

46th Democrats General Meeting and Nominating Convention
Olympic View Elementary School
May 20, 2010

Chad Lupkes called the General Meeting to order at 7:03

Stephen Hadley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

April Minutes approved by voice vote.

Statements by Judicial Candidates

Michael Spearman spoke about his candidacy to retain his seat on the King County Court of Appeals, and ask for our endorsement. He has a Bar Association rating of exceptionally well qualified. Michael was a Public Defender, and represented plaintiffs and families in private practice. He worked as a mediator.

Jean Riestel was just appointed to the King County Superior Court by Governor Gregoire. She asked for our endorsement. She is running unopposed (so far). She promised to treat everyone in her court with respect. Jean was a union organizer, and became interested in the law through her work in the public sector.

Anne Harper thanked everyone for participating in the political process and working for good government. She is the Regional Mental Health Court Judge for King County. Anne says judges should have balance and vision and judges should understand options and consequences. Judges should try to solve problems. She has 29 years of experience in criminal justice.

Steve Rosen is a judge serving in Black Diamond running for Seattle Municipal Court. He is a former prosecutor and had a private practice. Steve is endorsed by forty other sitting judges, and police officers' associations. Steve is rated exceptionally well qualified rating by several bar associations. Steve says courts need to be more efficient, and he talked about some simple measures already in effect.

Willie Gregory is running for a judicial position. His wife, Alice, spoke on his behalf. Willie teaches trial advocacy at UW. Alice says judges are the first line of defense in our legal system. You want to know the judge will listen to both sides, consider the circumstances, and decide what is best for the community. Willie believes alternative sentencing can be appropriate.

Trial Court judge Q&A:

How do we make jurors feel they are a vital part of the judicial system?

Jean: Don't waste their time. Cases sometimes get settled before the jury has any work to do. This should affect the way jurors are scheduled and serve.

Steve: Jurors are more important than judges. Courts can be more efficient with jurors' time.

Anne: Jurors are participating in democracy. As a sitting judge, Anne runs her cases quickly and efficiently. She sends hand-written thank you notes.

What is your view regarding openness of judicial records and regarding judicial discretion on sealing those records?

Steve: State law governs open records. Judges should turn over some judicial records even when not required by law. Established case law governs sealed records.

Anne: Court files are public records. Documents within the file can be sealed. Rules have very specific exceptions.

Jean: Jean favors open records. However, this can be complicated. Some record requests are excessive.

Chad introduced **Ken Jacobsen** who is retiring and will not run for re-election. Ken explained that his health is a factor in his decision not to run again. He wants to work with non-profit organizations. He is proud of his record and is very proud of his community. Ken thanked Phyllis Kenney for her work in the community and the legislature. He also thanked Scott White. He explained the circumstances around his decision and how it was announced. Ken would like to serve on the 46th Democrats Executive Board.

Legislative District Candidates' Forum

Chad invited anyone with the intention to file for a seat in Olympia to participate in the LD Candidates Forum. Scott White, David Frockt and Phyllis G. Kenney participated.

Q: Name 2 or 3 priority issues.

David Frockt: David is running for House Position 1. Education funding goals should be implemented. The Quality Education Commission report is coming out. The polluters' tax and storm water legislation are also top priorities.

Scott White: Fully fund education. The Clean Water Act of 2010 was stopped by the polluters. Scott was a prime cosponsor. We should make strong investments in mass transit - sustainable transit solution.

Phyllis Kenney: Early learning through college or university. Health care for our most vulnerable. The economy and creating jobs is her other top priority.

How do we close our budget gap?

Scott: Scott supports the Income tax initiative. He is a founding member of the blue-green alliance in the House.

Phyllis: Phyllis supports I-1098 for an income tax. Phyllis sits on the Ways and Means committee in the House. That committee is looking at closing loopholes. Funding priorities will be reviewed, and everyone is looking for more efficient state government.

David: David brought in the 2008 report from the Department of Revenue that lists all the tax exemptions. Many have not been reviewed for decades.

What is your day job, when not in the legislature? How does that affect your work as an elected official?

Phyllis: Phyllis is a full time legislator. She takes time to talk to constituents in the District.

David: David has 7-year old twins, and is a partner in a law firm representing workers injured in the workplace.

