

KITSAP DEMOCRAT



Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee

Oct.-Dec. 2007

New Board Members, Ballot Measures and Endorsements

The Executive Board of the Kitsap County Democrats is on the move. In fact, three members moved out of the districts they represent. It was therefore necessary to hold new elections to replace them at the September membership meeting.

New Board Members

Precinct Committee Officers (PCO's) from Commissioner District One (NK) elected **Steve Olsen** to replace Chuck Atcheson. Steve lives on Bainbridge Island and is a former Vice Chair of KCDCC.

PCO's in Commissioner District Two (SK) chose River Curtis-Stanley (26th LD) and Jim Maddock (35th LD PCO) to replace Graham Skelly and Robert Reynolds..

Wiggins Recommended for State Supreme Court

Members also gave overwhelming approval of a motion to recommend the appointment by Governor Christine Gregoire of **Charlie Wiggins** to the State Supreme Court. Numerous members spoke enthusiastically in favor of appointing the well-known Bainbridge attorney to the State Supreme Court. After much debate, members also agreed to

endorse Mary Ann Huntington for Bremerton Port Commissioner.

Ballot Measures

Members were in unanimous agreement with the following recommendations by the Executive Board (see articles inside):

YES on 4024 to allow school levies to be passed by a simple majority.

YES on Bremerton Parks Levy Lid Lift.

NO to Tim Eyman Initiative 960 which would require a supermajority and/or voter referendum on all tax or fee increases.

YES to Referendum 67 to retain the new "Insurance Fair Conduct Act," which prohibits insurance companies from unreasonably or negligently denying a claim for coverage or payment of benefits.

Ballots for the general election will be mailed October 19 and are due no later than Election Day, Tuesday, November 6.

NOTE: Be sure to put the February 9th caucus meetings on your calendar for next year.



Carl Olson, Chair of the Kitsap County Democrats, and Marilyn Boynton, our wonderful organizer for the annual picnic, take a minute off from feeding the hungry and auctioning desserts. The large gathering feasted on fried chicken and short talks by our legislators and public officials. Congressman Norm Dicks gave his perspective on national politics and had high praise for local candidates.

Kitsap County Democrats Annual Holiday Party

*Wednesday, December 12,
Silverdale Beach Hotel
\$37 per person
Reception 5:30 p.m.
Buffet 6:30 p.m.
Entertainment: 7:30 p.m..
Reservations required*

*RSVP/Contact
Martha Lynn-Johnson
360-204-5257
marthalj@wavecable.com*

Meetings and Events

KCDCC Executive Board:

Chair, Carl Olson, 360-698-6833,
kitsapdemocrat@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair, Laurie Jackley, 360-871-7705, bjackley@sinclair.net

Treasurer, Ginger Sommerhauser,
360-337-7334, jim.
sommerhauser@comcast.net

Secretary, Yvonne Saddler, 360-697-1278, ymsaddler@embarqmail.com

State Committeewoman/Past Chair,
Sharon Peterson, 360-479-4479,
shapeter16@msn.com

State Committeeman, David Peterson,
360-692-5322, dwp@wavecable.com

Jo Fox Burr, Chair, Democratic Women
Remo Barr, Chair 23rd LD,
Susan Cruver, Chair, 26th LD
Jim Chapin, Chair, 35th LD
Linda Gabriel, 23rd State
Committeewoman
Jim Sharpe, 23rd State Committeeman

Commissioner District 1:

Marilyn Boynton
Natalie Bryson
Gene Bullock
Steve Olsen
Walt Washington

Commissioner District 2:

Jim Herron
Lois Knutson
Jim Maddock
Alison Sonntag
River Curtis-Stanley

Commissioner District 3:

Martha Bird
John Gideon
Ron Gillespie
John Morgan
Jim Sommerhauser

Editor/Publicity Chair:

Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635,
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Oct. 7 (Sun)--23rd LD Democrats General Meeting, 4 – 6 p.m., Poulsbo Fire Hall; Speaker: Scott Lindquist, Kitsap County Health District.

Oct. 11 (Thurs)--Sen. Derek Kilmer's first Annual Pie-tacular!
Thursday, October 11 at The Inn at Gig Harbor (3211 56th St. NW in Gig Harbor, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 (Sat)—35th LD Democrats, Bremerton Airport Diner Meeting Room. Speaker: Tim Botkin and Ken Atteber on SEED project.

Oct. 15 (3rd Mon.)--Kitsap County Democrats General Meeting; 6 p.m. social; 7 p.m. meeting. Events Center, County Fairgrounds. Carol Estes, lobbyist for Quakers, on prison reform.

Oct. 19--Ballots in the mail.

Oct. 22 (Mon)--Maggie Awards Dinner, featuring Senator Hillary Clinton.

Oct. 24 (4th Wed.)—Kitsap Democratic Women's Club, Angel's Buffet; 11:30 a.m. Speaker: Chris Endresen

Nov. 5 (1st Mon.)--KCDCC Exec. Board, 6:30 p.m., Machinists Hall, Bremerton.

Nov. 6 (Tues)—ELECTION DAY – ballots due.

Nov. 6 (1st Tues.)--26th LD Democrats, Kitsap Room, Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd., Port Orchard; 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting

Nov. 19 (3rd Mon.)--Kitsap County Democrats General Meeting; 6 p.m. social; 7 p.m. meeting. Events Center, County Fairgrounds. Speaker: Elena Perez, Grocery Workers Union.

Nov. 28 (4th Wed.)—Kitsap Democratic Women's Club, Angel's Buffet; 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 3 (Tues)--KCDCC Exec. Board, 6:30 p.m., Machinists Hall, Bremerton.

Dec. 4 (1st Tues.)--26th LD Democrats, Kitsap Room, Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd., Port Orchard; 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting

Dec. 8 (Sat)--Kitsap Democratic Women's Club Holiday Luncheon, Silverdale Beach Hotel, 11:30 a.m. \$35 per person. Contact Martha Lynn-Johnson at 360-204-5257; email: marthalj@wavecable.com.

Dec. 12 (Wed)—Annual Kitsap Democratic HOLIDAY PARTY; Silverdale Beach Hotel. Reception (no-host bar) 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$35 per person. Reservations required. Contact Martha Lynn-Jonshon, 360-204-5257; email: marthalj@wavecable.com.

Feb. 9 –Democratic Caucus. Details to be announced.

Feb. 13 (Sat)—Annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, Bremer Center, Olympic College. Contact Marilyn Boynton to volunteer or donate items for the auction: 360-297-2776; mimi@donobi.net

23rd LD News—Remo Barr, Chair

Our annual fundraiser Salmon Dinner took place at the beautiful Kiana Lodge on September 19. Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer emceed the evening and Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler spoke on health care.

A new fun event organized by Lillian Crawford was a successful dessert auction. Special thanks to the 23rd executive board and the following who contributed desserts: Natalie Bryson, Pam Huddleston, Betty Clark, Dolores Doninger, Rob Gelder and Martha Lynn-Johnson.

Below are our 23rd LD chosen candidates for the November election. Since these races are

non-partisan, endorsements and approvals do not always go to Democrats, but to the person we think is best suited to the job.

(Please read an article by Jim Sharpe on this topic in our 23rd Fall newsletter on our web site.)

Bainbridge Island: City Council - Barry Peters (At-Large), Hilary Franz (North Ward), Bill Knobloch (Central Ward), Kim Brackett (South Ward); Parks and Recreation Commissioner – Lee Cross (Position 1)

Poulsbo: City Council – Linda Berry-Maraist (Position 1), Becky Erickson (Position 3)

Central Kitsap: School Director

– Chris Stokke (District 3);

Fire and Rescue Commissioner

– Dennis L. Sheline (Position 4)

Endorsed issues: Vote Yes on Referendum 67 (Insurance Fair Conduct Act) and Approve 4204 (simple majority for school levies)

Opposed issue: Vote No on 960 (Tim Eyman's idea to require a public vote on every single tax or fee increase before the legislature)

Since our next general meeting is from 4-6 p.m. on 7 October at the Poulsbo Firehall, we may have other endorsements. A final list will be e-mailed to our list and posted on our web site.

26th LD News Susan Cruver, Chair

You're Invited to Derek Kilmer's First Annual Pie-tacular!

Thursday, October 11 at The Inn at Gig Harbor (3211 56th St. NW in Gig Harbor, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

It will be a few years before we pound the pavement to re-elect Derek Kilmer, but he and the other freshman Senators have been challenged to raise a percentage this year of the funds they will need. The Kilmers have chosen to sweeten the deal with pie. Lots of pie. It will be pie-tastic.

Those who have other plans can still send a contribution (checks payable to Friends of Derek Kilmer) to PO Box 1574, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Donations are appreciated to help Derek rebuild his reelection war-chest. To RSVP contact Derek Kilmer at derekforsenate@aol.com or at 253-970-9584.

Fred Finn to Run for State Representative in the 35th

Fred Finn, a Democrat who lives in rural Thurston County, announced his candidacy for State Representative of the 35th Legislative District. The 35th District includes all of Mason and parts of Kitsap, Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties.

Finn, age 61, is a Thurston/Mason County area businessman, involved in commercial real estate, including the renewal of downtown Shelton. He and his wife Bonnie have been married for 28 years. Finn has three children and one grandchild. A past Griffin School Board Member and founding Director of the Washington Business Bank, Finn currently is a member of the Mason County Hospital Foundation Board as well as numerous business and civic

organizations in Thurston and Mason counties.

He has lived in the 35th District for 18 years and is past vice chair of the 35th LD Democrats. Prior to moving to the 35th District, he practiced telecommunications law in Washington D.C.

For information contact: 360-866-2000 or email: fredfinnforstarep@hotmail.com



Kreidler on Referendum. 67 – Vote YES

Every year, my office receives thousands of complaints from auto owners, homeowners, property owners, and small business owners about delays and denials of legitimate insurance claims.

That's unacceptable -- and that's why I'm urging all Washington voters to Approve Referendum 67.

Consumers just want their insurance companies to honor the commitments they made to them. Referendum 67 will help ensure that insurance companies treat Washington consumers fairly. It's a common sense ballot measure that's good for the hard-working people of our state.

Unfortunately, the insurance industry is threatening to spend nearly \$8 million to try to defeat Referendum 67 with a campaign of misinformation. So let me help set the record straight:

Auto and homeowner insurance premiums will not go up because

of Referendum 67. The fact is that if insurance companies treat their own policyholders the way they are required to be treated by law, insurance rates won't change. The only insurance companies with something to fear are those who make a practice of acting in bad faith with their own customers.

Health insurance premiums will not go up because of Referendum 67. The fact is that health insurance plans are specifically excluded from being covered.

Insurers will not be deluged by frivolous claims because of Referendum 67. Referendum 67 simply requires insurance companies to pay legitimate claims in a timely fashion and makes it illegal if they don't. Insurance companies playing by the rules will not have any additional requirements under Referendum 67.

In fact, insurance companies who treat their customers fairly will actually have an advantage in the marketplace because competitors that don't treat policyholders fairly will be subject to court-approved penalties. What's more, all penalties assessed against an insurance company charged with unfair practices must be court-approved under Referendum 67.

Here's the bottom line:

Referendum 67 simply will make sure that insurance companies treat Washington consumers fairly. Is that really too much to ask?

The insurance industry is spending millions of dollars to defeat this common sense initiative -- but with your support, we can spread the word and Approve 67 this November.

Mike Kreidler
Washington State Insurance
Commissioner

Support Our Public Schools--Approve 4204

Our kids deserve the best education possible from our local schools

But under current law a super majority of 60% or more is required to pass a local school levy. Many levies fail with 59% of the vote. That's just not fair to our kids.

Simple Majority for Our Schools (Approve 4204), on the ballot in November, will allow school levies to pass with a simple majority vote.

Here are a few reasons why you should support 4204:

Because local levies provide our schools with fundamental needs such as textbooks, smaller class sizes and employee training.

Because our schools need help. It's hard for our kids to learn when Washington ranks 47th in the nation in class size.

Because levy failures hurt our kids by forcing schools to focus on new levy elections instead of educating our children.

Because the 60% rule is unfair. Your community can approve things like a new park, a new sports stadium or a new jail by a simple majority vote – but not a school levy.

Simple Majority for Our Local Schools, **Approve 4204**, has been hard at work. The result is a massive coalition of educators, individuals, businesses, labor unions, Democrats and Republicans. They all say the 60% rule is unfair to our kids and schools.

Vote NO on 960!

I-960 is an initiative sponsored by Tim Eyman that would create a bureaucratic mess. It would require a public vote on countless budget items, no matter how small. The result? Less efficient government, long and confusing ballots, and millions of dollars wasted on endless elections. It will put vital health care, education, transportation, conservation and other priorities at risk.

I-960 seeks to make it all but impossible for taxes and fees to keep pace with both growth and need. The end result will be a requirement of a public vote on every single tax or fee increase, sending our state government into chaos.

I-960 will not cut taxes. Instead, it will waste your money on needless elections that are expensive to administer and process. Sorting out the many

legal issues create by I-960's confusing and poorly written language will tie up the courts, costing taxpayers time and money. Join police, firefighters, teachers, nurses, Children's Alliance, WA Association of Churches, WA Conservation Voters, WA State Labor Council, and business leaders and citizens across Washington to vote **NO on 960**.

Fred Hill Pit-to-Pier A Bad Idea - Gene Bullock

Fred Hill Materials (FHM) is seeking a permit to go move with its pit-to-pier project. The first step is completion of an environmental impact statement (EIS). They rejected the choice of EIS consultant by Jefferson County commissioners and insisted instead on using the same consultant that worked with Glacier to get approval for a similar gravel-loading operation on Maury Island in an environmentally sensitive marine preserve. FHM also uses some of the lobbyists as Glacier.

FHM says the proposed pit-to-pier would allow them to eventually increase their output from 500,000 to 7.5 million tons of gravel per year. A previous estimate was 10 million tons.

Lease on 35 Square Miles

Yet FHM maintains a mineral lease on 23,000 acres (35 square miles) of forest land, all of it within the Hood Canal watershed. FHM is proposing a four-mile long conveyor to a 1,000 foot dock and 9-story pier designed to load 6,500 tons per hour. Its design capability

would allow FHM to load two 65,000-ton Panamax ore ships the size of NATO aircraft carriers every working day. According to estimates by the Hood Canal Coalition, the proposed pier is easily capable of shipping up to 40 million tons a year.

The pier will open the door to strip-mining and commercial shipping on a scale limited only by the growing worldwide market and the availability of larger ships and barges.

Threat to Hood Canal Bridge

Fred Hill claims barges can be safely towed under the east end of the Hood Canal Bridge without disrupting traffic. Their demonstration consisted of towing an empty 100-foot barge under the bridge on a windless day at slack tide. Yet plans call for towing 400-foot barges (larger than a football field) under varying conditions of wind, tide and weather. Loading several of these 20,000-ton barges a day would likely require frequent

opening of the bridge, with major disruptions of commuter/commercial traffic, tourism and the regional economy. Passage under or through the bridge risks collisions that could disable the entire bridge. This would risk far more than the few jobs FHM hopes to add.

Would Not Cut Truck Traffic

FHM claims the pier would relieve local truck traffic. Yet, by FHM's own estimates, the proposed pier and expansion would increase the volume of local truck traffic. Their true objective is to open worldwide export markets from Seattle to San Francisco to Singapore.

Congressman Norm Dicks and virtually every state and regional environmental group oppose the pit-to-pier expansion because they believe large-scale strip mining and industrial marine operations would do irreparable harm to the fragile health of the Hood Canal and its watershed, as well as threatening the Hood Canal Bridge and regional economy.

The Big Tent Advantage! – Walker Willingham

The “big tent” advantage is once again ours for the taking. It’s an extraordinary opportunity that we Democrats should not squander.

In the past two decades, that other party thought they could steal the big tent label from us, by taking advantage of popular distrust of some factions within the Democratic Party. But six years at the helm of both Congress and the White House have exposed their true colors, and alienated voters who should now see themselves as Democrats.

There’s an unfortunate misconception that for Democrats to take advantage of big tent politics we have to “move to the right” or become more centrist. That’s as silly as declaring that a city’s residents need to move north in order to annex a northern suburb.

No, big tent politics means we should be taking advantage of the natural Democrats who are now popping up all over the political spectrum, whether they once were voting Republican, or simply not voting at all.

I am what many would call a progressive Democrat. I’m passionate about peace, want to see a single payer health care system, would like to repeal corporate personhood, and legalize gay marriage. That hardly makes me a typical Democrat, and I know that. But I am certain that it is only within the Democratic Party that I can get a hearing for my views which has any chance of being represented in government. If I am talking to socially conservative Roman Catholic who

is passionate about social justice, opposed to the death penalty, but also opposed to gay marriage and abortion, I am probably going to talk about our common issues, but I know that I’m talking to another Democrat!

Absolutely we should express our passions! There is nothing amiss about arguing among ourselves. Heated disagreements can be healthy, but not when those disagreements devolve into accusations of “You don’t belong here!”

I was honored to be able to address our Kitsap County Democratic Convention back in 2004. When I first presented my address at the monthly meeting immediately preceding the convention, one attendee commented to me “you don’t understand us.” The comment contained no vitriol, and perhaps the commenter perceived something which I needed to understand or could benefit from. But what I heard was “you are not one of us”, and that’s a message we can ill afford to be giving out.

Ours is the party of inclusiveness. Religion, profession, income, how long we’ve been with the party, or whether we attend party functions are not prerequisites. Neither is ideological purity, or adherence to any particular political stance.

A political party should not become a special interest club. We can let that be the Republicans’ albatross, whether the special interest of the moment is big oil, overcompensated CEOs, or a narrowly defined religious

fundamentalism.

As Democrats we should be able to accommodate our diversity without relinquishing our values. Now those values are not going to look identical to all of us. In a nation as diverse as the United States, there’s no way that the people’s party is going to settle on a single values statement that works for everyone. But we can take pride when we champion the cause of “the little guy” over the interests of the high and mighty. We ought to agree that healthy debate should not be stifled, and the press should be an independent voice, not controlled by a few major players. We are the party concerned with taking care of the most vulnerable. It is Democrats who are in the front lines looking out for the interests of children, and the elderly, and our returning veterans.

Yes we will disagree among ourselves about programs, policies, and particulars. Yes we are the place where you will hear impassioned pleas for dramatic change or a new way of thinking. The Democratic Party is the incubator for healthy passions and visionary ideas. But if your neighbor doesn’t agree with you, it doesn’t necessarily mean they are not a Democrat. Now more than ever, ours is the Big Tent. And the Big Tent is the winning tent.

Walker Willingham is a PCO on Bainbridge Island.

Forest Fires and 9/11 – Bob Vermeers

In my youth, I was on a job with the forest service fighting forest fires. One day I was in a wooded area that was populated by trees about 50' high. Those trees had most of their foliage near the top; which contributed to a condition rife for a phenomenon called *topping out*. This occurred when the foliage was so dry and clustered near the top of the trees, and close enough together, that fire leaped from one tree to another without coming near the ground.

I started running in panic. I didn't get a dozen steps before a seasoned fire-fighter yelled, "stop!" I immediately did so. He took the time to explain to me that I was just not about to outrun that fire. The prudent action was to watch what those with experience were doing.

What a metaphor for 9/11!

It was the reaction of our government *leaders* that compares to my panic when I ran, in fright, from that roaring (and I do mean *roaring* – the fire was making a deafening sound that added to the horror that made me run). Where were the calmer minds we needed to prevail in this time of our national tragedy? They were probably there; but they were being ignored by the people in charge.

We *ran in panic* when there was no possibility we could *outrun* the perceived danger from the initial attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our administration's successful effort to get a majority of Americans to believe in a connection between 9/11 and Iraq enabled it to get a resolution adopted in

Congress to invade Iraq. That ill-conceived operation had the effect that parallels what would have probably happened to me if I had continued to run as that fire panicked me in my ignorance: I would have probably met with an accident, like running into a tree; a possibility because I was looking at the fire as I ran.

And the metaphor continues to illuminate issues in the national debate as it is. We have *run into a tree* in the Middle East and our nation has been harmed greatly. The only way we will ever recover is to withdraw from *the tree* we've run into, elect people with the experience and calm demeanor to do the right thing in moments of emergency. It is up to *We the People* to make that happen. It will only happen when we demand better accountability from those we elect and re-elect.

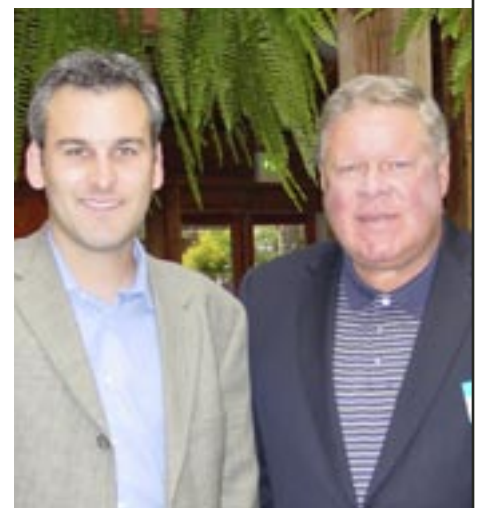
I encourage everybody to do more than just vote. As Howard Dean would say: "If you (only) vote you get a D." To get a better grade you must get active! Contact your Democratic party's local election office when it opens; and volunteer to help elect those who have the sound minds for the offices they are running to fill. And you can run for office. It is an excellent way to get a feel for the experience of public service in politics. At the same time you just might lose a little of that cynicism. The time and effort is well spent, I assure you.

And write to your elected officials often to offer your views. The truly competent leaders will continue to solicit your views and listen to them. I am convinced that

the ones I write to are listening. Their responses have been well thought out and indicate that they have open minds for my thoughts.

As a result of my experiences I am anything but a cynic. Yes, I am skeptical. I don't assume anybody is doing their job. I pay as much attention to their conduct as I can, within my capacity. In this age of the internet, we have access to more information than ever before. Keeping in mind that information is not knowledge, it is absorbing and comparing information from many sources that leads to understanding.

In conclusion, I offer this as a short guide to contributing to your community: "Lose the fear and hate; get involved."



Kitsap County Commissioner Josh Brown kicks off his campaign with a fundraising event in the rustic elegance of the Kiana Lodge in Suquamish. Hosted by U.S. Representative Norm Dicks, the event was exceptionally well attended.

**THE KITSAP
DEMOCRAT**

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Membership Application

This is your newsletter. Please help us continue to bring you the voice of Democrats. Yearly dues are \$25.00 per person. Mail your check today to KCDCC, P. O. Box 27, Silverdale, WA 98383. Your contributions to KCDCC will make our party stronger, more active and more effective. Contact the Editor to receive our newsletter via email. This will help us to communicate more effectively, efficiently, ecologically and economically. Thank you!

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If your donation is over \$100.00, please provide the following information so we can adhere to PDC regulations:

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Thank You

