

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats General meeting  
February 21, 2008  
Olympic View Elementary School

Javier Valdez called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM

Shanna Sawatzki led the pledge of allegiance.

### **Introductions**

Javier welcomed everyone. He reported we had over 16,000 people at the caucuses. We elected 1,211 delegates - 859 for Barack Obama, 337 for Hillary Clinton, 13 were uncommitted, one John Edwards, and one Dennis Kucinich delegate.

The 46<sup>th</sup> District caucus will be Saturday April 5 at Ingraham high School - 60 delegates will be chosen there. We can expect about 40 for Obama and 20 Clinton. Javier thanked Janet Miller and Bernadette Laqueur for training and organizing everyone and preparing the materials for the caucuses. Many of the Obama campaign volunteers also helped out at the sites when needed.

Javier thanked PCOs and first-time members and encouraged them to stay involved.

### **Guest speakers**

City Councilmember Tim Burgess thanked the District for supporting him. Tim chairs the Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee. He is vice chair of the Planning Land Use and Neighborhoods committee. He has found good chemistry, so far among the Council and staff. A Mayor's panel recommended many items for police accountability and transparency, which Tim would like to implement.

Q: Problems with police behavior?

A: The Mayor's panel looked at this. The panel composition included a wide range of stakeholders who can come out with 29 unanimous recommendations. Tim will work with the police union to get these recommendations accepted. Only a tiny number of police officers have multiple incidents.

Q: Viaduct?

A: Interim work has started in the Battery Street Tunnel, such as upgrades with lighting, air conditioning, fire suppression (things burning in the tunnel, not gun-fire), and some additional work at the south end. These should not interfere with the final decision. Tim favors the surface street option, including the entire downtown traffic grid. Some alternative options may prove to be attractive. Let's wait for the state study to come out.

Q: Variances to allow 2 or 3 houses on a single lot?

A: Tim says land use is the second-most common subject for emails from residents. Some lots are already zoned multi-family, so that accounts for some of the density increases. The Council is reviewing multi-family zoning. Tim encourages residents to work through their community councils, too.

Q: Viaduct ulterior motives, such as developing high-rise buildings east of the current viaduct. What about a restriction on height of new construction if the viaduct is removed?

A: Tim expects a significant amount of open space when the area is developed.

Q: What is the education component of committee work?

A: Tim expects new leadership and progress from new school board and new superintendent. The City pays for some support resources. The City wants to be more engaged in this area. One item is for the City to improve parks near school grounds to bring more parents and children to the schools.

Judge Kim Prochnau spoke next. She encouraged people to come in for jury duty. She talked about conversations she has with jurors. Judge Prochnau was a legal aid attorney, and substitute judge. Governor Gregoire appointed her to the bench, full time.

Susan Amini is a candidate for King County Superior Court. The incumbent judge is retiring. Susan has been an attorney and advocate in the area. Her parents are Persian and Turkish. She moved to the area in 1989, taught at Highline Community College, and was a substitute judge in King County courts. She talked about fairness, accessibility, and impartiality as important values for the courts.

### **New PCOs**

Bernadette thanked everyone for making the caucuses work out well. She introduced new PCOs asking to be seated:

Brenda Etter In 2377, went to her first caucus Feb 9. She was a PCO for a long time.

Bill Yates, in 226,7 was active in politics, but this is an exciting year.

Maggie Weissman, in 1960, grew up in Montana. She was in the Peace Corps

Shana Sawatzki in precinct 2229 was active in the 36<sup>th</sup> District.

Mariah Voutilainen, in 2341, has two small children. She needs to be part of the political process.

Nancy Plunkett, in 2355, is a lifelong Democrat. She worked in voting rights and social justice.

Kathleen Porch, in 2353, was previously active in the 36<sup>th</sup>. She moved here from Ballard and is interested in social services.

Patricia Solberg, in 2360, moved here from another part of the City. Was active many years ago.

Bill Kaghan (not present)

**Motion** to approve those PCOs who are present. **Motion passed** unanimously.

### **Platform**

Dean Fournier thanked Sarajane Siegfriedt, Sylvia Haven, Janet Parr, Larry Smith, Stewart Ferguson, and John Webber, who are on the Platform Committee.

The Platform should represent values and strongly held beliefs. Resolutions should be more timely, and issue-specific. Dean distributed a draft platform. The draft was in all the precinct packets, and is posted on the web site.

462 Resolutions were submitted, many of which overlapped with existing platform items. 112 Resolutions applied to government reform. The committee will boil these down for the District caucus.

Dean distributed 4 resolutions for discussion, although the District caucus delegate will vote on resolutions when they meet on April 5.

### Questions on the platform:

Nancy Malgrem wants the platform to mention activists in the values section. In the

environment and energy section, she wants clear references to activists and actions by individuals.

#### Resolutions:

##### Apportionment of Superdelegates.

Karen Deeter opposes the resolution, because it binds Superdelegates even though the situation can change in the months between the primaries and the conventions. The Superdelegates are meant to be a stabilizing factor.

Brian King feels the Superdelegates wouldn't really have a role as this resolution is worded, so why not get rid of them?

Sylvia Haven proposed that in 2012, we should not have Superdelegates. Their role is basically top-down, and we should have more grass roots activism.

David McDonald is a Superdelegate, and lives in the 46<sup>th</sup> District. He has been on the DNC since 1992. In past years, he ran for delegate from his precinct. In 1980, Carter was the incumbent, challenged by Teddy Kennedy. A floor fight at that national convention centered on whether delegates should be bound to vote a certain way. In response to that situation, Superdelegates were introduced. Dave sits on the DNC rules committee, which writes the rules on Superdelegates.

David Garcia voted when Truman was running. He wants regular voters to have influence.

##### Michigan and Florida delegations.

The resolution asks for a "do-over" so delegates can be seated, or for seating the delegations with restricted voting powers.

John Webber believes the election cycle is too long. The national party enforces rules on how many states can hold primaries early in the calendar. Michigan and Florida defied those rules. A credentials fight will be ugly. John tried to write a compromise that serves everyone's interests.

Barbara Whitt attended a meeting with Howard Dean, yesterday. Howard Dean said rules are rules. After the nominee is chosen, the Michigan and Florida delegations can be seated at the direction of the nominee. Dave McDonald spoke about this process, and noted that he wrote the motion that unseated the Michigan delegation.

Karen Deeter is in favor of the resolution, because all voters should be included, and everyone should work hard to elect the nominee.

Two similar resolutions:

Elect delegates by primary election only.

Chose delegates partly by caucus and partly by primary election.

Laney Gragent??? enjoyed the caucus so much and had such a great time that she has become active in the party. A primary does not generate the same kind of feeling.

Carol Monahan had a great time at the caucus, but many people in her precinct could not participate. They just wanted to vote.

Pat Emerson voted for Harry Truman, too. She supports these resolutions. The open

primary was bad and the courts eliminated it. She would like to see one primary date for all the states. Evening caucuses didn't work, Saturday, and Sunday have problems.

Brian King had 120 people in his precinct. They met, talked to each other and made a decision. He thinks that follows through to the election. His list of attendees can be used for turnout at the election. 16,000 people showed up because the event was a valuable experience. We need their energy and activists in the fall.

**Jeanette [ ]** is a new member, who went to the caucus for the first time, and made a special effort to arrange her schedule to get there. The caucuses were not well publicized, and a lot of her friends were not familiar with the system. We need to give more people the opportunity to vote. She wants her vote to stick after the delegates are chosen.

Sarajane Siegfriedt supports the caucus as a party-building opportunity. Identifying voters and activists is a huge deal for the party. We get 100 people at the General Meeting, but 16,000 at the caucus. Assembling as Democrats is a big advantage.

Another member said she puts the right to vote above the right to assemble.

Gaurab is an Obama supporter. Turnout has been good across the nation. He is not that excited about party-building, and prefers the individual right to vote.

Chad Lupkes said the Democratic Party is not part of the government. The party chose the caucus system, and wants to be able to find and mobilize Democrats. Chad would like to see easier rules for surrogate ballots.

**Marty Byers** was a PCO in the '70s. Many of her members were upset because the meetings were chaotic and the opportunity to speak was limited by the PCO. Marty thinks the Republicans have a better system. Also, she objects to Chad's priorities, and thinks the Party should not put itself above the voters.

## **Reports**

Treasurer's Report - Donna Boysen is out of town. Javier reported that we raised over \$21,000 in the caucuses, but several thousand dollars in expenses will be paid out of that.

Membership - Betty Means compared membership now to 2004; 385 dues paying members in 2004 and 454 in 2008.

State Committee - John and Janet are not present, but Javier reported that the open DNC position was filled.

King County - Sarajane reported on lobbying day. Scott White helped arrange meetings with officials. Public campaign financing passed out of the House and Senate. Chad said the City is thinking about how to implement public financing. Peter Goldmark is running for Lands Commissioner - a statewide position. Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor, Auditor and other statewide seats will be on the ballot. We want to take all those seats. Peter Goldmark will speak to the 46<sup>th</sup> District next month.

## **Announcements**

Pat Emerson sits on the Board of Equalization and hears tax appeals. Tax assessment

forms are coming out. She put out materials in the back of the room to explain the appeals process. King County has 700,000 taxable parcels.

Jayron Finan reviewed upcoming meetings, and she is looking for volunteers.

Sarajane said the Death with Dignity referendum is gathering signatures.

David McDonald reminded everyone that February 9<sup>th</sup> was the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Gladys Lybarger, a longtime Democratic activist. **Motion:** best wishes on Gladys' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Chad pointed out a box of LWV pamphlets and encouraged people to take some.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher