

45th LD Democrats
General Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2008

Call to Order and Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney, Chair, at 7:05 p.m. and Joe Lane led the flag salute.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by a show of hands.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the last month's meeting, previously posted on the website for review, were adopted by a show of hands.

“Obama Moment”

- Jeremy York shared an Obama video about organizing and how to help the campaign. It talked about the effects of people getting involved and included clips about why people are getting active and the lasting affect of community involvement/improvement.

Reports by Elected Officials and Primary Election Winners (as present)

- Larry Springer
 - Larry gave a campaign updated. Larry continues to work on his campaign. He has a good lead from the primary but is not taking anything for granted. He brought yard signs for those who wanted them.
 - Larry also encouraged everyone to do all they can to work on Roger Goodman's campaign. Roger's race is very close and all help is appreciated.
 - Larry emphasized the importance of a strong democratic turnout in the general election.
- Jenna spoke on behalf of Eric Oemig
 - Jenna spoke about concerns for the environment. Eric is participating in a scientific poll on affects of carbon pollution and is looking for volunteers to help with a phone survey.
 - Eric will be hosting an end of summer event in Woodinville. Jenna provided flyers with information on the event. Refreshments will be provided and families are welcome.
- Roger Goodman
 - Roger thanked everyone for all their support and help with the campaign. He spoke about some of the tactics they've been seeing from a surrogate for his opponent.

- Roger's campaign plans to stay on message about the issues and emphasize the need to stop the negative campaigning. Voters are sick of attacks and negativity.
- Yard signs have arrived and the firefighters are helping get them put together. Roger encouraged everyone to take 3 – one for their yard and two to place in strategic places.
- Tom Conlon, Roger's campaign manager, provided his email address and encouraged everyone to send a note if they want a yard sign or if they want to volunteer. The campaign has postcard packets for addressing if anyone wants to help with that project.
- Matt Loschen, the treasurer for Roger's campaign, shared information about a fundraiser being held at his house on September 13th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Matt can be contacted for an invitation.
- Martin added that Roger's race is one of the most exciting races in our district and winning will prove the 45th LD is really a blue district.

Introduction of Visiting Candidates

Martin recognized visiting candidates who had spoken at previous meetings and they each spoke very briefly. Those present were:

- Sue Parisien – King County Superior Court, Position 1
 - Sue discussed her background, including her work in the Attorney General's office with Chris Gregoire and Rob McKenna. She shared that she has done civil rights work related to all kinds of discrimination.
 - Sue also has had "in house" experience as an attorney when she was the Director of General Liability for Nordstrom. She spoke about her differences from her opponent.
- Tim Bradshaw – King County Superior Court, Position 1
 - Tim also shared his background and the fact that he grew up in King County. He shared that works on behalf of victims and his advocacy for children and abused women. He spent 10 years in the homicide unit and has tried both civil and criminal cases.
 - Tim shared his belief in the courts, impartiality and justice. He stated that he has learned much from being in the court – to be civil, respectful and to treat everyone with open arms.
 - Tim also shared several of his more prominent endorsements.
- Brian Jeffries on behalf of Terry Bergeson
 - Brian has known / worked for Terry for over 10 years. He reviewed the performance of schools and accomplishments of Terry's office while she has been in it. He stated that Terry has worked the past 35 years to increase student opportunity and she is passionate about working with teachers, students and parents to bring opportunities to children.
- Martin recognized city council members, Jessica Greenway (Kirkland) and Richard Cole (Redmond).

Primary Election Endorsement Review – Endorsement Committee

- Brad Larssen, Duane Wentz and Andrew Villeneuve recapped the current status on state level races, including:
 - Governor: The race is close. We need to put in a lot of effort to get Governor Gregoire re-elected.
 - Legislators in 45th LD: Larry Springer appears to be in good standing. Roger Goodman's race is much closer. We need to be efforts into Roger's campaign, as well.
 - Attorney General and Secretary of State: John Ladenburg's and Jason Osgood's races are not doing as well as other state offices.
 - Superintendent of Public Instruction: The field has been narrowed down to Terry Bergeson and Randy Dorn.
- Q&A:
 - Joe Lane asked if there was any new information on the Obama / McCain split for the state since the primary. Brad responded that we only know what the periodic polls show.
 - Jeanette Merki asked about the results in the judicial race for King County Superior Court, Position 22. Andrew shared that Rebecca Graham was eliminated. Holly Hill and Julia Garratt will continue on to the General Election.
 - Other Judicial Races: For Position 37, Jean Rietschel and Barbara Mack will continue on. Regina Cahan – Position 10, Mariane Spearman – Position 53, and Laura Gene Middaugh – Position 26 won their races outright.
 - Abbott Smith noted that we should not forget about Darcy Burner's race, as well. There is a 3-4% spread from the Primary and we need to help her campaign, too.
- Initiative 26 – King County initiative that turns partisan offices into non-partisan offices: This initiative passed and will move forward.
- Andrew noted that Sam Reed predicted a 46% turnout state wide. It appears to be coming in around 42%. Andrew discussed the impacts of the Top Two primary on the turnout.
- Andrew also noted that as the ballot counts continued the Republicans appeared to gain ground in the close races. These races were closer on election night than in the later tallies. Every candidate will benefit from strong GOTV efforts. It is crucial we all do our part!

Election Activities – Ken Albinger

- Ken distributed training materials for PCOs and discussed the training session that was held last night. Another session will be held this Saturday at the Kingsgate library at 10:00 a.m.
- The PCO Support team met with various campaigns strategists to develop plans for the fall. The recommended activities, tactics, and races that are the top priorities have been identified and communicated.

- Ken noted that the Campaign for Change is also holding training sessions every Friday at 6:00 p.m. for neighborhood leaders. If you are unable to walk the precincts, calling campaigns are also available.
- Voter identification is also included, as this is an important activity to setting the stage for GOTV. Phone banks are also available for voter ID calls.
- Ken reviewed voter registration and filing for change of address. The deadline for voter registration is October 4th.
- If help is needed, PCOs should call their mentor. Ken encouraged everyone to dig in and work your neighborhood. When done with your precinct, there are virtual phone banks available for the 8th CD. As you find supporters and recruit them to help. Keep a list of voters you register and be sure registration forms are complete before they are turned in.
- Absentee ballots go out in 6 ½ weeks!

Presentation: Climate Solutions – Joelle Robinson

www.climatesolutions.org www.1skywashington.org

- Non-profit working on practical and profitable solutions to global warming.
- Climate Solution and Washington Environmental Council are working together for strong state policies to transition to a clean energy economy.
- They have 40 partner groups – non-partisan, from all walks of life – who say we want our leaders to make climate a top priority.
- Joelle passed around a sign up sheet and provided talking points for letters to the editor. A candidate guide is also available in .pdf format. Those interested can send an email from their website to request a copy.
- They continue to seek new partner associations. If anyone works with an organization that would be interested in being a partner, they can fill out partner form from the website.
- Joelle encouraged everyone to get engaged. The time to act is now. She suggested calling your legislators and letting them know you are supporting this effort.

Presentation: Sound Transit 2

- Andrew Villeneuve introduced the speaker, Rob Johnson, from the Transportation Choices Coalition. Rob noted while handing out literature that he is also the deputy campaign manager for Mass Transit Now.
- Rob briefly reviewed what is included in the initiative and shared that one of the reasons Democrats are supporting the initiative is because transportation is the biggest pollutant in the region. It is the environmental issue of our time. He also stated that the initiative is good for the economy in that it will be good for labor unions and jobs in both construction and the operations of transportation.
- Rob noted that there has been a lot of buzz from the opponent. He believes much of it is hype and should be discounted. They have a lot of money to spend on opposing the measure, but we shouldn't allow that to fool us.
- Q&A:

- **Question:** Where does this measure stand in the most current polls?
Answer: 63% approval in the August poll. Rob noted that one difficulty they face is that this initiative appears very far down the ballot. People need to encourage voters to go through the entire ballot and vote on this issue.
- **Question:** Bill Roman shared that he commutes each day from Duvall to Bothell for work and there doesn't seem to be much availability east of Redmond. When will transit get to this area? **Answer:** Sound Transit is not county wide and doesn't extend past the growth management boundary. However, by making an investment in this kind of program, everyone will benefit. The more infrastructure put in place, the better it will be for all.
- **Question:** When commuting from Seattle to Puyallup you can take the train in the morning, but the schedule in the evening isn't workable.
Answer: Sound Transit 2 will improve the schedule for those routes and make 2 – 4 options instead of just one. It will improve mobility for a lot of folks.
- **Question:** From looking at the schedule, it appears that trains sit during day. Why is that? **Answer:** Currently there are 12 trips a day. Sound Transit 2 will increase this to close to 30 trips a day. Sound Transit doesn't have the right of way and has to share with freight rail as well, but they continue to work to improve the schedules.

