

46th Democrats General meeting
March 20, 2008
Olympic View Elementary School

Javier Valdez called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Peter Goldmark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Report

Javier reminded everyone that the Legislative District caucus will be on April 5 at Ingraham High School. We will select 60 delegates who can go on to the State Convention.

Chad Lupkes created listservs for the delegates. Electronic versions of the Demogram will go out through the listservs, as well.

Javier asked David McDonald to talk about the Supreme Court decision on future state primaries. In David's reading of the decision, the Court believes it might be possible to construct a favorable primary format. David foresees additional legal actions, once a primary format is chosen.

Regarding Michigan's primary, David thinks a re-run could be conducted there, using existing state rules for a "fire-house" primary. Typically a fire-house primary is paid for by the party. Florida is a tougher case. David favors following the rules and not making exceptions.

Javier mentioned a tentative schedule for state nominations.

Candidates

Gerry Pollet is a candidate for the 46th District house seat vacated by Jim McIntire. Gerry has been Program Chair and Secretary for the District. He is an activist in Hanford, advocating for cleanup of the Columbia River and other nuclear facilities. Gerry helped pass legislation to protect consumers; he worked for the Growth Management Act; he promoted affordable phone service; and wrote legislation for cleaning up leakage from gas stations. Gerry spoke about No Child Left Behind and making a difference in public education. Gerry says he has the leadership and experience to fight global warming and to bring better education policies to our communities. Gerry helped with successful progressive campaigns all over the state; he testified in Congress, and has been recognized by national publications.

The State legislature missed opportunities to help make public records more accessible and to improve governance of the Port. Gerry would like to work with our state delegation to improve our communities. Gerry and Janet have welcomed volunteers and activists into their house for training and the party's local events.

Javier welcomed first-time participants.

PCO's

Bernadette Laqueur introduced Bill Kaghan (Precinct 1969). Bill got motivated and interested by this campaign. Howard Fitzpatrick (Precinct 2095) is an architect. He lived in Burlington Vermont. He worked with affordable housing. Both Bill and Howard were approved as PCOs by voice vote.

Bernadette announced she has PCO packets to hand out. She asked for 50-60 volunteers to help with the caucus on Saturday April 5.

Budget

Javier referred to handouts with the proposed budget. Donna Boysen has a family commitment tonight and could not attend the meeting. Javier went through the current financial situation. The proposed 2008 budget is scaled from the 2004 budget, which is the corresponding year in the voting cycle.

Javier said the Executive Board recommended adoption of the budget. He highlighted particular items on the expense and income sides of the budget.

Q: What about League of Women Voters?

A: They publish a guide of elected officials that's very useful. We donate to them as a token of appreciation.

Motion to approve the budget was made and seconded. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

Mike [??] is a PCO. He met Peter Goldmark in 1961. Their families were good friends. Mike introduced Peter Goldmark, who is running for Lands Commissioner.

Peter Goldmark

Peter comes from Okanogan. The Commissioner of Public Lands manages and directs the Department of Natural Resources. Peter has a strong connection to the land. He has a PhD in biology. He has a strong record in public service. State Trust lands support schools and education. He was named Conservation Farmer of the Year. He raises wheat and cattle. Peter spoke about logging practices, preserving public lands, and managing forests in a sustainable way. The State can promote renewable fuels, solar and wind power. Peter is growing canola on his farm.

The cleanup of Puget Sound will be directed by a new State agency. State aquatic lands must be managed ecologically and in coordination with the cleanup of Puget Sound.

Q: Gold mining in northeast Washington? And wastes in Hood Canal?

A: Gold mining issues has been a public issue for 10-15 years. Ore waste needs to be treated in an ecologically responsible way. Local and Federal agencies are responsible for permitting, with little influence by DNR. The issue is leaching and chemical wastes.

A: Hood Canal waste is killing the aquatic life. DNR needs to be a full partner in coming up with a plan to renew the ecosystem.

Q: Maury Island Initiative - ground water issue?

