

46th LD Democrats General Meeting September 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jan Ames at 7:40 p.m.

Bernadette Lacqueur announced that we have only 47 days left to make a huge change, so let's get busy. She will have Obama yard signs in her garage for \$10 each. .
Deb Blakeslee with the Alliance of People with disAbilities, brought a display of electronic accessible voting and offered to bring it to local groups. (If interested, call the Alliance).

The plastic bag fee proposal has been postponed until 2009, so we will not vote on it at this time.

Member of the 46th Jeff Douthwaite, an engineer and long-time liberal State Representative, died yesterday of cancer. He wrote a book called *A Lively Legislative Life* about his years in Olympia. Jan asked for a moment of silence.

Treasurer's report:

Donna Boysen reported we have received about \$1100 in revenue since our last meeting and committed \$6,500 in campaign contributions. Current balance: \$9,547.

The Executive Board recommends a carryover of \$5,000 at the end of the year, allowing a second round of campaign contributions of \$3,700: \$750 each to the State Senate and House Campaign Committees (to go to campaigns in other LDs), \$500 to Peter Goldmark for Public Lands Commissioner, \$500 John Ladenburg for AG and \$500 to Jim McIntire for State Treasurer, \$200 to Jason Osgood plus \$500 to buy Get Out the Vote materials. The Exec Board also doubled the amount budgeted for sample ballots in view of the large expected turnout and increased number of PCOs and other volunteers to carry them.

Motion passed unanimously to make these contributions

A Resolution on Viaduct Removal

The resolution was printed in the August Demogram. Debate had been tabled to the September meeting. According to Brian King, his resolution interprets the results of the special viaduct election against a tunnel and against an elevated structure to therefore be in favor of a surface-transit option. As Democrats, we need to support the results of elections as the will of the people. Therefore, says the resolution, we should call on our elected officials to support only non-tunnel, non-elevated proposals.

Tim O'Connor pointed out that there were many interpretations of the double-no vote last year, especially with multiple proposals being considered, and more being known now. It was argued that the vote was a complete muddle and you couldn't interpret it as anything.

Sylvia Haven, co-author of the resolution, spoke in support and reminded us that Peter Steinbrueck had come last time to support it. Many cities have recovered their

waterfronts from concrete to beautiful public spaces such as San Francisco's Embarcadero.

Matthew McSheehy spoke against. Let's choose one or the other of two very viable options. We can have both aesthetics and functionality.
The resolution failed 19 to 46.

Membership—Betty Means

Betty has been the Membership Chair since 2003, and she compares our membership in 4-year cycles of presidential years. In 2004, we had 811 members and ended with 821. Today, we have 834, so we have surpassed our high-water mark. We start our 2009 membership drive in October, so pay your 2009 dues then.

State Democratic Committee Reports

State Committeewoman Janet Miller: The most important thing on the agenda was to consider dual endorsement for State Public Instruction of Terry Bergeson (Randy Dorn was previously endorsed). The motion failed 75 to 54, by a roll call vote.

Howard Dean spoke and fired up the crowd. "We are running against John McCain and his running mate, George Bush. McCain is no agent of change."

State Committeeman John Webber: The Obama campaign has hired our combined campaign almost intact. We're one of only four states that got that vote of confidence. It's a great compliment to our field organization. Also, King County Chair Suzie Sheary is leading a mission to review the caucus cycle, as adopted by a State Convention resolution (written by Sarajane Siegfriedt).

King County Central Committee

Chad Lupkes: PCO elections were again yanked from the King County website, because we found many non-matches between PCO name and number.

Consideration of Seattle Proposition 2: Parks and Green Spaces

Scott White and Gerry Pollet spoke in favor of the ballot measure. This is a replacement for the existing levy, at a lower rate, \$81 a year, or \$30 less than the current levy for the average household. We need more playfields, parks and green spaces, a lid on Maple Leaf reservoir and to finish Burke-Gilman Train.

Opponent Jorgen Bader said we have already endorsed the transit levy and the levy for the Pike Place Market. That's enough. The city can move money within the list of parks projects without consulting the voters. There is \$44 M designated for urban village areas and \$6 M in other areas, but the urban village projects are not in the urban villages. He enumerated other objections.

Motion to endorse Parks Levy passed 73.3% (55 for-1 against-19 no position)

Report on Port Reform from Lloyd Hara—Commissioner, Port of Seattle

The audit last December had 51 state auditor's recommendations. I've never seen an audit like that, and I used to be the county auditor. Obviously, the Port needs to come under greater oversight. The procurement laws were in violation of state law. Second, the Port Commission had abdicated its oversight of the CEO.

Now there is one person totally responsible for contracting. Second, we have Tay Yoshitani as a new CEO and his approach is very different. He brings issues and questions back to the Commission. The Commission has revised the delegation of authority to Commission review for any item over \$250,000, even for a \$1.5 billion business.

The Port Commission adopted a new code of ethics law to address any potential conflict of interest. There is greater accountability and public outreach. You can approach the Port Commissioners directly, if you have an issue.

Stuart Ferguson: What is the Port doing about modernization? Hara: The Port has been modernizing and has put in over \$1 billion in 10 years. The cruise terminal is moving to Pier 91 and Pier 30 is being reclaimed for containers, paid for by revenue bonds, not taxes. Also:

- TSA administers new clearance card system to increase security at the Port. All containers go through a radiation detector. The U.S. Coast Guard is inspecting containers overseas at the point of loading. Ships' manifests are wired in 48 hours ahead, and approved 24 hours ahead.
- The statutory size of the Port Commission is set by state law: three to five members. Port Commission of Seattle has five members.
- Seventy percent of port traffic moves overland, mostly by rail, and 30% stays here locally.
- Had their first official joint meeting with Port of Tacoma just this month.
- Seventy percent of budget goes to support the airport and aviation. They are working hard to keep up the airport and it's one of only two airports that has a positive gain in traffic.
- Email: hara.l@portseattle.org or go to www.portseattle.org

Good of the Order

Richard Hayes Phillips, *Witness to a Crime*, is speaking at Olympic View Church tomorrow night about the theft of the 2004 presidential election.

Urgent Resolution on BIAW

BIAW is accused of illegal campaign donations to the Rossi campaign and it is up to the Attorney General to investigate and enforce this, but as a partisan Republican, he may not be inclined to do this. The resolution would ask him to do this.

The body voted to stick with the agenda and move to the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) training.

GOTV: Kathryn Lewis

There are 16 days (two weekends) left to register people to vote (October 4th), and ballots will be dropped in the mail October 17th. GOTV is October 5th – November 4th. Noah Burgher is our Combined Campaign coordinator. His cell is 206-293-7407. Kathryn Lewis is our volunteer coordinator. We have 16 regional coordinators. We have been doing lots of voter registration. We've registered over 1,000 people at Target Northgate. We need to make one more pass to register targeted people in our precincts.

October 18th and 19th we are asking people to doorbell and drop off sample ballots. Nov. 1st – 3rd we need an army, and Nov. 4th we need people to take the day off, if you can. Janet Miller has lots of jobs for Election Day.

The meeting reconvened at 9:32 p.m. to consider the emergent BIAW PDC campaign contributions resolution. A motion was made and debated to suspend the rules because of the urgency to have the Attorney General investigated and punished before the election. It failed 18 to 19.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarajane Siegfriedt
Substitute Secretary