

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats  
Olympic View Elementary School  
October 15, 2009

Chad Lupkes called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM,

Chad asked Jason Sawatzki to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Minutes from the September General Meeting will be available at the November meeting.

Phone banking: Gerry Pollet described a new phone banking arrangement, to be hosted at Olympic View Church on Tuesday, October 20, and 27 from 7-9 PM. Bring your cell phone. Sign up sheets are available in the room.

Chad explained the agenda, which was approved by show of hands.

Finance/Treasurer's Report: Stan Moffett spoke briefly about his recovery from a serious medical condition. Kathryn Lewis reported on the basic financial position of the organization.

Health Care: David Loud is the Community Liaison for Rep. Jim McDermott. Health care is our biggest domestic crisis. Health care reform will be the biggest social legislation since Social Security. Support for reform is higher than ever, but opposition is also strong. The best solution is a national plan with the same benefit for all. McDermott introduced HR 1200 to set the standard by which other bills should be measured. The bills currently in Congress build on our existing system, and have the best opportunity to pass the House and Senate. McDermott insists a public option must be in the final bill.

The House is working on HR 3200, which went through 3 committees in the House. McDermott and Inslee were on two key committees. All House versions contain a public option. The bills from the Ways and Means Committee and the Education and Labor committee have strong public options. The Energy and Commerce version has a different public option. David also talked about allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices in the Part D benefit.

In the Senate, The HELP committee passed out a bill, and the Finance Committee passed out another version. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell are each on one of these committees. Consumer protections will be included in the Senate bills.

The two Senate bills will be merged. Then the House and Senate versions must be reconciled and approved in conference committee. David expects a final bill to pass out of Congress by the end of the year.

Q: What about a substitute of HR 676 (Medicare for all) to replace HR 3200?

A: About 100 cosponsors support the effort to substitute HR 676 for HR 3200. McDermott and Norm Dicks are cosponsors of HR 676. This will be the first vote on single payer in the House. However, the action does not have enough votes to pass.

Q: What about single payer as a state-by-state option?

A: Jim supports that idea, provided that national minimum standards must be met by any state's single payer plan.

Q: Pressure on elected officials?

A: Your elected officials need to hear from their supporters. Legislators on key committees get most of the phone calls.

Q: Keith Olbermann challenge?

A: Keith Olbermann wants to bring patients from public clinics to communities represented by Blue Dog Democrats as a pressure tactic.

Q: So how will any of the bills in Congress actually save costs? If we build on the existing plan, won't we just increase the dysfunction?

A: Experts agree that everyone must be in the system. Legislation now in Congress will start to shift from fee-for-service and move toward paying for better outcomes.

Whatever passes this year, will not be the end of the story. This legislation doesn't go into effect until 2013.

Q: How much of our premiums go into political lobbying.

A: 3%???

Literature Distribution: bags are set out in the room for PCO's to pick up and distribute in their precincts. Jason Sawatzki asked PCO's to go pick up their bags from the back of the room, and any additional bags that they are willing to work.

### **Ballot measures:**

I-1033: David Frockt lives in the 46<sup>th</sup> District and is volunteering on the campaign against I-1033. He talked about the negative consequences of the Initiative. Republicans like Chris Vance and Susan Hutchison oppose I-1033. The strongest negative is the Tim Eyman connection. Money is coming in. The campaign target is \$3 million. Polling shows I-1033 with considerable support, although most newspapers are against it. The Vote-No campaign is eroding support for the initiative.

Don Blakeney encouraged volunteers to contact him to become involved.

Sarajane Siegfriedt and Steve Zemke gave "elevator speeches" against I-1033. The tax reductions will help wealthy property owners, and shift the tax burden to sales tax and B&O tax.

Ken Jacobsen quoted a judge in California on I-1033, saying, "It's no way to run a government." Ken also talked about the initiative process, which was originally intended to help poor people. Now, it has become a tool for the wealthy.

R-71: Shanna Sawatzki spoke in favor of R-71. She sees R-71 as a civil rights matter. This should be framed as "retaining" domestic partnership rights.

The King County Charter Amendments have no organized opposition.

Seattle Housing Levy: Sarajane spoke about the statements in the voter's pamphlet. The administrative fees for the Seattle Housing levy have been moved from the City budget to the Housing budget.

Endorsed candidates: Bob Ferguson spoke on behalf of Dow Constantine. This is an important race. We need to pile resources into this race.

Chad updated the group on the Max Vekich and Rob Holland campaigns. David Frockt talked about a campaign ad against Rob Holland.

Gerry Pollet spoke in favor of Peter Holmes for City Attorney

David Bloom spoke about his campaign. The Seattle Times criticized David Bloom as someone who sees our city through the prism of the disadvantaged.

Angie Weiss said things are going well with Nick Licata's campaign.

Janet Miller and Sarajane spoke about Kay Smith-Blum's campaign.

Wilson Chin sent Chad a personal thank-you note. Gaurab Bansal connected social justice to Wilson Chin's candidacy. Wilson is keenly aware of achievement gaps for minority students.

No speakers for the other endorsed candidates.

#### Announcements:

Chad offered PCOs help with the VoteBuilder database.

Sarajane and Steve invited everyone to the next meeting of the Legislative Action Committee meeting - third Sunday of November. It's a good opportunity to ask Frank Chopp questions. The next meeting of the King County Legislative Action Committee is the third Sunday in November from 2 - 4 PM at the Renton Carpenter's Hall,

Q: Postage to mail in ballots?

A: Chad will get an answer and post it on the 46<sup>th</sup> Dems web site.

Raymond Cole Fund: The committee received five letters of intent. Two full applications are expected. One proposes filming a pro tax reform documentary. The other would get DVDs from progressive organizations to use for trainings. The next year's applications will be open, soon. It's a great opportunity. The membership will vote on the final proposals.

Executive Board Report: The Executive Board contributed \$1000 to Dow Constantine and contacted the No on I-1033 campaign. Normally the Executive Board gets approval from the membership, but this year, we missed the timing to get approval at earlier General Membership meetings.

Membership Report: Betty Means started the membership drive for 2010. Dues paid now will count toward membership in 2010. We have 565 members. In the last cycle we had 581 members at this point.

Platform process: The next Caucus Cycle will not include precinct caucuses, so the platform process will need a new process, too. We could collect ideas at the General Meetings.

Community Outreach: Peter Shapiro has made good progress with this committee. Peter solicited ideas about organizations, events, and activities that could be publicized by the committee.

Pie Raffle: Barbara Whitt and Chad raffled off two pies.

IDF: Gabe Meyer promoted the Institute for a Democratic Future. It's a fellowship to learn about politics in the State. Candidates, policy types and campaign workers work on the program.

**Motion** to contribute \$400 to David Bloom's campaign. Javier Valdez spoke against the motion, favoring a more deliberative process for making contributions. We need to be careful about how we allocate scarce resources. Basil Anex said that this motion was not published in advance, and other campaigns were not aware we might be making contributions. Gerry Pollet asked for an explanation of the priorities and deliberations in the Executive Board when it decided to contribute to Dow Constantine's campaign. Chad said it was a hard discussion. The final decision was based on focusing our limited resources where they would make the most difference.

Motion to cease debate passed.

**Motion** to contribute \$400 to David Bloom **passed** 16 - 11.

State Party Report: Barbara Whitt was the alternate for Janet Miller at the meeting. John Webber talked about the 2010 election process.

County Party Report: Erica Minshull gave a brief report.

Good of the Order: Shanna Sawatzki is hosting a table at the Maggies. This November will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WTO ministerial meeting in 1999. Details will go to Peter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30  
Minutes by Stan Sorscher