

46<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats General Meeting  
Olympic View Church  
June 17, 2010

Chad Lupkes called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Jason Sawatzki led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes. Minutes from the May General Meeting should be ready next month.

Chair's Report. Chad announced results from our PCO signups, which are 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for Legislative Districts in King County.

Special thanks to Barbara Whitt for preparing food for the meeting!

Agenda approved by voice vote.

Elections Report. Jason Sawatzki explained what is happening with the Voters' Guide. Candidates can advertise in the Guide. PCO's should order their Guides by June 25<sup>th</sup>, so we know how many copies to print. Advertising from campaigns should be in by July 10. PCOs can pick up Guides on July 24. Ballots are mailed out the following week.

Endorsement Rules. Dean Fournier and Chad explained an amendment to the proposed rules for endorsements that would allow the District to endorse candidates who are unopposed. Amendment to the rules was approved by a show of hands.

### **Endorsements.**

**Motion** by David Garcia (seconded) to suspend the rule that requires candidate questionnaires, so we can consider endorsement of Senator Patty Murray. David said that Patty Murray's record justifies waiving the requirement. Gerry Pollet wondered why questionnaires were not submitted. **Motion** to suspend **passed** by show of credentials.

### **US Senate.**

Patty Murray nominated by David Garcia, seconded. No other nominations. **Motion** by Sarajane Siegfriedt, seconded, to endorse by acclamation. **Motion** to vote by acclamation **passed**. **Patty Murray** endorsed by acclamation, by voice vote.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District**

Jay Inslee is running unopposed. Inslee's office had contacted Chad to apologize for not submitting a questionnaire, and asked to suspend the rules. **Motion** to suspend the rule, requiring candidates to submit questionnaires; seconded. **Motion** to suspend **passed**.

Jay Inslee nominated by Sarajane, seconded. Sarajane spoke in favor of endorsing Jay Inslee, based on his record.

Results: **Jay Inslee** is **endorsed** - 57 in favor; 1 one opposed.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Don Rivers nominated by Jeff Smith; seconded.

Jim McDermott nominated; seconded.

Jeff introduced Don Rivers. Don has lived here for 35 years. He worked with Tip O'Neal, Norm Dicks, and Jim McDermott. He will be speaking later tonight at the 36<sup>th</sup> District meeting. Don believes we need change, we should fight crime, support police and improve health care. It's important to speak to voters in the District, which is why Don is here tonight.

David Garcia spoke in favor of endorsing Jim McDermott, referring to the legal fight with Newt Gingrich. McDermott can protect our rights and move Congress in the right direction. He was active in the health care legislation. Sarajane said Jim McDermott showed up at the King County Democrats, and he did submit his questionnaire.

Results: Jim McDermott 58; Don Rivers 4. **Jim McDermott is endorsed.**

### **State Senate.**

Scott White nominated by David Frockt; seconded by Sheila Kohls. No other nominations.

Sheila observed that Scott's first legislative session was 2009. He has been active in the community, and he listens to voters in the District. He will work hard for health care, environment and education. Sheila asked us to vote for Scott. Scott spoke about those issues, and creating new jobs. He encouraged everyone to get involved in state issues.

Results: 54 in favor, 4 votes for no endorsement, and 3 spoiled or blank ballots. **Scott White is endorsed.**

### **State House position 1.**

David Frockt nominated by Phyllis Kenney; seconded.

Phyllis Kenney is honored to nominate David. He has honesty and integrity. He is interested in education and economic development for small business, the economy and environment, She is delighted to have David represent the District. Phyllis encouraged everyone to support David Frockt. David thanked Phyllis for the nomination. He looks forward to working with Scott and Phyllis in Olympia. David told about a recent visit he made to a school for deaf children.

Results: 61 in favor; 3 for no endorsement. **David Frockt is endorsed.**

### **State House position 2**

Phyllis Kenney nominated by Bob Ferguson and seconded.

Bob introduced Phyllis, saying he respected her honesty and credibility. Bob reviewed her history in the state. As a young woman Phyllis was an activist, and she has been fighting for change ever since. Barbara Whitt spoke about Phyllis' accomplishments and qualities. Phyllis thanked Bob and Barbara, and talked about the challenges we have -- with jobs being among the most important. She thanked us and asked for our support.

**Phyllis Kenney is endorsed** - 61 in favor; 2 for no endorsement

## **Seattle Municipal Court**

### Position 1

Ed McKenna nominated and seconded. No other nominations.

A PCO spoke about Ed's work in the community. Ed motivated and helped neighbors. Ed McKenna explained that he is not related to Rob McKenna. Ed lives in the 46<sup>th</sup> District. Ed favors court reform so that we have higher rated judges. People should have confidence in courts. Ed worked as a prosecutor and hearing examiner. We should measure efficiency in the Municipal Courts. We should have victim services. Ed asked for our endorsement,

**Ed McKenna is endorsed** - 57 in favor; 2 for no endorsement.

### Position 2

No candidate submitted a questionnaire. No endorsement.

### Position 3

Steve Rosen nominated by Rod Dembowski; seconded.

Rod talked about Steve's experience as a defense attorney and prosecutor, as well as his accomplishments as a judge. Steve asked for our support. He has spoken to our group before.

**Steve Rosen is endorsed** - 64 in favor; 1 for no endorsement.

### Position 4

No candidate submitted a questionnaire. No endorsement.

### Position 5

Willie Gregory nominated by David Frockt, seconded.

David Frockt spoke in favor of Willie Gregory as a fair and impartial judge. Peter Shapiro worked with Willie and said he was pleased to recommend Willie Gregory. Willie Gregory said he would be fair and impartial, and would run a people's court. He asked for our endorsement for position 5.

