pro-union and in that sense is a stronger candidate than her opponent. Lisa is passionate and a strong leader.

For "No endorsement:" Steve Zemke has known Darlene Flynn, who had not filed at our last meeting, so she is not eligible for endorsement. Steve wants no endorsement so we can consider Darlene's candidacy.

Sherry Carr spoke on her own behalf. She supports unions and opposes charter schools. It comes down to delivering results for kids. She worked on many campaigns. She reviewed some of her endorsements.

For Lisa Stuebing: Carol Simmons says she is convinced Lisa is the best candidate. Lisa has creative solutions for funding without closing schools. Lisa wants to reduce the dropout rate and make sure teachers are qualified and have resources they need. She has many endorsements and holds the values of 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

First round vote:

Sherry Carr 58 (55.8%);

Lisa Stuebing 25;

no endorsement 21

**Motion** to suspend the rules to allow discussion of the second round vote. **Motion failed** by show of credentials.

Second ballot:

Lisa Stuebing 35;

Sherry Carr 65 (65%)

**Motion** for dual endorsement. **Motion passed** by show of credentials.

### Seattle City Council, Position 3

**Motion** made and seconded to endorse Bruce Harrell

**Motion** made and seconded to endorse Venus Velazquez

For Bruce Harrell: Margie Barbee has been in the District over 20 years. Bruce spoke to the group several

times. Bruce is a life-long Democrat, valedictorian from Garfield High School. As an attorney he litigated Beck v. Boeing, achieving a nationwide settlement for thousands of female employees. He has many endorsements from officials and organizations. He is a strong manager and successful businessman. He will make decisions in the best interests of citizens of Seattle.

For Venus Velazquez: Lisa Macfarlane knows Venus from working on public campaigns. Lisa says Venus is effective in building community, rolling up her sleeves to pass the recent school levy. Venus is feisty and committed to action.

For Bruce Harrell: Larry Kenney says Bruce has a long track record as a labor attorney. Bruce's clients were 15,000 Boeing workers in one case. He represented UW workers in an overtime pay case.

For Venus Velazquez: David Garcia says Venus is committed and a problem solver. She got money for the community groups. She knows the city well and has a fresh look at the city.

First round vote:  
Bruce Harrell 40;  
Venus Velazquez 51;  
No endorsement 15

Second round vote  
Bruce Harrell 46;  
Venus Velazquez 55

**Motion** for dual endorsement. **Motion passed.**

Jean Godden and Tom Rasmussen were introduced. Jean thanked the group for her endorsement.

#### Seattle Council Position 7

**Motion** by Mark Saporito, seconded to endorse Tim Burgess  
**Motion** by Justin Simmons, seconded to endorse David Della

For Tim Burgess: Mark Saporito says Tim has a long record of public service. Mark said David Della promised to look at City Light, but refused to chair a committee to do that. Tim was appointed to committees because he is a strong independent voice. Mark said David was involved in the Parks committee, and a volunteer quit. Mark referred to Tim's endorsements.

For David Della: Justin is David Della's neighbor and friend. David has been active in City matters for a long time. Justin says David helped lower utility rates, and helped negotiate purchase of a Park and Ride lot. Justin says David works hard to make Seattle affordable. David is the most experienced, and most progressive of the candidates.

For Tim Burgess: Lisa Domke is a former national delegate and concerned citizen. Lisa says Tim is unpretentious and effective. She sees him as a bridge-builder. As a police officer, businessman and Christian he has worked for humanitarian issues and will be a strong progressive voice.

For David Della: David Garcia said David Della worked for strong libraries and goes to many meetings.

First round vote: David Della 41;  
Tim Burgess 50 (46.7);  
No endorsement 16

Second ballot:  
David Della 48;  
Tim Burgess 50 (51%)

**Motion** for dual endorsement. **Motion passed** 74 in favor 18 against - by count of credentials

Bill Barbee said we had an unwritten rule against negative campaigns that run down opposing candidates. We left negative campaigning to Republicans, and that's the way it should be.

Harium Martin-Morris was introduced.

Parks Levy:

Other ballot measures may be filed later. The Parks Levy is the only one on the ballot, so far.

Sandeep Kaushik explained the levy measures. Propositions 1 and 2 refer to the King County Parks system. The current levy is set to expire this year - it provides about 60% of the funding of maintenance and operation for the system. Proposition 1 renews that levy 5 cents for 6 years. Sandeep says it is critical to pass that levy.