Additional Endorsements – Endorsement Committee

- Martin reminded everyone about eligibility to vote. Names appearing on the pre-printed sign in sheets are members and are entitled to vote. He encouraged those uncertain to verify that they appear on the sign in sheets.
- Martin also referenced work underway to tighten up the rules around voting. He then requested candidates being considered for endorsement to leave the room during the endorsement process.
- Andrew Villeneuve, Chair of the Endorsement Committee, recognized and thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work. He provided a recap of the endorsements that have been made to date and introduced the topics the Endorsement Committee would be presenting in their recommendations this evening.

Sound Transit 2

- Brad Larssen recapped the initiative and impacts. He presented the Endorsement Committee's recommendation to vote "Yes" on this initiative.
- A motion was made and seconded to endorse a "Yes" position on this initiative. Andrew then called any for discussion.
 - Dwight Baker noted that he has been a member of the King County Transit Advisory Committee for the last 2.5 years. He recommended deferring a decision on endorsement to next month. He shared that Microsoft is having a conference tomorrow that could yield additional

input. He made a motion to table endorsement consideration to next month's meeting (October).

- Andrew called for a second. No second was offered and Dwight's motion did not go forward.
- **Question:** Richard Cole strongly encouraged endorsing a "yes" position. He stated that we need to get the work started. If we don't get first stage started, we won't ever get to the other stages needed.
- No one else rose to speak.

VOTE: Passed, with one dissenting vote

Initiative 26 - King County Charter Amendment

- Andrew reviewed this initiative and impacts. For the primary, the LD endorsed a position against the initiative, but it gained enough support in the primary to move on and become a Charter Amendment in the general election. The Endorsement Committee recommended a "No" position.
- A motion was made and seconded to endorse a "No" position on this initiative. Andrew then called any for discussion.
- No discussion offered.

VOTE: Passed, with one dissenting vote

King County Superior Court – Position 1

- Duane Wentz reviewed this race. For the primary, we endorsed Susan Amini but she did not garner enough votes to move forward. We heard tonight from the two candidates who will move on to the general election, Sue Parisien and Tim Bradshaw.
- When the Endorsement Committee looks at judge races, they examine experience, ratings from other groups, and endorsements that have been made from various people and organizations.
- Duane noted that the King County Bar Association has rated Tim Bradshaw as exceptionally well qualified. They rated Sue Parisien as qualified. Duane noted that Tim Bradshaw has been rated higher by all groups. Sue Parisien does have criminal experience, but has a more varied background of both private and public sector experience. Endorsements seem to be pretty even with the exception that the King County Democrats endorsed Tim Bradshaw and not Sue Parisien.
- The Endorsement Committee is recommending an endorsement of Tim Bradshaw.
- A motion was made and seconded to endorse Tim Bradshaw for King County Superior Court – Position 1. Andrew then called any for discussion.
 - **Question:** Paul Yarbrough asked what kind of cases King County Superior Court handles. **Answer:** Both civil and criminal, though mostly civil cases.
 - Richard Cole moved to amend the motion and make it a dual endorsement for both Tim Bradshaw and Sue Parisien. The motion was seconded.

- Dee Carrel spoke against making a dual endorsement. As a PCO, she found it overwhelming to try and explain the endorsements to voters when there were dual endorsements.
- Richard Cole share that he had reviewed Sue Parisien’s endorsements, including a very glowing endorsement on her website from Governor Gregoire.
- No further discussion on the amendment was offered.

VOTE (on amendment): Failed

- No further discussion was offered on the original motion.

VOTE: Passed – 24 in favor, 10 opposed

King County Superior Court – Position 1

- Judith Hjorth moved to endorse Sue Parisien. The motion was seconded.
- Andrew called for discussion. None was offered.

VOTE: Failed – 18 in favor, 13 opposed

Superintendent of Public Instruction

- Andrew Villeneuve reviewed this race. It is now down to two candidates – Terry Bergeson and Randy Dorn. Previously the Endorsement Committee did not recommend an endorsement of a specific candidate. Now that the race is down to two candidates – Terry Bergeson and Randy Dorn – the Endorsement Committee did further research.
- Andrew shared his viewpoint as son of educators. He shared Randy Dorn’s background and the Endorsement Committee’s decision to recommend endorsing him.
- A motion was made and seconded to endorse a Randy Dorn position on this initiative. Andrew then called any for discussion.
 - **Question:** Abbott Smith asked – Why didn’t the Endorsement Committee recommend endorsing Randy Dorn originally in July?
Answer: In July when they were doing the original research the field was crowded and they could not find enough information at that time. More information has since become available, enabling a recommendation to be formed.
 - **Question:** Bob Horn asked – What is Randy Dorn going to do differently? **Answer:** Randy believes in going to the legislature and demanding the full funding that is needed for schools.
Clarifying Question: Do you mean funding for instruction and not just capital? **Answer:** Yes. Also, Randy wants graduation requirements to reflect other things like GPA and attendance, not just test results. He wants accountability of the office, as well, and he wants to improve relationships with legislators.
 - **Comment:** Joe Lane noted – With regards to the WASL, when you compare Washington schools to California schools the standards are better even though class size is larger. Joe stated his belief that this is because teachers are held responsible. However, he also thinks there is too much emphasis on the administrative side of

teaching to the test and he wants to continue to hold teachers accountable as well.

- **Comment:** Shelley Kloba spoke against this endorsement. She stated that she is coming from the perspective of the PTA and being focused on what's good for the children. She is not hearing from Dorn that his focus is on the children and she believes this is very much Bergeson's focus.
- **Comment:** Rita Margolies stated that she feels the WASL is a poor test for high school kids. She has talked to teachers who can't pass the math portion of the WASL. She feels it is a ridiculous test and they shouldn't have to teach to it.
 - **Response:** Shelley stated her belief that in the last legislative session the math portion of the WASL was eliminated.
 - **Response:** Rita stated that this was not the case. Her daughter is taking it right now and they have to pass it or take it again until they do so.
- **Comment:** Judith Shattuck noted that the discussion is centering on the WASL test. Terry Bergeson has been the champion of this test. Judith suggested we look at the candidates instead of the test. She noted that the King County Democrats refused to endorse either candidate and the 45th LD did not endorse either candidate in previous meetings. She doesn't feel that either candidate is really what we need. An endorsement says we think the person being endorsed is a good candidate. She doesn't support either candidate.
- **Comment:** Jeremy York noted that the state party endorsed Dorn before the primary. He also shared that The Stranger had Terry Bergeson take the math portion of the WASL test and she failed it. However, he doesn't feel that you can necessarily blame Bergeson for the WASL as the authority came from the legislature, but she does have the authority to establish priorities around it.

VOTE: passed, 24 in favor, 11 opposed

Eastside Dinner

- Martin reminded everyone this event will be held on Sunday, September 21st at The Golf Club at Newcastle. The cost per person is \$100.
- Register online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/41412> or send check payable to "Eastside Democrats Dinner" to 17022 NE 133rd St., Redmond, WA 98052.
- Aileen Carter noted that the key speakers will be Chris Gregoire and Ed Shultz. Reservations are needed. You need to complete the reservation form to indicate your dinner selection and seating preference.
- Volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets at the dinner. The LD is also responsible for providing 2 door prizes. If anyone can help, please let Aileen know.

- Martin noted that we trying to fill a table for each legislator and one for district chair. This event provides the money that keeps the lights on for our district. Additional funds raised increase our ability to donate to candidates.

