

**46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
General Meeting Minutes  
August 21, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Javier Valdez at 7:32 p.m.

Noah Burgher led the pledge of allegiance. Javier greeted newcomers.

Treasurer's report from Donna Boysen: current bank balance \$16,453. Donna said based on the year-end projected balance, we can well afford the amount proposed for campaigns, at least the first half. We will revisit the second half in September.

Someone moved to donate \$ 6,500:

\$1,500 to Senate Democratic Campaign Committee

\$1,500 to House Democratic Campaign Committee

\$1,000 to Jason Osgood for Secretary of State, as a member of the 46<sup>th</sup> LD

\$500 to Peter Goldmark for Commissioner of Lands

\$500 to John Ladenburg for Attorney General

\$500 to Jim McIntire for State Treasurer

\$500 to Scott White

\$500 to Gerry Pollet

Bev Marcus spoke against donating funds to races that include only Democrats, and moved to change the donations to the 46<sup>th</sup> LD candidates to \$100. The amendment was approved.

John Webber moved to donate the additional \$400 for a total of \$900 to Peter Goldmark and an additional \$400 to Jason Osgood for a total of \$1,400. Amendment approved.

The donations were approved as amended:

\$1,500 to Senate Democratic Campaign Committee

\$1,500 to House Democratic Campaign Committee

\$1,400 to Jason Osgood for Secretary of State, as a member of the 46<sup>th</sup> LD

\$900 to John Ladenburg for Attorney General

\$500 to Jim McIntire for State Treasurer

\$500 to Scott White

\$500 to Gerry Pollet

Scott White appeared briefly but left to celebrate his wedding anniversary. Gerry Pollet spoke about his campaign. He is disappointed at the 24% [so far] turnout. We have to greatly improve our turnout to support Obama and Chris Gregoire in November. We have 50,000 to 60,000 voters to turn out, in addition to voter registration.

Chelsea Walser, Field Director from the Democratic Coordinated Campaign spoke about the effort that is needed for November. She thanked Sen. Ken Jacobsen for collecting endorsements for Obama in the legislature before the caucuses. She thanked us for being

a committed group of activists. There's a rumor that Washington is not competitive for the Obama campaign. Chelsea said that is not correct; it is a battleground state with 15 field offices, 40 staff members throughout the state. The Governor's race makes it a battleground state. Republicans are excited about Rossi and McCain appeals to Washington's independent spirit. We are one of the few LDs that has one fulltime staff member devoted to the 46<sup>th</sup> (Noah Bergher). There are over 13,000 eligible, unregistered voters in the 46<sup>th</sup>. There is an enormous untapped pool of Democrats. We are 3<sup>rd</sup> in priority of GOTV, after the 43<sup>rd</sup> and the 36<sup>th</sup>. We have a large number of "bad voters" who are irregular voters. We will be calling them. We need help throughout the fall.

Bernadette Laqueur distributed the plan for everyone to volunteer for shifts for September through November and asked everyone to volunteer for registration, literature distribution and GOTV.

Membership Chair Betty Means: in 2004, our historic high-water mark, we had 821 members. In August, 2008, we have 809 members—very near our all-time high mark. We have 66 Friends of the 46<sup>th</sup> (\$46) and 65 households at the \$100 (4600 Club) level.

Endorsements:

Brian King moved that we suspend our endorsement rules to give candidates and ballot issue representatives 2 minutes to speak, regardless of not being members. This was approved 53 to 13.

It was moved and approved that the candidates' speeches count as the first speaker in favor.

**King County Superior Court, Position 1:**

Tim Bradshaw vs. Sue Parisien (out of town)

Tim Bradshaw was president of Young Democrats in college. In 20 years of practicing law, he has advocated for victims of child abuse and worked on cold cases using DNA to exonerate prisoners. He has the highest ratings from all six bar associations. He was endorsed by the Central Committees of both parties. Tim was endorsed with 68%.

**King County Superior Court, Position 22:**

Julia Garrett vs. Holly Hill

Julia Garrett has served over 1,000 days as a judge pro tem and has been appointed as an official of the court.

Holly Hill also served as judge pro tem, represented women and minorities in discrimination as a federal discrimination attorney.

17 to 52 (70.2%) for Holly Hill

**Ballot initiatives for November:**

**Initiative 985 (Tim Eyman's)**

Would take money from sales and use taxes, 1% for art and certain other funds and use them to open HOV lanes, synchronize lights and to build more roads (exclusively).

71 of 74 opposed (96%)

**Initiative 1000 (Death with Dignity)**

Allows terminally ill competent adults to obtain lethal prescriptions.

Sarajane Siegfriedt spoke in favor. She collected signatures, and also worked on the 1991 campaign. Oregon has passed this exact measure, and it is working well. The Catholic Church is funding the opposition. The idea is competent people within 6 months who have requested doctor's help to end their suffering to allow them to get the help. This is done when people need it and ask for it. We should not have doctors doing this under the counter. We need to provide a legal means to end suffering.

Steve Hadley spoke in opposition. Human life is precious, and we need to think seriously about a measure like this. Suicide should not be a legal option for families in order to save money.

Stuart Ferguson spoke in favor. It's an issue between a doctor and their patient. People should have the freedom to make their own choice.

Nancy Wright spoke for No Position. People should make this decision in private, without the district encouraging them one way or the other.

51 of 72 in favor (70.8%) in favor of I-1000.

**Initiative 1029**

Concerns long-term care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities—would require workers to be trained and certified as home care aides.

A representative from the campaign who is a homecare worker spoke in favor of continuing education and better standards, supported by the SEIU.

Of 70 ballots 52 in favor (74.3%)

**Sound Transit Initiative (Prop. 1)**

Andrew G. of the 46<sup>th</sup> is the campaign manager. Last year's proposal was too large and included too many roads. This one is transit-only, adds light rail to Northgate and Lynnwood, to Bellevue and Redmond, and provides immediate relief from traffic congestion. We expect better turnout than last year. See [www.masstransitnow.org](http://www.masstransitnow.org)

Stuart objected to doing these things that bypass the legislature. (A: this is a regional issue.)

Peter Steinbrueck spoke in favor. We are the only city on the West Coast that does not have an effective mass transit system. We are 20 years behind. We need an integrated, multi-modal transit system. Our current system is not affordable or sustainable.

Bill Block spoke against. He has never seen a Sound Transit project that didn't cost three times as much as planned. A ride from Tacoma costs \$8, but it costs \$630 per ride to deliver.

Of 70 votes, 55 for , 6 against, 9 no position, 78% in favor

**King County Charter Amendments:**

Initiative 25 making the position of county director of elections a nonpartisan elected office.

Julie Anne Kempf spoke in favor, because of the need for a separate voice in Olympia. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> most complex jurisdiction in the country.

Virginia Gunby: We need to protect the independent voice. What if we had a Republican elections director? This is a move to get a Republican elected, under the guise of being nonpartisan.

We were warned to beware of wolves in sheep's (nonpartisan) clothing.  
63 votes, 10 in favor, 53 opposed (83.9% opposed)

**Initiative 26 making the King County executive, King County assessor and the King County council nonpartisan.**

Janine Ferguson said we should oppose changes because they're obviously not necessary, because we're all alive, so why change it?

John Webber urged rejection because partisan labels are truth in advertising.

There was a motion to suspend the rules to allow hand votes on the King County Charter housekeeping amendments (passed by 2/3):

- **Anti-discrimination Charter Amendment:** Virginia Gunby spoke in favor of all. Carin Willett spoke for take no position because it's a religious issue and Democrats shouldn't have a position on it.  
Passed by over 2/3.
- **Budget Timeline Charter Amendment**  
Passed by over 2/3 (43 to 5)
- **Citizen Initiative Charter Amendment**  
Virginia Gunby explained the legal history that uses city charter law as precedent. Amending the charter should have more than 5% signatures, so 20% is recommended, though this was the subject of much debate. Steve Zemke opposed this. The two-step process gives us a chance to evaluate it in more depth, and be less likely to be taken by surprise. The statewide amount is 8% and 20% is rather onerous, less populist. Jason: Foundation (charter) documents are meant to be hard to amend.  
Of 51 votes, 34 supported, exactly 66%
- **Qualifications for Elected Officials Charter Amendment**

Virginia Gunby spoke in favor of having professional requirements for certain positions. Julie Anne Kempf spoke against, since much arbitrariness can occur. Of 52 votes, 19 supported and 29 rejected (59.8%), 4 take no position  
Take no position is eliminated; re-vote 22 to support and 29 to reject:  
Take no position

- **Regional Committees Charter Amendment**

Virginia Gunby said the Council requested this as a streamlining measure and to improve intergovernmental cooperation. Opposed by Peter Steinbrueck: these committees cannot be delegated. Only councilmembers can vote, and only they can adequately represent the council, not an appointee.  
10 supported, 38 rejected: 2/3 to reject

- **Establishing Forecast Council/Economic Analysis Office Charter Amendment**

Julie Anne Kempf explained that this provides an independent office to get an independent analysis. Basil Anex spoke for take no position.  
The majority voted to take no position. 13 to support; 7 to reject; 29 to take no position. 59%  
Required a second vote, eliminating reject: 14 to support, 35 to take no position (71.4%)

### **City of Seattle Prop 1 (Pike Place Market Levy)**

Peter Steinbrueck spoke in favor of the \$73 million levy. The Market has not received any public funds and is badly in need of infrastructure improvement. There are 500 seniors and a daycare program. It needs elevators, seismic improvement, nothing fancy. It's a one-time, six-year ballot measure. It's about \$41 per year for the median household property tax. Bill Block opposed it as not a good use of taxpayer money. Carin Willett has been homeless and the Market Senior Center is one of the few places that one can gather.  
Supported 43 in favor, 4 opposed 2 no position, 87.8%

### **City of Seattle Parks and Green Spaces Levy (Proposition 2)**

Renewal of \$145 million parks levy. Steve Zemke spoke in favor of renewing, to protect more land and support Volunteer Park and the Seattle Asian Art Museum, other green belts. A speaker opposed, without being able to see the details, because the previous levy allowed the Council to move money around at will, and promised projects didn't get funded.  
Of 48 votes, voted 23 to support, 4 to oppose, 21 take no position (43.8%) lacks 2/3  
Revote: 16 to support, 28 to take no position. Take no position

### **Viaduct Resolution**

Resolution printed in newsletter: submitted by Brian King regarding viaduct removal: DOT and others were still considering solutions rejected by voters of Seattle. A tunnel and an elevated structure have been rejected, and planners should respect that. He is in favor of surface replacement of the viaduct. Motion to table to the start of the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting voted 30 to 14 in favor.

We collected \$285 to support our delegates to the DNC in Denver. Chad moved that we round it up to \$500 from the treasury. Passed

Adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarajane Siegfriedt,  
For Stan Sorcher, Secretary