A: Ken Jacobsen helped pass this legislation through the Senate. It died in the house. The issue is, who owns the mineral rights on 80 acres on the Island. We need to answer that question.

Q: Wildlife Department has allowed inhumane hunting practices, especially with wild predatory animals. An initiative on this question was broadly supported.

A: This is a Fish and Wildlife issue. Peter believes we should follow the will of the voters.

Q: Other states have been aggressive in bringing natural resources damages claims. Will we do more of that?

A: Not sure about these legal actions. We should protect our natural resources.

Legislative Report

Ken Jacobsen pointed to the \$800 million surplus. Our tax system is regressive. We have serious transportation needs, but not much money in the budget to deal with it. We should promote telecommuting. Ken said all three of our legislators voted for the Laurel Terrace buyout. Ken thinks it's great to let Childrens' Hospital buy out the condo owners at prices well above market prices. Ken talked about airline passengers' bill of rights.

Phyllis Kenney invited everyone to Olympia in the next session. This session had too many bills, and it was hard to get to important issues. Phyllis is happy we got more money for teachers, although she preferred to get even more. That will be a priority next time. Phyllis talked about a bill that passed that would help homeowners with sub-prime mortgages. This financial problem will hurt Washington State. Phyllis wants to provide funding to help fight gang-related violence. We passed a study bill for climate change solutions. We want to put some money into the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. Unfair tax structure is hurting middle class residents in the State.

Jim McIntire thanked Ken and Phyllis for being terrific legislators, who were great to work with. Jim has campaigned at five LD meetings this week. Jim concentrates on financial issues. A bill passed improving benefits for domestic partners. We have started making taxes more progressive. Rural areas are hurt by property taxes in ways that are worse than in urban counties. Jim worked on ways to level fluctuations of tax evaluations in rural areas. Washington expects slower economic growth, while the rest of the country is likely to experience a recession. Jim can deal with these challenges in his next job as State Treasurer. Tolls can help build bridges, roads, and mass transit. We should have a bill for early tolling in the next session.

Q: In San Francisco, HOV's don't pay tolls. Buses don't pay tolls, right?

A: The idea is to move more people without more cars. In San Francisco, tolls help pay for ferries.

Q: Banking crisis, plus budget crisis. We could have inflation, and erosion of savings. Would you endorse Federal intervention to protect homeowners from foreclosure, and issue public credit to support public works?

A: Jim said he would not endorse Lyndon Larouche's policies. Jim chairs the economic forecast council. We are experiencing a serious banking situation.

Q: What about the local option for public financing of elections?

A: A bill passed the legislature that allows local governments to set up public financing. If approved locally, candidates could volunteer to use it.

Q: Why bail out bankers but not homeowners? Can we do something at the state level?

A: Phyllis said we are trying to protect consumers. Lenders must give full disclosure.

Q: Tolls are less progressive than an income tax. Where will low-income drivers go when we have tolls?

A: The idea is to create a system with choices that reduce traffic, but move more

people. We need to have alternatives in place.

Q: Funding for Fircrest Center in Shoreline?

A: No. Not exactly. Maybe a study group.

Membership Report:

Betty Means is pleased that our membership is 655 and has increased steadily, compared to the corresponding point in the last voting cycle. The 4600 club has 53 members. The Friends of the 46th is at 55 donors.

King County Report

Sarajane Siegfriedt is working on the platform committee, digesting the resolutions for the King County meeting on April 13. Sarajane talked about lobbying for Maury Island. The Legislative Action Committee worked on Clean Elections, Healthy Kids, and other top priorities.

Chad Lupkes reminded everyone about open seats and candidates locally that will build interest for the elections. The draft platform is on the 46th District web site.

Resolutions

This motion ran in the March Demogram:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Michigan and Florida Democratic Parties be urged to promptly "do over" their allocation, selecting new delegates as required, such as by a caucus process generally conforming to DNC rules, getting financial assistance from the DNC as appropriate, so that their delegations may be seated with unrestricted voting powers. ~~and~~

~~**Be it further resolved that**, in absence of such a "do over," the Rules and Credentials committees, acting without Michigan and Florida, shall seat those two states' delegations without power to vote on the Presidential nomination, [or matters likely to affect such nomination] and~~

~~**Be it further resolved that**, while dealing with seating and voting powers matters, all delegates and party officials shall act with impartiality, placing fairness and adherence to rules above presidential preference.~~

Dean proposed to add "or matters likely to affect such nomination" at the end of the second paragraph. **Motion** to amend the resolution as Dean suggested. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

Motion to amend the resolution to eliminate "getting financial assistance from the DNC as appropriate. Seconded.

Statement in favor: Why is it our obligation to spend money in states that broke the rules?

Statement opposed: we should work to include these states to get their support.

Statement against: we can't afford to offend potential voters. We shouldn't tie the hands of our delegates.

Motion to amend failed.

Motion to amend by striking the last two paragraphs of the resolution.

Statement in favor: the first paragraph calls for a do-over. That's all we need to say. Any

more and we're asking for trouble. In Florida Republican legislators ran that legislation through.

Statement against: Choices have consequences. Washington State waited, and other states waited. Michigan and Florida jumped the gun. They should live with their choices. Statement for: if the delegates are there, they should be seated. **Motion to amend passed** by count of hands.

Motion to table (not debatable). **Motion to table** failed by show of hands.

Resolution, as amended passed by show of hands.

Gerry Pollet passed out a resolution, titled Resolution objecting to the State Party rules. The resolution concluded with:

THEREFORE, the 46th District Democrats call on the State Party to withdraw the proposal to require us to hold a nominating convention; and resolve that if any nominating convention is held, that the 46th District Democrats will use the April 5th Legislative District Convention or an alternative date which will include **any registered voters willing to declare themselves Democrats utilizing the same pledge as the one they signed to participate in the precinct caucus**. Further, be it resolved that the District will continue to make its own endorsement for 2008 races under our existing bylaws.

We recommend to all districts in the state to follow the same process that we use.

[Note: text in purple conforms to final version of the resolution.]

Javier ruled that he will allow a vote to suspend the rules requiring resolutions to be printed in the Demogram, so we can consider Gerry's resolution.

Gerry explained that the State Party Executive Committee held a conference call to consider requiring LDs to hold separate nominating conventions, before May 23 to nominate legislative candidates. This would be before the filing period closes in late June. Javier explained that candidates may get on the ballot anyway, claiming to be Democrats. Gerry pointed out that Party resources would only be available to the official nominee. The State primary would go forward in any event.

The State Party will meet in a special meeting to change the rules.

Motion to suspend the rules passed by show of hands.

Gerry modified his resolution, as introduced to allow "an alternate date, which includes delegates, alternates and members" who were elected at the precinct caucuses.

Friendly amendment to add "for the state legislature" in the third whereas paragraph. Accepted by Gerry.

Motion to amend by adding "We recommend to all districts in the state to follow the same process that we use."

Statement for: it is a poor process to let the state board choose our candidates. Statement against: the state doesn't need to listen to us or any other districts.

Motion to recommend to other districts passed by show of hands.

Motion to amend by striking "district members, delegates and alternates" and replace with "any registered voter who willing to sign the same pledge as the one they signed to participate in the precinct caucus."

Motion to amend passed.

Statement in favor of the main resolution: Letting 150 people nominate candidates will make the party look bad and will alienate a lot of voters.

Statement against: Delegates and others at the meeting will not have time to learn anything about the candidates. The nomination should be later, to let people become informed.

Statement in favor: resolution seems to be basically calling for a caucus, which we've already used.

Statement opposed: The April 5 caucus is already jammed with work to do. This resolution would not allow enough time for a candidates' forum.

Motion to accept the resolution as amended passed by a show of hands.

Javier suspects that the top 2 primary will go forward, and we'll just get pounded by the public.

Good of the order

We are now in a global depression. Nice song.

Adjourned at 10:01 PM
Minutes by Stan Sorscher