**Willie Gregory is endorsed** - 63 in favor; no endorsement 2

### Position 6

Karen Donohue nominated and seconded.

Michael Hurtado nominated and seconded.

Jeannie Hale spoke in favor of Karen Donohue, who is Jeannie's neighbor and friend. Karen is committed to schools, neighborhoods and parks. Karen is respected in the legal community for being fair and impartial. Sarajane said Karen had a great interview with King County Democrats. Karen discussed her experience as an attorney judge and community volunteer. She has leadership skills that will be needed in the Court. More of the Court's work should be done electronically, shifting away from paper.

Scott Reiman is a PCO. He has known Judge Hurtado for 15 years, and regards him as his friend. Scott observes that Judge Hurtado works hard and is motivated, determined and has the courage for the job.

Javier Valdez met Judge Hurtado many years ago and was inspired. Javier asked for our support for Judge Hurtado. Judge Hurtado spoke about his record, and endorsements, and strongly seeks our endorsement.

Results of first vote: Karen Donohue 25; Michael Hurtado 32; no endorsement 6

A 2/3rd majority is required for endorsement. Since no choice on the ballot received 2/3, the option with the least votes is dropped, and a second round of voting is held.

Results of second vote - 26 for Karen Donohue; 33 for Michael Hurtado

**Motion** for dual endorsement made and seconded. **Motion passed** by show of hands. **Karen Donohue** and **Michael Hurtado** are both **endorsed**.

#### Position 7

No candidate submitted a questionnaire. No endorsement.

#### **State Supreme Court**

Position 1

No candidate submitted a questionnaire. No endorsement.

#### Position 5

**Motion** to suspend rules requiring candidates to submit a questionnaire to King County Democrats, so we can consider endorsement of Barbara Madsen.

Steve Zemke spoke about Barbara Madsen's qualifications. Scott Reiman spoke against suspending the rules, speaking about a decision Judge Madsen made that he opposes. **Motion to suspend failed**.

No endorsement in position 5.

#### Position 6

Charlie Wiggins nominated by Sarajane, seconded.

No other nominations.

Sarajane got to know Charlie Wiggins during time she spent in Olympia working on public campaign financing. Charlie thanked Sarajane for the nomination. He practiced law for over 30 years. He served as a judge pro tem. He reviewed many of his endorsements, including endorsements by over 60 judges. Many county prosecutors also endorsed Charlie. Charlie spoke about integrity, impartiality and judicial independence. Charlie is in favor of campaign reform for Supreme Court justices.

**Charlie Wiggins is endorsed** - 62 in favor; 3 for no endorsement

Raffle for pies. Scott White drew winning numbers.

#### **Court of Appeals**

Div 1 District 1, No 1

No candidate submitted a questionnaire. No endorsement.

Div 1 Dist 1 No 2

Michael Spearman nominated by Janet Miller, seconded.

Scott White spoke in favor of Michael Spearman

**Michael Spearman is endorsed** - 54 in favor ; no endorsement 3

### **Superior Court #36**

Jean Rietschel nominated and seconded.

Sarajane Siegfriedt recommended Jean Rietschel as a gifted judge, and asked for support for Rietschel.

**Jean Rietschel is endorsed** - 56 in favor; one blank.

### **District Court**

District Court 1, 2, 3,

No candidate submitted a questionnaire. No endorsement.

District Court Position 4

**Motion** to suspend rules requiring candidates to submit a questionnaire. Ruth Stanton has known Eileen Kato for many years, and recommends we endorse her. **Motion to suspend** the rules **failed**. No endorsement

Position 5

Anne Harper nominated and seconded.

Sarajane heard Anne Harper speak at the King County Democrats meeting. Anne Harper writes personal notes thanking jurors.

**Anne C. Harper is endorsed** - 47 in favor; no endorsement 4; one blank ballot

PCO report. Javier introduced two new PCOs who will serve for the rest of the year. Marsha Harivtel and Scott Leider said a few words. Both were appointed by show of hands.

Membership. Betty Means reported out on membership.

Legislative Action Committee. The meeting will be at Lake City Library this month. Sarajane summarized the agenda for the meeting.

Outreach. Peter Shapiro introduced Dusty Hoerler who capsulized his idea for a grant from the Cole committee. Dusty would like to hold a dinner event for rank and file labor members and other progressive constituencies to network and grow membership in labor unions.

Finance. Stan Moffett reported we are a little ahead of where we started the year. August 14 is the summer holiday party, which will be at Rod Dembowski's home again this year.

Resolutions.

**Motion** to suspend the rules to consider a resolution that was not published in the Demogram. The resolution deals with a national commission on fiscal responsibility and reform, that might lead to cutting social programs as way to balance the budget. The public comment period ends June 30. However, the resolution is directed at the Congressional delegation and president.

John Webber spoke against suspending the rules, since this is not urgent. Sylvia Haven spoke in favor of suspending the rules. **Motion to suspend failed**, by show of cards.

Challenge, asking for a count. 23 in favor, 16 opposed. **Motion to suspend failed**.

Good of the order. David Bloom had asked for a resolution about aggressive solicitation. Since then, public opposition was sufficient to defeat the city ordinance. David Bloom thanked us for helping achieve that outcome.

David Frockt will be canvassing for Democrats on the east side, and asked for help in campaigning.

David Garcia spoke against police punching young girls in the face and other acts against minority communities. David asked for us to express our concern and ask the City to choose a new Chief of Police promptly. Chad offered to pass that along to the Mayor and City Council. Chad asked for consent for that. Gretchen Anex spoke against adults at the High School who acted aggressively prior to the policemen punching the girl. Discussion about appropriate behavior.

Barbara Whitt encouraged everyone to go to the Progressive Caucus meeting at the State Democrats Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher