

45th LD Democratic Party
District Re-Organization Meeting
January 7, 2009

Call to Order and Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by Dick Gidner, King County Democrats Officer, at 7:13 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

Appointment of Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant-at-Arms

Dick Gidner appointed Adam White as Secretary, Martin Chaney as Parliamentarian, and Ralph Gorin as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by a show of PCO credentials.

Adoption of By-laws

The by-laws were adopted by a show of PCO credentials.

Credentials

Dick Gidner requested a credential count. The count at the time of request was 24. The count later rose to 28 as additional PCOs arrived.

Nominations and Voting for Offices

- Chair
 - Dick Gidner requested nominations for Chair. Martin Chaney was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Martin Chaney.**

Dick Gidner turned over the meeting over to our new chair, Martin Chaney. Martin called to make PCO appointments at this time

PCO appointments

- Jim Meusey, Precinct: Hollywood
- Ian Jacobson, Precinct: Elsom
- Mike Finkle, Precinct: SAM 45-3389

It was moved and seconded to elect each individually. Each motion passed by acclamation, all candidates were appointed.

Representative Report

Martin acknowledged Rep. Larry Springer. Rep. Springer updated us on his 2009 committee assignments: Transportation, Finance, Local Government and Housing, and Rules. Rep. Springer is no longer the Majority Floor Leader, he now holds the position of Majority Caucus Liaison. The Majority Caucus Liaison meets and works with stakeholder groups.

Question: Has the leadership given any thought about reevaluating the prison system to cope with the current state budget shortfall?

Answer: The legislature is seriously considering sentence reform. Rep. Roger Goodman would most likely be the point person for sentence reform.

Question: Oregon State is discussing changing their current gas tax to a mileage tax due to their decreasing revenue. Would the legislature consider such a move?

Answer: A mileage fee has been talked about, however, there have been no serious discussions.

Question: What are the sources of the shortfall in the budget? Especially when it seems like I am paying more than I used to especially in property tax.

Answer: 1) State Sales Tax – consumers are spending less, this is especially true in the home construction sector.

2) Real Estate Excise Tax

The reason the property taxes went up is because they are based on the past 3 years of home values. Since the housing market saw such growth before the housing market plummeted, the property taxes went up. You should see the property taxes fall in the next couple years due to the current housing conditions.

Question: Would you oppose raising the gas tax?

Answer: No, I don't oppose raising the gas tax. The gas tax is low, the state share of the gas tax is only 36-38%. One penny more would not be a problem. However, the Governor promised no tax or fee increases. This will make it very difficult to balance the budget with the projected deficit. It is possible to give the Governor political cover if voters approve an increase in taxes or fees.

Question: Would the legislature consider a state income tax?

Answer: No. There is no political will to propose an income tax. No one in the leadership is talking about it. The voters voted it down twice several years ago. The only way this is going to get done is if an outside coalition puts a plan together. Additionally, it would require an amendment to the state constitution and in order for it to pass there would have to be a cap to ensure the voters the legislature would not arbitrarily raise it.

Martin appointed Brad Larssen the new parliamentarian. Martin discussed his vision of the executive board and how he would like it to play a larger roll. Additionally, he acknowledged the difficulty in running for elected office and it takes courage to stand up and make a commitment.

A point of order was made by Diane Slota that the offices of 2nd Vice Chair and Young Democrats Representative were not on the agenda. Martin decided the offices of 2nd Vice Chair and Young Democrats Representative would be added in the appropriate place in the agenda. He also decided the offices of State Committeeman and State Committeewoman would move up on the agenda in front of the office of 1st Vice Chair.

Martin defined the duties of the position of State Committeeperson as passing resolutions, making party policy decisions, and electing the state party chair.

Nominations and Voting for Offices (Continued)

- State Committeeman

- Martin requested nominations for State Committeeman. Ralph Gorin was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Ralph Gorin.**
- State Committeewoman
 - Martin requested nominations for State Committeewoman. Judith Shattuck was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Judith Shattuck.** Judith spoke briefly about the 45th LD's recommendations to the party resolution process being adopted by the state Democratic Party, and her commitment to furthering the process.
- 1st Vice Chair
 - Martin requested nominations for 1st Vice Chair. Brad Larssen was nominated and the nomination was seconded. Priscilla O'Leary was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. Each candidate was given 5 minutes to state their qualifications for the office.
 - Brad Larssen spoke first. He was the current 1st Vice Chair and ran as a write-in Candidate for the King County Council. He has been in Labor for years and is still serving in Labor organizations. Brad formed a political committee within the union to bring specific issues to the state legislature. Brad talked about the fact that as the current 1st Vice Chair, he occasionally chaired meetings, attended state committee meetings and state chairs' meetings. Brad felt we need to put pressure on the legislature for the issues we want and would like to continue as 1st Vice Chair.
 - Terry Linkletter spoke on behalf of Priscilla O'Leary in her absence. Priscilla was always ahead of the game. She was a real leader and can mobilize people. She was also an expert in the state voter data system Votebuilder. Priscilla was detailed oriented and would be effective as 1st Vice Chair.
 - Martin appointed a Tallying Committee and noted PCOs should be the only people voting. A paper ballot vote was held. **Elected: Priscilla O'Leary.**
- King County Committeeman
 - Martin requested nominations for King County Committeeman. Ken Nelson was nominated and the nomination was seconded. Mike Finkle was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. Each candidate was given 5 minutes to state their qualifications for the office.
 - Ken Nelson spoke first. Ken has held this position for one year now and actively involved in the City of Kirkland issues.
 - Mike Finkle was a national delegate to the 2008 Democratic Convention. He also worked on Congressman Adam Smith's reelection campaign, was a poll worker for the latest election, and has been a prosecutor serving on committees that work with the state legislature.
 - A paper ballot vote was held. **Elected: Ken Nelson.**
- 2nd Vice Chair

- Martin requested nominations for 2nd Vice Chair. Brad Larssen was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Brad Larssen.**
- Terry Thorsos commented business cards should be made up for Brad.
- King County Committeeman Alternate
 - Martin requested nominations for King County Committeeman Alternate. Mike Finkle was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Mike Finkle.**
- King County Committeewoman
 - Martin requested nominations for King County Committeewoman. Diane Slota was nominated, Diane declined the nomination.
 - Martin Outlined the duties of a King County Committeeperson as representatives to the King County Democrats Executive Board, a monthly meeting, and keeping the 45th LD Democrats informed.
 - Becky Chaney was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Becky Chaney.**
- King County Committeewoman Alternate
 - Martin requested nominations for King County Committeewoman Alternate. No nominations were put forward.
- Treasurer
 - Martin requested nominations for Treasurer. Terry Linkletter was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Terry Linkletter.**
- Secretary
 - Martin requested nominations for Secretary. Adam White was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Adam White.**
- Young Democrats Representative
 - Martin requested nominations for Young Democrats Representative. Andrew Villeneuve was nominated and the nomination was seconded. Ian Jacobson was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations.
 - Andrew spoke first. He stated he was honored to serve the 45th LD Democrats as best as he could.
 - Ian Jacobson said he had been in New Hampshire working on a Congressional race and hoped to have the chance to represent the 45th LD Democrats.
 - A paper ballot vote was held. **Elected: Ian Jacobson.**
- Legislative Action Committee Representative
 - Martin entertained the question if the LAC Representative was elected or appointed. The current LAC Representative, Melissa Waldie, answered she was

elected initially to the position. It was moved and seconded to elect the LAC Representative, passed.

- Martin requested nominations for Legislative Action Committee Representative. Kathleen Reynolds was nominated and the nomination was seconded. Wayne Farrar was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations.
- Kathleen spoke first. She has served on the LAC for the past two years, created the agenda for the coming legislative session, and had the committee up and running already.
- Wayne spoke of living in King County since 1967. He has been a builder and developer. We wanted a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.
- A paper ballot vote was held. **Elected: Kathleen Reynolds.**

It was moved and seconded the position of Precinct Support Committee Chair be elected and be a member of the Executive Board. The motion was passed.

- Precinct Support Committee Chair

- Martin requested nominations for Precinct Support Committee Chair. Ken Albinger was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Ken Albinger.**

It was moved and seconded the position of Endorsement Committee Chair be elected. The motion was passed.

- Endorsement Committee Chair

- Martin requested nominations for Endorsement Committee Chair. Andrew Villeneuve was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forward after 3 calls for nominations. It was moved and seconded to vote by acclamation, which was passed unanimously. **Elected: Andrew Villeneuve.**

It was moved the position of Communications Chair be elected and be a member of the Executive Board. After some discussion, the motion failed to gain a second.

Martin noted Melissa Waldie was working on creating a communications committee.

It was moved to create the position of Refreshments Chair and to nominate Diane Slota for the position. The motion failed to gain a second after discussion.

Martin asked the question of the election or appointment of the Membership Committee Chair. It was noted that no such committee formally existed and Paul Yarbrough volunteered for the position. Paul was appointed to the position of Membership Committee Chair.

8:58 p.m. Reorganization Elections Closed.

Legislative Action Committee Agenda

The survey of the members in the December Meeting resulted in the top issues for the 2009 legislative session. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda.

- It was moved to accept an amendment to make transportation a top issue on the LAC agenda and move the issue of public transportation under the transportation issue. The motion was seconded and passed.
- It was moved to accept an amendment to include the name of all islands in the Puget Sound to the bullet “Protect the natural ecosystems of Maury Island”.
 - A motion to revise the amendment to change the language to “Protect the natural ecosystems of Puget Sound”. Revision was accepted.

Discussion:

- *Against*: The reasoning for specifically listing Maury Island was because of the current issue of strip mining on Maury Island.
- *For*: All of the people are important, the people of Maury Island are not more important than the people on the other islands.
- *Against*: The second bullet under the Environment covers the entire Puget Sound.
- Point of Information: Kathleen announced the purpose of the agenda was to inform the members of what issues they wanted to be updated on.
- *Against*: The developer on Maury Island did not comply with the Environment Impact statement.

It was moved to call the question, it was seconded and the motion passed.

The Amendment failed.

- It was moved to accept an amendment to remove the words “or repeal” to the Three Strikes Law bullet under the Social Justice issue.
 - *For*: Some people should be put in prison for life. There are people who have committed horrific crimes and repealing the three strikes law is needed. The law needs to be reformed, but not repealed.
 - *Against*: The agenda is simply for notification of any legislative movement. Additionally, a person should not be sentenced to life for a compilation of crimes.

The amendment was withdrawn.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion passed.

Endorsement Committee

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Endorsement rules. The motion passed.

Andrew Villeneuve addressed the members about the Endorsement Committee. He wanted to make the endorsement process more transparent including trying to use the website to get feedback.

Endorsement of King County Director of Elections

- The Election for this position will be held on February 3rd, 2009.
- There were currently six candidates for King County Director of Elections
 - David Irons
 - Sherril Huff
 - Julie Kempf
 - Bill Anderson
 - Christopher Clifford
 - Pam Roach
- The Endorsement Committee decided to recommend the members endorse Sherril Huff. She was an auditor for two terms, was appointed the King County Director of Elections, and is the most qualified candidate.

- It was moved and seconded to endorse Sherril Huff for the position of King County Director of Elections.
- Discussion:
 - Question: What happened to Jason Osgood?
 - Answer: He dropped out of the race and endorsed Sherril Huff.
 - Comment: There has been a lot of improvement in the King County Elections office and if Sherril was responsible for the improvements, she is well qualified.
- The motion to endorse Sherril Huff was passed.

For the Good of the Order:

- Comment: Shelley Kloba informed the members that the PTA set up a lobbying activity in front of the Capitol Building. The PTA want 800 people to show up and demand the legislature adopt the recommendations the Basic Education Task Force put forth. The Rally will be February 26th.
- Question: Are there going to be any flyers to distribute for the February 3rd Election of the King County Director of Elections.
 - Answer: Ken Albinger: There will be an electronic flyer passed around.
 - Comment: Martin: The ballots for the election will be coming out next week.
- Comment: Terry Thorsos informed the members that on her recent trip to China she passed out Obama buttons and the women she started talking to began to discuss the topic of Peace.
- Comment: Brad Larssen advocated the members to attend the gubernatorial inaugural ball. The tickets are \$100 and Brad offered a carpool for four people to ride down with him. Invitations can be found at www.wastategovball.org

Martin asked the members to consider the appointment of an additional PCO, Jin Yang. It was moved and seconded to appoint Jin Yang. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam White, Secretary
45th LD Democratic Party