Scott: Scott worked at King County. He teaches part-time at UW, and is a part-time budget manager at UW. He sees how the legislature has starved higher education.

How should school systems evaluate teachers?

David: Evaluations should have components including administrators and students' performance. Students should show progress over time.

Scott: The real question should be how do we evaluate the legislature in allocating resources to schools. We should work out strong standards together with the teachers and teachers' unions. We need to engage parents. Overcrowded classrooms make it too hard to teach properly.

Phyllis: Teachers, administrators and others all contribute to the learning environment. Funding is critical. We can't just "evaluate the teachers."

What are your most significant accomplishments that have advanced progressive values?

Scott: Being Chair of the 46th District was a great experience, in part because of Janet Miller's work, before and after Scott was Chair, in making the District organization more effective.

Phyllis: Phyllis is proud of the program at South Seattle Community College to teach English and teach careers. Barack Obama spoke favorably about that program.

David: As new guy, he has a short record in politics. David joined the No on I-1033 campaign. He is proud of knocking that initiative down. He is also proud of his work as a lawyer, helping workers.

Yes/No questions

- Have you contributed to, or endorsed, any candidate who did not describe themselves as a Democrat in a partisan race in the past five years?
- Do you support allowing UW tuition to be set by the UW and not the Legislature?
- Will you sponsor legislation applying the Public Records Disclosure and Open Government laws that apply to City and County Councils to the Legislature?
- Will you sponsor public campaign financing for legislative races?
- Will you co-sponsor global warming cap and trade or carbon tax in Washington to meet the goals already in state law?
- Do you support enacting a five-year sunset on tax exemptions and annual performance reporting by businesses to keep their exemptions?

- Would you support legislation to require state institutions such as hospitals and prisons to make a plan for discharge of their patients or inmates?
- The 46th District is a relatively expensive place to live. Would you advocate for more low-income and working family housing within the 46th?
- If you are the nominee tonight, do you support the right of other Democrats to continue their campaigns?

	David	Scott	Phyllis
Non-Dem contributions?	-	-	-
Authorize UW to set tuition?	-	+	-
Apply public records rules to leg?	+	-	+
Cap and Trade or carbon tax?	+	+	+
Sunset tax exemptions?	+	+	+
Plan for discharge?	+	+	+
More low-income housing in 46 th ?	+	+	+
Candidates right to run????	+	+	+

Closing statements:

Phyllis: Thanks again to Ken Jacobsen for his many years in the Legislature. Phyllis considered running for the Senate seat, but she values her key leadership positions on committees in the House. Our children deserve good institutions for education and early learning. She looks forward to making Washington State a better place to live.

David: David thanked Chad for fairness in the process. He thanked Scott and Phyllis for working to get to know him better. David has always respected Ken's service. David has been a Progressive Democrat all his life. He worked on several national campaigns. David worked with Paul Wellstone, who inspired David to go into public service. He wants to find a sustainable funding system that works. We need to update our state laws in rescission. Oil company profits exceeded the entire budget for the State of Washington. David doorbells in the District every day. Older people who are out of work need help finding jobs.

Scott: This has been a crazy week, with Ken's decision to retire. Scott's experience in the 46th District and with the King County Democrats organization has been a formative experience. Scott thanked Ken for his years of service. He expressed great admiration for Phyllis. Scott believes grassroots politics is very important in getting things done in the Legislature. Scott is looking forward to working with the team of legislators from the 46th District.

Candidates drew raffle tickets.

Chad suspended the General Meeting at 8:16 PM for the Nomination Convention

Nominating Convention

Chad called the nominating convention to order. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate candidates for the November election.

Chad appointed Kari de Jung as Assistant Sgt at Arms, and Jeff Smith to Chair the Tally Committee. Chad picked non-PCO volunteers to be on the Tally Committee.

Dean Fournier reviewed rules for the Nominating Convention.

Sarajane proposed an **amendment** to consider the Senate race before the House races. The **motion to amend passed**.

Credentials Report: The District has 138 PCOs total; 76 have signed in with 497 eligible weighted votes.

Senate Position:

Scott White was nominated by Steve Zemke, seconded by Dean Fournier. No other nominations.

Steve Zemke said Scott worked very hard in this legislative session. Scott was able to pass several bills in his first term. Sarajane Siegfriedt remembers Scott as a fair leader when he was Chair of the 46th District. Scott reviewed his priorities. He offered to meet with constituents informally to talk about issues.