Proposition 2 is an open space acquisition levy. It is also 5 cents for 6 years. One fifth of that goes to urban space acquisition. Another fifth goes to Woodland Park Zoo.

Proposition 1

No speakers volunteered to speak for or against these motions

Scott spoke in favor of both levies, and expressing pride in the King County Park system.

First round on Operating levy Proposition 1.

Support 81;

Oppose 1;

No endorsement 3

**Proposition 1 is endorsed.**

Proposition 2 - open space conservation (acquisition)

In support: Pat Sumption works on rural land issues. Land conservation is important, especially right near the river. We should buy available land for conservation.

No speakers opposed and no speakers for "no endorsement."

For: Jeanine Ferguson said the City works really hard to protect salmon streams. This levy would help.

First round:

In support 85 (96.6%);

Opposed 2;

No endorsement 1

**Proposition 2 is endorsed**

King County Prosecutor

**Motion** to suspend rules to allow candidates to speak. **Motion passed.**

Bill Sherman spoke about his priorities and experience. Justice should protect the most vulnerable. He works with victims and offenders in his work. We should also protect our environment. He served in the Clinton administration in the Department of Interior. Bill co-wrote a review of the Department that saved \$10 million per year. Bill is endorsed by other Democratic Districts.

Keith Scully said no Democrat has held this office since 1948. He worked as a prosecutor and worked for the United Nations as a war crimes prosecutor. He also has a strong record in environmental enforcement. He wants to expand the fraud unit, too. The United Nations taught him that we can do a lot more to protect

victims. Keith is a Democratic PCO, and has many endorsements.

Question 1: How do you rise above politics, while arguing that values form your priorities?

Keith Scully says values like fairness and honesty help you rise above politics. Prosecutors should not be party partisans. Core values stay the same for anyone who does the job well.

Bill Sherman chose his party based on his values, and he follows his heart. He has an obligation to our community. That should affect everything we do. Politics has no place in the office. Norm Maleng set a high standard in keeping politics out of the prosecutor's office, and he would maintain that standard.

Question 2: Priorities regarding civil versus criminal cases?

On the criminal side Bill Sherman sees domestic violence as a top priority. It affects families and children in a strong way. Crimes against the elderly are also a high priority. On the civil side we need strong family support systems.

Keith Scully says the Prosecutors Office has almost as many civil attorneys as criminal. We can have units that combine both sides of the workload. Environmental cases are mostly civil, for instance. Victim services can also work both sides of the office.

In closing, Keith spoke for fairness, experience, and honesty. Keith has worked inside and outside the office and has both perspectives.

In closing Bill Sherman sees himself as a frontline prosecutor. He leads by example. He wants to try at least one case a year to stay connected to the work. His experience is an advantage. He believes he can beat the Republican machine.

**Motion** made and seconded to endorse Bill Sherman

**Motion** by Chad Lupkes and seconded to endorse Keith Scully

For Bill Sherman: Lisa Macfarlane met with Bill in the last election season. Bill impressed Lisa in many ways. He is a bright and talented attorney and great activist with vision and passion. As a former public defender, she is honored to ask the group to support Bill Sherman.

For Keith Scully: Chad met Keith and is impressed with his outside legal experience with War Crimes in The Hague. The international courts focus more on victims' services and we should follow that example.

For Bill Sherman: Janet Miller said Bill can win in November. This will be a partisan race. In the Clinton campaign, Bill managed several hundred workers.

For Keith Scully: Brent McFarlane is impressed with Keith's priorities and how he combines the civil and criminal elements of the job. Keith is very sharp and very capable.

First vote:

Bill Sherman 61 (66.3%);

Keith Scully 31;

No endorsement 0

Second ballot:

Bill Sherman 60 (two thirds);

Keith Scully 30, so

**Bill Sherman is endorsed.**

Treasurers' Report: Donna Boysen is out of the country. Scott reviewed a proposal by Executive Board to adjust the budget to provide \$1600 for campaign contributions. We could adjust that later if we need to.

**Motion** to adopt the budget amendments. **Motion passed** by show of cards.

**Good of the order**

Barbara Whitt encouraged turnout for a movie event. She will drive her truck in the Gay Pride parade representing the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. Volunteers can ride with her.

Membership report: Betty Means reported 452 members compared to 350 at the last count.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher