

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats General Meeting  
Olympic View Elementary School  
September 20, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

Alec Fiskien led the pledge of allegiance.

Scott White proposed the agenda.

Chair's Report  
Good of the Order & Announcements (10 minutes max)  
Election of new PCOs  
Presentations  
Medic 1 levy  
    RTID Sound Transit  
School Board District 6  
General Election endorsements  
Campaign donations  
Reports  
Closing comments

**Agenda approved** by show of credentials

Scott led a moment of silence for Karen Marchioro and Bob Benton, then Scott spoke briefly about each of these Democratic activists.

Scott welcomed PCOs, new members, and those here for the first time. He also thanked Janet Miller and Bernadette Laqueur for running PCO training before the General Meeting.

### **Announcements and Good of the Order**

Scott announced that this would be his last meeting as Chair of the 46<sup>th</sup> District. He will run for office, so he is stepping down to avoid a conflict of interest. We will elect a new Chair at the October meeting.

Scott announced a "Breakfast with the Chair" this Saturday at 9 AM at Clare's Pantry. Maggie awards are coming up soon. Hillary Clinton will be the keynote speaker. Donations of \$100 (and up) will go to the state party.

Sarajane Siegfriedt asked for support for Washington Clean Campaigns. Bob Ferguson introduced a study bill in the King County Council.

Jacqueline Sorgen-Johnson, a PCO in Greenwood, announced a meeting on Saturday Sept 22 for clean air and stronger neighborhoods.

Nancy Malmgren, a PCO, announced information about an event for local creeks and the Clean Water Act. Several interesting speakers will be there.

Sylvia Haven is working on movie night. This Tuesday, Sicko will be shown at Olympic View Church. Questions collected at the movie can be discussed the following month.

Brent McFarlane announced an all-day rally at Peace Arch Park - information at [www.worldpeaceforum.ca](http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca).

Scott introduced Sally Soriano, Peter Steinbrueck, Alec Fiskien, Bruce Harrell, Gael Tarleton, Sherry Carr,

Peter Maier, Maria Ramirez, and Steve Sundquist.

### **Election of new PCOs**

Bernadette introduced five new PCO candidates.

Paul Nordby is active in his SEIU local. He strongly believes in the work of the 46<sup>th</sup> District.

Jane Kernig was a PCO several years ago and would like to become active again.

David Griffen was asked by Bernadette and couldn't say no. He wants to help bring about change.

Karen Peter is following a family tradition of being political activists.

Arlene **armermmm's?** father was born in Susan B. Anthony's house. Arlene wants to be active in politics.

**Motion** to approve the candidates. **Motion approved** by show of credentials.

### **Medic 1 Levy**

Theresa Percell, a Seattle employee will speak in favor of the levy. No opposition could be identified.

Theresa is not here, yet.

### **RTID - Sound Transit measure.**

Rob Johnson with Transportation Choices - for the levy

Transportation Choices is an environmental organization that works with transportation issues. This levy is an historic investment in transit. To reduce greenhouse gases we need to do everything we can for transit. This will help clean up Puget Sound. We can build 50 miles of light rail. It will transform the way we think about mobility. We are reinventing how we think about highways. Projects will emphasize safety and maintenance, HOV lanes, and regional transportation. The package is endorsed by many environmental organizations, State Democrats, labor unions, and all three County Democratic Groups.

Kevin Fullerton from Sierra Club - against the levy

The Sierra Club shares goals with proponents, but this package adds 452 miles of freeway lanes, and other road and bridge construction. The additional traffic will increase driving by about 40% and will increase greenhouse gas emissions. The levy is compromised by adding roads to get the language passed in the legislature. The light rail part is fine, but it was not necessary to add the roads funding. It will neglect other maintenance needs. If we reject this, we can write better legislation.

Rob Johnson - rebuttal.

Both sides agree on GHG reductions. However, politics is all about compromise. If this fails, the road part WILL pass in the next session, but light rail has its best shot in this ballot. Any new plan will be smaller and less useful.

Kevin Fullerton - rebuttal

Kevin is not sure light rail will be worse in a second attempt. We don't know what a new plan will look like. Let's try to get what we want.

### **Candidate Forum - School Board candidates**

#### Steve Sundquist

Steve lived in West Seattle for 17 years. He chairs 2 non-profit boards, and serves on two others. He established a program at Chief Sealth High School. He worked at Russell Investment Group. Steve sees a positive wind blowing in the school systems. He won the primary with a strong field, and he has many endorsements, which he reviewed. He has the record to bring more change and he asked for our endorsement.

#### Maria Ramirez

Maria is a PCO in the 34<sup>th</sup> District. She has a wide range of skills, knowledge and abilities. She has 25 years

of public service, and understands finance, public policy and education issues. She says we need a board that understands education policy. She can help close the achievement gap. She advocates for students in the schools. She wants to turn a good school system into a great one. She asked for our support.

Q&A

Parent and community involvement?

Maria Ramirez worked on partnerships for several years. A pilot is underway, and a Spanish-speaking organizer is bringing parents into the schools. Another pilot was very successful this summer. We lose a lot of children in middle school. We need to support them. One in five students is from another country.

When Steve Sundquist was young, his family was visited by a teacher. Teachers do outreach to families. We can do more of that, today. Schools must reach out to the community to break down barriers that keep parents from being more involved. Topics that interest adults, like child development, or math nights can bring in parents. We should experiment and see what works.

Attract students back from private schools?

Steve Sundquist thinks we need to increase confidence in Seattle Schools. A good School Board would help. We could return to local community schools, where each school is strong and attractive. Equity is a budget driven thing. Resources should flow to where it's needed most.

Maria Ramirez says inequities are driving students out. If we address the achievement gap, students will come back. Neighborhood schools will draw students back. The Board should support the programs students need.

Maria Steve

Democrat Y Y

Other party N N

Support appointed school board ? N

Six classes per day Y Y

Metro busses for middle+high schools Y Y

Charter Schools N N

Scott introduced Phyllis Kenney.

**General Election Endorsements.**

School Board District 1

Peter Maier is the only candidate eligible for endorsement. **Nomination** of Peter Maier for endorsement, seconded. A speaker volunteered for no endorsement.

Janet Miller asked for support for Peter Maier. The current Board is dysfunctional. With a new superintendent, this is a great time to put Peter on the Board. Peter works for all children. Peter is not super-outgoing, but he has strong roots in the community. He's a PTA dad. He walks our walk and talks our talk. He was endorsed by several District Democratic organizations.

Nancy Malmgren spoke for "no endorsement." Sally Soriano is a great candidate, but is not eligible. Several District Democratic organizations endorsed Sally, as well as many public figures and organizations. Sally works hard for individual kids and programs. She takes care of the lost generation in the school district. Nancy compared Sally Soriano to Eleanor Roosevelt.

Lisa McFarland spoke for Peter Maier. She was involved in 8 levy campaigns and many state-wide school issues. She has known Peter for over 10 years. Peter is a tireless activist working for students. We need to make a change on the school board, and Lisa urges support for Peter Maier.

Justin Simmons thanked us for voting the "right way" the last time - for "no endorsement." He also wants us

to vote for Sally in the election. We should not replace Sally on the Board. Endorsing Peter will send the wrong message to voters and the press.

Vote on endorsing Peter Maier or "no endorsement" Results: no endorsement 27; Peter 64 votes = 70%. So **Peter Maier is endorsed.**

#### School Board District 6

**Nomination** of Steve Sundquist for endorsement, made and seconded. **Nomination** for Maria Ramirez made and seconded. **Motion** for no endorsement, made and seconded.

Lisa McFarland cares a lot about these races. A big issue is how the School Board conducts its business. We desperately need management experience in managing the Board's work. Financial skills, system thinking and management skills are badly needed on the Board. Steve has a record of solving problems. Lisa urged the District strongly to endorse Steve Sundquist.

Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney said Maria would bring greater confidence to the school system. Maria has management and budget skills needed on the Board. Maria worked with contracts, human resources, and she understands public finance and public policy. Maria raised two children as a single mother. She stayed with the Public Schools through good times and bad. Every child should get a good education. Maria led four different PTAs and served on task forces to close the achievement gap. Phyllis urged our support for Maria.

Jan Ames urged us to vote for Steve Sundquist. Steve believes every child deserves a quality education and opportunity to succeed. He can bring the change that's needed now in the Seattle Schools. He wants to raise standards, close the achievement gap and make sure all schools are effective. He has children in the school system.

Carol Simmons is a retired educator. She is an avid Board watcher. Maria has almost 25 years experience in public administration. Maria served as site Council president and advocated for bilingual education and resources for students. Maria is familiar with the key issues. If elected she would be the first Latina on the Board. Carol urged us to support Maria Ramirez.

Vote on School board District 6.

First round results: No endorsement 3; Maria Ramirez 43; Steve Sundquist 44. (Two thirds majority needed.) We will drop "no endorsement" and take a second round vote.

Second round results:

Maria 46

Steve 35

No 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority

Motion for dual endorsement made and seconded. **Motion for dual endorsement passed** by show of credentials.

King County Initiative #25 - place the charter amendment on the ballot which would call for the director of elections to be an elected office

**Motion** to oppose the initiative made and seconded.

Community groups urge rejecting this initiative. [Didn't catch name] helped to write the Charter many years ago, which currently provides for an appointed elections chief. An elected officer would politicize the office. Experienced professionals should handle this job, and should be sheltered from fund-raising and running for office. In home rule counties, the League of Women Voters opposes having this be an elected office. This initiative would take us back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

Sarajane Siegfriedt is an elections inspector. She gets training that has been getting better and better, and it's

all about restoring trust. This initiative came from the Republicans.

Results on King County Initiative #25

Results no 85, yes 1. **Motion to oppose Initiative 25 passed.**

Medic 1 - replace expiring levy to continue services.

**Motion to suspend the rules** and vote by acclamation. Seconded. **Motion to suspend passed** by show of hands.

**Medic 1 ballot measure is endorsed** by a show of credentials.

RTID - Sound Transit

Motion to endorse, seconded.

Motion to oppose, seconded.

Nigel Herbig said this is a balanced plan with roads and transit. It has widespread support. Nigel talked about opponents who oppose mass transit. If this fails, the next version will be smaller and less comprehensive.

Darlene Ferguson was originally for it, but she was persuaded by the Sierra Club speaker earlier this evening. She is concerned by the money behind the ballot measure. Darlene is not convinced by those who say "last chance." We always have another chance. There will always be something else, which may even be better.

Chad Lupkes says freeway traffic is very congested. Road maintenance is a high priority. Infrastructure is a common good. Our elected officials worked hard for this, and it has bipartisan support -mostly Democrats, though.

Cheryl Clicker spoke against the measure, saying her friends oppose this because of the extraordinary financial burden it would bring. A lot of the money would go outside Seattle into rural King County.

Results on RTID - Sound Transit: Support 53; oppose 33 - 61.6% in favor. So **"No position"** on this ballot initiative. This will not be highlighted on the sample ballots. The 46<sup>th</sup> will not facilitate ballot literature.

**Initiative 960** - tax and fee rules on state government

**Motion** to suspend rules, made and seconded.

Javier Valdez spoke in favor of suspending the rules and proceed directly to a vote.

Sarajane wants to hear the discussion, so PCO's can explain this when canvassing.

**Motion to suspend the rules passed** by show of cards.

**Motion to oppose the initiative passed** by show of hands.

**Motion** by Sarajane that Janet accept campaign literature for and against the initiative.

Sarajane says people have strong feelings and we should educate voters in our precincts.

Janet is happy to have literature, but is worried about how we allocate our resources. This resource has value and letting anyone get their literature on her porch dilutes that value. Dual endorsement gives both sides access.

**Motion failed** by show of credentials.

**Referendum 67** - Insurance fair conduct bill.

Motion to approve made and seconded

Sarajane spoke in favor of the Referendum. The Legislative Action Committee supports this important consumer rights legislation. The insurance companies are lying in their literature.

Stewart Ferguson is also in favor of the Referendum. Stewart agrees with Sarajane, based on his experiences with insurance companies.

**Motion to suspend** the rules and vote by show of credentials made and seconded.

**Motion to suspend the rules passed** by show of credentials.

**Motion to approve Referendum 67 passed** by show of credentials.

**Resolution 8206 - constitutional amendment on budget stabilization**

Motion to approve made and seconded

Motion to reject made and seconded.

Motion for no endorsement made and seconded

Lisa McFarland said this is a high priority for the Governor and Democrats. This is the "rainy day" fund so we have money when times are bad. It took 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s vote in the legislature to get on the ballot.

Chad Lupkes supports savings accounts. Bob Hasagawa spoke against it at the King County Democrats meeting. Chad is not happy that the money will be spent only on education.

John Maloney says that as long as we are hesitant, maybe we should not take a firm position. He is not comfortable taking an informed position with the information he has.

John [older man in the back] is in favor of stabilization.

Pat Emerson thinks she needs more information. Constitutional amendments require more certainty.

Results on Resolution 8206:

First round

Approve 9?

Oppose 32?

No endorsement ??

Second round:

Approve 25

No pos 45 (64%),

**So we take no position**

**Resolution 8212 - Constitutional Amendment on inmate labor.**

Motion to approve, made

Motion to oppose made and seconded

Motion for no endorsement made

Steve Phun Hadley said the US has the largest prison population per capita of any industrialized country. The resolution would privatize prison labor to help fund the prison system. This puts African Americans in a modern form of slavery. It undercuts the regular labor market.

Stewart says Steve has it backwards, since this Resolution authorizes prison labor, and the claims about not competing with the non-convict labor market are not the big thing.

Sarajane says we need more information. This has not been reviewed by King County Democrats.

Results on Resolution 8212 support 4; oppose 12 , no endorsement 55 (77%)

**No endorsement on inmate labor**

Steve Zemke moved that the 46<sup>th</sup> District create a committee to review all ballot measures.

Motion to call the question. Motion to call the question passed.

Motion to table passed. **Steve's motion is tabled.**

**Resolution 4202 - constitutional amendment for simple school levies**

This resolution is already in our platform.

**Motion to suspend rules** and vote by show of credentials. **Motion to suspend the rules passed.**

**Motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously.**

**Resolution 4215 - constitutional amendment on investment of education permanent funds.**

**Motion** to suspend rules and vote by show of hands seconded. **Motion to suspend passed.**

Motion to oppose made and seconded

Motion to reject made and seconded

Motion for no endorsement

Sarajane said we already have a committee to review ballot issues, and Sarajane chairs it. Our current investment options are very limited and the returns are very poor. This resolution would allow conservative options that greatly increase the investment income.

Stewart Ferguson doesn't want stock brokers touching our money. Real estate mortgage bundles threaten the world economy. Markets are too volatile.

Darlene says taking no position means we don't know. We should talk about this more. We can get more ideas.

First round:

Reject had the lowest vote,

Second round

Approve: 42

No endorsement: 23

Less than 2/3, so no endorsement

**Donations**

The Executive Board made recommendation for contributions to different ballot races. The recommendations were distributed to the group. Scott talked about the criteria used by the Board.

**Motion** to accept the endorsement made and seconded. **Motion to amend** - add \$100 and give it to Gael Tarleton. **Motion to amend passed** by show of cards.

**Motion to allocate** as amended **passed** by show of cards.

Treasurers Report. Donna Boysen made a brief Treasurer's Report.

Alec Fiskien thanked the group for our contribution.

"Pass the hat" raised \$224.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

