

45th Legislative District Democrats
General Meeting
March 4, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney at 7:04

Flag Salute

Dee Carrel led the Flag Salute.

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to adopt the previous meeting minutes. Motion was passed.

Introduction of Visiting Elected Officials and Candidates

Martin introduced Pat Hogan from Congressman Jay Inslee's Office

- **Jay Inslee Update – Pat Hogan**

Pat discussed Jay's commitment to climate change and the evacuation of Iraq. Constituents have had a lot of questions about the Federal Stimulus Package, and the mortgage anti-foreclosure package, for information about the Federal Stimulus Package call the Congressman's Office. Additionally, the children's health insurance bill, SCHIP, passed.

Comment: Please remind Jay about HR 676, single payer healthcare, I would like to see Jay to sign on to the bill.

Answer from Pat Hogan: I will report back and tell Jay that there is support for the bill.

Comment: It seems as if it is the contractors in Iraq who want the war to continue. They are profiting off of this tragedy.

Answer: No one has been a bigger opponent to the war in Iraq.

Question: What alternative energy programs or projects is Jay supporting?

Answer: Jay is supporting the building of an electricity grid to get wind and solar energy from the Midwest, where it is harnessed, to the cities where it can be used. We can support people working in green jobs and power cities with renewable energy.

Comment: We need to look at why there is money for a high speed train in the Federal Stimulus Package.

Question: Is there any money attached to building the power grid, to rebuild or help maintain the old power grid?

Answer: It is possible; I do not know the specifics of that at this time.

Question: Do you know when the infrastructure money will get to Washington State?

Answer: There are a few websites you can go to: www.recovery.gov, or for Washington State specifically, www.recovery.wa.gov. If you have any questions give our office a call and we can answer your questions.

- **Port of Seattle Candidates – Lloyd Hara**

- Lloyd Hara, Seattle Port Commissioner

- We have a lot of endorsements already, I wanted to get out early and hopefully get an early endorsement from the 45th LD Democrats. I am the commissioner who is able to spend the most time at the Port. I think we need to make the corrections that are necessary. I fought for performance audits. The Port Commission has made corrections on 46 out of 52 of the audits. It took 18 months to create an audit committee. There is now a committee with 2 commissioners and one outside member of the committee to create transparency. The Port has gone through 2 charter changes and will go through another charter change in the next meeting.
 - In the audit, it reported that the commission had given a lot of power to the CEO and away from the commission.
 - The port puts 194,000 jobs in the community. Jobs are our top issue.
 - Question: How are you keeping the container facility secure?
 - Answer: Every person has to carry a specialized card. Additionally, everything has to be radiologically checked. The coastguard checks the manifests and if there are any discrepancies or concerns, the coastguard checks it out.
 - Question: The cruise ships make a lot of pollution, what is the port doing to fix this?
 - Answer: We have electrical plug-ins so they do not have to idle with their motors running.
 - Question: What is the Port's plan for the redevelopment of the waterfront when the Alaskan Way Viaduct tunnel is finished.
 - Answer: The port has not yet made a financial commitment. The city, county, and the port will all contribute to the Viaduct tunnel and redevelopment.

- **March 10 Special Election Information**

- Rudolph Edwards – Snoqualmie Valley School District Director, Dis. 1; and Superintendent Joel Anue

- Joel: We appreciate you inviting us out here. Snoqualmie Valley School District (SVSD) has a bond proposition on the ballot. Each bond in the past has been about 100 votes short of passing. We need a 60 % for a bond, supermajority. The School board has scaled back the bond and is trying to get it passed again. There are critical needs that need to be addressed. SVSD is one of the fastest growing school districts in the State. We need a new elementary school and a second high school. In the last bond measures we were looking for

\$200,000,000. We are now looking to pass a bond of \$27,000,000. The new schools have been put on hold and we will be adding some temporary classrooms to the high school and making improvements to other schools.

- Rudolph: Having been on the board as long as I have been, I've seen the schools grow. Our kids are performing very well on testing and the high school drop out rate is very low. We need to get the bond passed to ensure the taxpayers have adequate schools.

Question: How are you reaching out to the voters and how many votes do you need?

Answer: We need a minimum validation turnout for the election and a 60% majority to pass the bond measure. We are talking with different groups. We have an army of phone bankers calling people tonight. The numbers are looking good and the feedback is positive. For outreach, we are utilizing technology, working through email and other internet activity.

Question: Do people have to go to a phone bank location to help out?

Answer: We are asking people to come to a central location. We can get as many as 20 callers from 6pm. to 8pm. We are scheduled for Thursday, Friday, and Monday night.

Martin: I would like to send the information to the members to help out and we need to support education. We need to start paying more attention to our local school districts.

Endorsement Procedures and Schedule – Andrew Villeneuve

Andrew discussed the endorsement procedures and election schedule. The February election is finished and there are two more elections this year, a primary election in August and general election in November. Since Washington adopted a top two primary Democrats do not pick their candidate, the top two candidates from the primary will continue to the general election. The 45th's endorsements has become very important now, especially since more elected offices have become non-partisan.

An Endorsement requires a 2/3rds vote. This means that we can phone bank and doorbell for these candidates, as well as list the endorsee on our endorsements list. There are three different types of endorsements:

Early endorsements: Before the end of the filing deadline in June.

Regular Endorsements: Between the end of the filing deadline in June and the Primary Election.

Late Endorsements: After the Primary Election.

The 45th LD Democratic Party can choose an early endorsement if we feel that a candidate that we believe in needs our support earlier than a regular endorsement would allow. It is the job of the Endorsement Committee to review the candidates' questionnaires, complete candidate interviews, and a recommendation to the general membership a list of endorsements.

Question: Is our platform and stances taken under consideration when recommending a candidate?

Answer: Yes, we ask a series of questions that come directly from the platform.

Question: Who is on the Endorsement Committee and how do you become part of it.

Martin: to be a member of the committee, see Andrew. Anyone in the 45th LD Democrats can be part of the Endorsement Committee. Once an Endorsement Committee is created, it can be posted.

Question: Is there a quorum requirement for the Endorsement Committee?

Answer: No, the by-laws do not require the committee to have a quorum requirement.

Question: Are we accepting the top two candidates format, or are we trying to change that?

Answer: We want to go back to an open primary system where a person chooses a party. It is up to Chairman Dwight Pelz to take up this issue.

Question: Is this how people ran under the GOP party this past election?

Answer: Yes, people can choose any party name whether it is real or not.

Question: Do we have to endorse someone?

Answer: We do not have to endorse in a race, however, our endorsement is important.

Question: When do we plan to make an endorsement in the king county executive race?

Answer: It is up to the Endorsement Committee to make recommendations to the general membership. There is a one-week notification rule in our by-laws before an endorsement can be made. We will normally make an endorsement recommendation after the filing period is over. Our June meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday for the Endorsement Committee to make their recommendations. If you want to make your own endorsement, you need to inform the members of your endorsement and it is a requirement that a candidate wants to be endorsed. If you know a candidate who is seeking an endorsement, have them contact Martin or Andrew.

Martin: We have moved to have only members vote in any vote. This is to ensure we know it is a legitimate vote. We are issuing membership cards.

LAC Day – Brad Larssen

Brad mentioned that 17 people attended LAC Day in Olympia. The LAC got a lot of attention. 24 legislators wanted an audience with the LACs. Speaker Frank Chopp spoke to the group, he talked about needing to find a way to fund our essential services. The 45th LD was well represented. Photos have been posted on the website.

Legislative Action Update – Kathleen Reynolds

Kathleen: The next King County LAC meeting is at the Burien Library on March 15th. She encouraged members to write letters and emails to our representatives. About half of the bills we are watching were not passed out of committee. There are 4 bills in the rules committee right now that are priorities.

Comment: the Homeowners Bill of Rights has just moved to the senate floor.

Question: what is the date the bill has until it is dead?

Answer: It has to get out of the house of origin by March 8th.

Labor Report – Brad Larssen

Another priority bill is the Worker Privacy Act. It would ensure workers have their first amendment rights. There are 47 sponsors in the house. The unemployment bill focusing on emergency relief has passed.

PCO Appointments – Ken Albinger

Ken announced that Siri Bliesner would like to be a PCO. Siri stepped up and spoke to the general membership. Siri would be the PCO in RED 45-2410. It was moved and seconded to appoint Siri PCO, motion passed unanimously. Inge Theisen volunteered to be a Precinct Captain in KIR 45-2911.

Ken said that the PCO committee met and they are recruiting additional mentors. The committee would encourage members to volunteer, reach out, and help mobilize their neighborhoods. We want people trained before the June filing deadline to mobilize the PCOs for the election.

Martin advocated other members to volunteer to be PCOs. PCO training is in Renton on this Saturday. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact Paul Yarobough if you would like to be involved.

King County Alternate Committeeman Election

Martin announced Mike Finkle's resignation of King County Alternate Committeeman. Martin laid out the responsibilities of the King County Alternate Committeeman. Martin opened the floor nomination. Dwayne Wentz was nominated and seconded to the position. Cleveland Mack was nominated and seconded for the position. Dwayne addressed the general members. Cleveland addressed the general members. Martin reminded the general body that in order to vote in the election, a voting credential must held. A tallying committee was formed. The election came to a tie vote, 16-16. There was some discrepancies to the validation of the vote and a revote was enacted. The tallying committee counted the ballots from the second vote. The second ballot came out to be a tie, 15-15, with one abstaining. A coin toss was made. Cleveland Mack was elected.

Woodinville All Fools Day – March 28th – Wayne Farrer

Wayne told the general body that the Woodinville all fools day parade is on march 28th and called for volunteered. The parade is at 11am, but the staging time is from 8am to 10am. The meeting place is the Woodinville Park and Ride.

KCDCC Executive Board Report – Becky Chaney, Jin Yang

Becky reported the general assembly. The several candidates for various positions spoke at the meeting. The PCO count in King County was 1233 PCOs for this year.

Featured Volunteer Opportunities – Website Committee, Letters to the Editor

Martin asked for volunteers to be part of the website committee. Content writers are the most desired volunteers. Martin also advocated for members to write letters to the editor to the local newspapers. Contact Melissa Waldie or Martin if you want to volunteer.

Chair's Report

Martin informed the members of the dates, times, and locations of the upcoming events.

- Derby Days Coordinator
Martin appointed Wayne Farrer as Coordinator of Derby Days in Redmond.
- Institute for a Democratic Future
Ian Jacobson is participating with the Institute for a Democratic Future. Ian spoke about an upcoming trip to Washington DC. Martin asked the members to donate airline miles to Ian for the Washington DC trip.
- The King County Conservation District election is upcoming. Becky Chaney spoke about the duties for the position. The election is on March 19th. The Redmond Library is one polling place, other polling places include Carnation, Bellevue, and North Bend. The voting locations will be sent to the members.

Other Committee Reports, Officer Reports and Representatives Report

No other reports.

Short Topics/Open Forum

Thursday March 12th is Equality Day in Olympia, more information is at Equal Rights Washington website.

The Washington Progressive Caucus is meeting on March 21st. An email will be sent out on the announcement list.

Good of the Order

No issues were raised.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27.