

46th LD Democrats General Meeting
Olympic View Church
March 18, 2010

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

Pledge of Allegiance, led by Bob Bloch.

Motion to approve last month's minutes. **Motion approved.**

Chair's Report: Chad encouraged Democrats to attend the King County Democratic Caucus at the IAM union hall in South Park on April 10.

Elections Committee: Jason Sawatzki invited volunteers to the next meeting of the Elections Committee, where guidelines for the voters' guide will be discussed. The committee will take special steps to be fair with ballot measures, and top-two primary races where Democrats are running against each other, as well as against other party candidates.

Jason has analyzed election results and concludes that walking precincts makes significant difference. Jason wants the voters' guide to be a positive factor to PCOs and voters. Chad described a new process for how volunteers can file to be elected PCOs for the August election.

Legislative Action Committee (LAC): Sarajane Siegfriedt reviewed the King County Democrats' legislative priorities. The State budget at this point falls short of our expectations, with more cuts and less new revenue than we were hoping to see. The Economic Opportunity Institute has provided a lot of good background research on tax policy. Washington State's tax structure is arguably the most regressive of the 50 states. The Legislature is in special session to finish the supplemental budget. The Senate is considering a bill that would sunset tax incentives after 5 years. A jobs bill is also being considered.

Steve Zemke invited members to the regular meetings of the LAC. Steve argued in favor of a proposed tax on oil. John Burbank will speak at an LAC meeting about the effort to create a state income tax on high-earning households.

Finance Committee: Stan Moffett reported that income exceeded expenses for the month and year to date. We collected over \$600 at the LD caucus, plus about \$240 from food sales. The voters' guide will be a new expense for us.

Raymond Cole Committee: Jan Ames and other committee members spoke to Governor Mike Lowry, and will meet with David Domke to get ideas for a long-term plan for the Fund.

Angie Weiss will be training PCOs at the Greenwood Library from 12-3:30 on March 27. Angie has a sign-up sheet, and she will be around to answer questions. Everyone is welcome to the training.

Membership Report: Betty Means counts about 350 members, which compares well overall with our membership in 2006, which was the most recent comparable year in the 4-year cycle.

Pie Raffle: We have two pies. Chad pulled coupons for two winners - Pat Emerson and Antonia Gonzales.

Resolutions and Platform: The Platform and 3 resolutions were passed at the caucus. The results are posted on the web site.

Additional Resolutions:

Substitute resolution urging repeal of the Centralia Power Plant tax exemption...

Therefore be it resolved that we urge our legislative delegation, the Legislature, and Governor Gregoire to (1) bring about an immediate repeal of the special tax exemptions for the Centralia Power Plant and (2) phase out all use of coal for electricity production in Washington by 2020, and

Be it further resolved that we urge our Governor to focus special attention on finding and encouraging employers to establish manufacturing plants in Lewis County and around the state in order to provide more living-wage jobs for Washington residents.

Motion to substitute this version for the version that was printed in the Demogram. No discussion. **Motion to substitute passed** by show of hands. **Resolution adopted** by show of hands.

Resolution supporting state revenues sufficient to maintain needed public services.

Therefore be it resolved that we urge the legislative delegation and Governor Chris Gregoire to support and approve revenues adequate to protect our economic future by preventing further erosion of the essential public programs that residents value most about our state, including quality schools, affordable health care, a safety net for the most vulnerable, affordable housing, public safety, and a clean environment; and

Be it further resolved that we urge our legislative delegation and Governor Gregoire to include, in the revenue-based approach to the current budget shortfall, a closing of unfair tax loopholes and an identification of new revenue sources sufficient to stabilize the funding for these essential public services in both the short and long term, thus reflecting our values as Washington Democrats; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to our state legislative delegation, Governor Chris Gregoire, Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, and Speaker of the House Frank Chopp.

Motion to consider this resolution, even though it was not published in the Demogram. **Motion to consider passed.**

Motion to amend the resolution by reversing the order of the first and second paragraphs, so that we generate revenue first, then tell the Legislature what to do with it, second.

Dean Fournier spoke against the motion to amend, arguing that the current order of the statements makes sense. **Motion to amend failed.**

Motion to amend, by Sarajane Siegfriedt, in the second paragraph, adding that Washington State Democrats are on record as opposing an increase in the sales tax. John Webber suggested that this be included as a "whereas" statement, rather than putting it in the "therefore" section. Sarajane accepted the suggestion.

Basil Anex spoke against the amendment, saying we should not bind the legislators in their work. Sarajane spoke in favor, saying we should fund services, but this is a question of how revenues should be raised.

Discussion of the motion. **Motion to cease debate. Motion to cease debate passed** by show of hands. **Motion to accepted the amendment, as modified, passed.**

Motion to add "... [new] non-regressive [revenue sources]" in the second paragraph.

Discussion of the motion. **Motion to cease debate. Motion to cease debate passed. Motion to amend passed.**

Motion to close debate on the resolution - **Motion to cease debate passed. Resolution adopted** as amended.

Party reports: John Webber referred everyone to the State Party web site to look at the schedule for the State Convention in June.

County Party Report: Erica Minshull says the census may create a new Congressional District in Washington State

Chad played a video produced for the House Democratic Caucus, which is available on our web site.

Judicial Candidates:

Steve Rosen is running for Seattle Municipal Judge. He reviewed some of his endorsements. He was a prosecutor, and started his own law firm specializing in criminal defense. Lately, Steve has been a judge pro tem in various cities.

Charlie Wiggins is running for Supreme Court Justice. Richard Sanders is the incumbent for that position. Charlie was previously appointed judge by Mike Lowry, and has been in private practice lately. He has tried cases, heard appeals as a judge and brought appeals as a lawyer. He has also been a hearing officer, where lawyers are subject to discipline. That is a duty of the Supreme Court. He referred everyone to a web site "votingforjudges.com" where we can find information on all the judicial candidates. Charlie favors public funding for judicial candidates. He wrote a rule that would prevent judges from hearing cases about political parties, if the party funded the judge's campaign.

Good of the Order:

- Please march against the war.
- Petition to Mayor McGinn to save trees at Ingraham High School.
- Complaint about wheel-chair accessible bathrooms at Ingraham High School.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.