Candidate Contributions

- Ralph Gorin shared that the Executive Board recently determined we have funds we can contribute to the campaigns. The source of these funds is monies collected at the precinct and legislative district caucuses. In determining the available funds the Executive Board reserved the carry over needed for next year.
- Ralph then provided an explanation of considerations given to maximum allowable contributions and legal requirements.
- The Executive Board recommended allocations are:
 - \$5000 Roger Goodman
 - \$2000 Christine Gregoire
 - \$2000 Peter Goldmark
 - \$1000 Jay Inslee
- Ralph explained the reasoning of the breakdown.
- A motion was made and seconded to contribute the funds to the candidates as recommended by the Executive Board. Martin then called for discussion.
 - Bob Horn proposed a friendly amendment. He explained that at the Executive Board meeting he had recommended we also contribute to Washington Public Campaigns. He believes this would be an opportunity to make a statement about our values. He moved to give \$1000 to Washington Public Campaigns instead of Jay Inslee. The motion was seconded.
 - **Question:** A question was raised if a donation to Washington Public Campaigns would be legal as they may not be in the same tax status. **Answer:** Martin stated that he was uncertain about the answer to this question.
 - **Question:** what is Washington Public Campaigns? **Answer:** They promote publically funded campaigns.
 - **Comment:** If we pass this amendment, we will need to research the legality before disbursing funds. Bob Horn agreed to amend the motion to indicate that if it is found the contribution to Washington Public Campaigns can not be completed legally, the funds would then be donated to Jay Inslee instead.
 - **Comment:** Priscilla O'Leary spoke against the amendment. While agreeing we should support Washington Public Campaigns, she feels that the urgency is with the candidates who will be on the ballot in November. We can donate other funds to Washington Public Campaigns later and still have it be timely for their work with the legislature in the January session.
 - **Comment:** Duane Wentz spoke in favor of the amendment. He stated that we need to get the money out of politics. Washington Public Campaigns is a small organization. They only have two

paid staff. Everyone else is a volunteer. They are ramping up for the legislative season and are in need of funds.

- **Comment:** Andrew Villeneuve agreed that we should give to Washington Public Campaigns, but as a Legislative District he believes we need to support our candidates first. He is also concerned about the potential issue of legality. In his research it appears that Washington Public Campaigns is a 501c3 and 501c4.
- **Comment:** Judith Shattuck – Speaking as the Platform and Resolutions Committee Chair, we passed 3 resolutions at the Legislative District caucus. Two had to do with taking corporate money out of the political process. Another was related to clean elections. She feels that donating money to Washington Clean Campaigns, regardless of when we do it, would be in good keeping with the values we've expressed.
- **Comment:** Joe Lane agreed that Washington Public Campaigns is a worthy cause and he would like to see us support it. The next 6 weeks is what counts at the moment. The campaigns need money now. He supports donating to Washington Public Campaigns when we have more funds in the next month or so.

VOTE: (on amendment): Failed, with 3 in favor

- **Question:** Brad requested restate distribution of funds and Ralph complied.
- No further discussion was offered.

VOTE: passed, unanimously

PCO Appointments

No new PCO appointments this month.

Short Topics / Open Forum

- Jeremy York noted that he has a few Obama yard signs available for \$3.50 each on a first come, first serve basis. He will be ordering more soon. If anyone is interested in pooling orders, let him know.
- Judith Shattuck shared that we had a wonderful turnout at the picnic. She thanked everyone who came, donated money, picked up afterwards, picked up supplies, etc. She thanked Jeremy for getting the hamburgers donated and passed out cards for the company that donated the meat.
- Rita Margolies announced the formation of Eastside Women for Change. The group will be getting together each Thursday at the Gregoire office to do phone banking for Obama and Gregoire. Anyone interested can sign up at BarackObama.com or can contact Rita. The group will also be planning some visibility events and house parties. They are looking for someone in Duvall to help focus on that area.
- Paul Yarbough asked when the endorsements Slim Jims will be available. Martin said that he will work with Andrew to get the final copy completed.

- Dee Carrel noted that the Eastside King County Democratic Women meet the third Wednesday of each month. This month they will have a speaker to talk about Sound Transit 2. Last month's speaker was from NARAL. They suggest that everyone with school aged children evaluate the specific sex education program in their school. It has been found that Duvall and Carnation schools are teaching abstinence only and incidences of STDs are skyrocketing.

Committee, Officer, and Representative Reports

- None given due to time constraints

Good of the Order

- None due to time constraints.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th LD Democrats