Motion to nominate by acclamation. **Motion** to vote by acclamation **passed**.

Chad ruled the motion to nominate by acclamation out of order.

John Webber **challenged** the chair's ruling, citing the rules of the convention. The Chair's ruling was upheld.

Results of Scott's nomination: 64 votes cast; 383 weighted votes for Scott White. **Scott White is nominated.**

House Position #1

David Frockt was nominated and seconded by people with very quiet voices. No other nominations.

Sylvester McCann said he considered it important to speak on behalf of David Frockt. Sylvester has gone out doorbelling with David and Sylvester is in full support of David's candidacy. David promised to work hard and be open with voters in the District. He will use the District Platform as a guide during the session.

Matthew McSheedy raised a point of personal privilege - noting that one of the people nominating David is or was an employee in David's firm, Matthew challenged David to attend all of the 46th District General Meetings and get to know more people in the district membership.

Basil Anex raised a point of order asking for Chad to give David an opportunity to respond. David explained that he had arranged someone else to nominate him, but at the moment Chad called for nominations, the pre-arranged nominator missed the handoff, so one of David's volunteers made the nomination. David intends to meet as many people as possible in the District.

Results of David's nomination: 76 votes were eligible, 60-something were cast; 371 weighted votes for David Frockt. **David Frockt is nominated.**

House Position #2

Phyllis Kenney was nominated by Javier Valdez. No other nominations. Javier spoke in favor of Phyllis Kenney, reviewing some of her accomplishments. Jan Ames also spoke in favor of Phyllis. Jan worked with Phyllis in Olympia, and found Phyllis tireless, passionate and someone who follows through. Phyllis pointed to healthcare, affordable housing as other top issues she wants to work on.

Results of Phyllis' nomination: Votes cast 70; 421 weighted votes for Phyllis Kenney. **Phyllis Kenney is nominated.**

Another Judicial Race

Charlie Wiggins. John Rule spoke on behalf of Charlie Wiggins, who is out of town at a wedding. Charlie is running for State Supreme Court. John worked with Charlie on campaign reform. Charlie worked with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans and other places. Charlie served on the Judicial Conduct Committee, and is a tireless volunteer in the community. Charlie is endorsed by a large number of judges. John asked us to endorse Charlie Wiggins.

Committee Reports

PCO process: Javier reminded PCOs that they must re-file during the first full week of June. Javier will send out instructions by email. PCOs are expected to file online, although a paper form has been promised by King County Elections for those without access to a computer. Public Library computers were mentioned as an alternative.

Membership Report: We have 13 more paid members than at the April meeting. Betty Means reminded members to check the sign-in sheet to see if they have paid their dues, which they must do to be eligible to vote as PCOs.

Treasurer's Report: Stan Moffett reported that income is a little ahead of expenses. We raised \$425 from tonight's food donations and raffle tickets.

Raymond T. Cole Fund: Jan Ames says the committee has been gathering suggestions for the Fund. All are invited to submit Letters of Intent at any time.

Outreach Committee: Peter Shapiro invited volunteers to Pioneer Days in Lake City.

Kelly Drake is Congressman Jim McDermott's Campaign manager for the 2010 election. She will be back to the 46th District frequently.

Resolutions

Resolution of thanks regarding work on SR 520.

Be it resolved that we commend our 46th District Legislators, Representative Scott White who co-chaired the recent SR 520 Legislative Workgroup, and Senator Ken Jacobsen who was an active participant in the Workgroup. Both represented our 46th District and the Community's interests fairly and objectively, working cooperatively with the cumulative efforts of many other elected officials, local communities, businesses and institutions.

Resolution passed by show of hands.

Resolution regarding a state income tax.

Be it resolved that the 46th District Democrats support the more balanced state tax system embodied in Initiative 1077; and,

Be it further resolved that we urge Democrats and community members to participate in the signature-gathering campaign to qualify Initiative 1077, or any successor version thereof that provides similar middle-class tax relief and additional revenues by reducing property taxes and B & O taxes while imposing a high-earners income tax, for the November ballot.

Resolution passed.

Good of the order.

Sarajane announced a forum at the University Unitarian Church to talk about implementation of the national health insurance reform bill.

David Garcia spoke about selection and training of police officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher