

34th District Democrats
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 @ Hall at Fautleroy

7:01pm – Meeting called to order by Chair Tim Nuse. Ann Martin was invited to lead the flag salute.

7:02pm – Chair entertained a motion to adopt the agenda and to approve the [March meeting minutes](#) (*attached*). The motion was moved and seconded, then passed by the body.

7:04pm - *Chair's Report* - Chair welcomed back the District's Olympia delegation. The special session of the Legislature is finally ended!

Chair also introduced [Outreach Chair](#) Les Treall, who spoke briefly about having information tables at summer events around the District before passing a clipboard for volunteers to sign up on.

Chair also reminded everyone of some upcoming events:

- The 11th LD is hosting a Michael Moore Movie Watch Party at the [Columbia City Cinema](#), featuring Moore's film "Capitalism, A Love Story." The film will be shown on April 24th at 10:00am. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested. A discussion will follow the showing.

7:10pm - *First Vice Chair's Report* – Vice Chair Kim Becklund asked Membership Chair Jeff Upthegrove to stand, and then made a brief pitch for increasing one's membership contribution by utilizing [the new monthly deduction option](#).

7:11pm - *Joe Fitzgibbon – Announcement of Candidacy* – Another member has declared his candidacy for 34th District State House Representative, Position 2. Many members have known about Fitzgibbon's intentions for some time, but his declaration was delayed by the legislative session, where he has served as the Legislative Assistant to the current officeholder, Rep. Sharon Nelson. He spoke about how he first got involved in Burien and the 34th District, met Nelson and followed her to Olympia, and the numerous issues he has worked on for the District during his time as a Legislative Assistant. He also spoke of his work locally in Burien, where he has been deeply involved in transportation issues and is currently serving as Chair of the Burien Planning Commission.

7:25pm - Chair introduced Michael Gonzalez, [Teamsters Local Union #174](#) Business Agent and Organizer, to talk about the Waste Management and Allied Waste contract negotiations. Gonzalez spoke briefly about the union's concerns and the possibility of a strike against Waste Management. He also shared how to get on a [Community Trash Watch list](#) to receive news and updates and report pick-up problems by visiting their website or texting "Trash" to 86466 on your cell phone.

7:34pm - Chair also asked Sabra Schneider to address the membership about her withdrawal from the race for 34th District State House Representative, Position 2.

"I tore the ACL and MCL in my knee, which I had previously injured two weeks ago. My doctors have informed me that the injury will require several months of rehabilitation. Given this fact, I do not believe

I can engage in the doorbelling or meetings I had planned to do over the course of this campaign. Connecting with voters, while doorbelling, at community meetings and in person is a critical part of my campaign. I've elected to end my campaign and focus on healing my knee. I look forward to continuing to serve the community."

7:36pm - *Candidates Forum* – Chair invited Mike Heavey, Joe Fitzgibbon, and Marcee Stone [to the front table](#) for a forum moderated by himself and Becklund. Prepared questions were developed by the two moderators in consultation with the Executive Board, labor leaders, and others in the District; and members were invited to submit questions on paper slips during the Forum.

[Questions covered a wide variety of topics](#) from transportation to consensus-building to youth violence to tax reform and the possibility for a state income tax. **All three candidates for 34th District State House Representative, Position 2 called for tax reform in the state.**

8:19pm - *2010 Endorsement and Nomination Process* – Chair explained how the Top Two Primary process has affected elections in Washington, and how the Parties are now nominating their candidates (*see Page 7 of the April newsletter*). The [Washington State Democratic Central Committee](#) (WSDCC), the state-wide umbrella organization for the Democratic Party, is requiring all Legislative District organizations to hold an official nominating convention prior to this year's filing deadline. This is why our District is proposing to move its Endorsements process up to May, and is holding a Candidates Forum at this meeting. We plan to hold the Nominating Convention after members first cast their votes for their endorsements. We hope to encourage PCO's to have more dialogue this year with the members in their precincts and that the two processes can be harmonized as best as is possible to maintain the strong support of our organization in electing Democrats to office.

Chair took several questions from members clarifying the process, and how the meeting will run in May.

8:31pm - *Endorsement Rules* – Chair spoke about the Bylaws Committee process and the discussions that led to development of these proposed fixes to the Endorsement Rules adopted in 2009. He outlined the major changes proposed and recommended and directed members to review the Rules as approved by the Executive Board ([attached](#)):

- Allow flexibility to hold the Endorsement meeting in the months before an election, so that we don't have to come back every election cycle and open these rules up for approval
- Specifically define spoiled ballots as not counting toward votes cast
- Reduce the endorsement threshold from 2/3 to 60% (which would have resulted in two additional sole endorsements in 2009)
- Adds a new section #8 regarding Reconsideration of Previously Endorsed Races which follows the process adopted by the Executive Board in 2009

Susan Harmon moved to approve the amended rules and multiple hands seconded the motion. Some questions were raised and answered to understand the thinking behind the proposed changes.

Michael Taylor-Judd moved to make some small “housekeeping” fixes to the rules prior to their approval, and Richard Bartlett seconded the motion. These fixes included clarifying that an Endorsement Meeting must be held each year prior to the August Primary, that an Executive Board recommendation requires a simple majority of the votes, and all other endorsements require “60% or more.”

The fixes were received as a friendly amendment, and hearing no further discussion, a vote on the main motion was called. Approval of the new Endorsement Rules passed overwhelmingly, with only four votes against.

8:50pm – *New Business* – A [Resolution in Support of I-1068](#) endorsing [I-1068](#), which “would remove state civil and criminal penalties for persons eighteen years or older who cultivate, possess, transport, sell, or use marijuana” was brought up for a vote. There were speakers for and against the motion.

Chris Porter moved to table to Resolution until we could learn more information about the Initiative. The motion was seconded by multiple members, and passed 38-Yes to 22-No.

A [Resolution to Support Establishing a Bank of Washington State](#) was next brought up for a vote. One speaker spoke in favor of the Resolution before it passed overwhelmingly.

A [Resolution Concerning Port Trucking Operations](#) was brought up for a vote, which would resolve “that the 34th District Democrats support empowering ports to set their own environmental, safety and labor standards for port trucking operations and urge our elected Representative and Senators to do the same.” Martin mentioned that this resolution was already passed at the County Convention in slightly modified form and will be passed on to the State Convention. **No speakers spoke for or against the Resolution, which passed 44-Yes to 6-No.**

Harmon rose again to move to suspend the rules to consider an additional resolution not previously submitted to the Executive Board, which was seconded by several hands, and passed by voice vote.

The Resolution would resolve that “the 34th District Democrats express their strong opposition to Seattle City Councilmember Tim Burgess's “Aggressive Solicitation” Ordinance and shall forward a letter to this effect to Councilmember Burgess, other members of the City Council, and the Mayor, and... call on the City Council and Mayor instead to commit more of our city's time and resources towards real solutions such as preserving and expanding our city's affordable housing stock, adding livable wage jobs, and increasing community-based drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment.”

After speakers for and against, the Resolution passed 55-Yes to 4-No.

Chris Porter moved to suspend the rules to early endorse Joe McDermott for King County Council (8th), Eileen Cody for 34th District State House Representative Position 2, Sharon Nelson for 34th District State Senator, Jim McDermott for Congress (WA-8th), and Patty Murray for U.S. Senator. The motion was seconded by Ivan Weiss, and passed 47-Yes to 7-No.

Weiss then moved to amend the motion to add Adam Smith for Congress (WA-9th) to the early endorsement block. This received several seconds, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The early endorsement block then passed overwhelmingly by voice vote with two in opposition.

PCO Chair Kimber McCreery submitted an application for appointment as PCO from Tamsen Spengler: 34-1484, which was approved unanimously.

9:26pm - *Good of the Order* – West Seattle Food Bank is holding its “[Instruments of Change](#)” benefit in the Hall on April 30, 2010. Tickets are \$75, and the 34th has filled one table already.

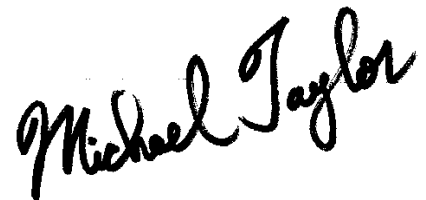
Karl de Jong called on members to Decline to Sign [I-1082](#), which “would authorize employers to use private industrial insurance... and eliminate the worker-paid share of medical-benefit premiums.”

[Washington Public Campaigns](#) will host its 2010 Awards Banquet on June 19, 2010, featuring Senator Maria Cantwell as Keynote speaker.

Steve Rosen, a Seattle-based attorney in private practice and part time judge running for Position #3 on the Seattle Municipal Court, introduced himself to members.

9:33pm - There being no further business to pursue, Chair motioned to adjourn for the evening.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary