

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats

Meeting of 8 March 2006

24. Chair Ivan Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Richard Bartlett led the flag salute.
25. The membership approved the agenda and the minutes of the February meeting.
26. Chair Weiss recognized elected officials who were present, including Seattle City Councilmember Sally Clark and King County Councilmember Dow Constantine.
27. Program: Mark Wilson, Megan Dixon and Richard Conlin
28. Mark Wilson, candidate for U. S. Senate
 - 28.1 Mark is a former United States Marine and a former Bering Sea crab fisherman. He is a candidate for Maria Cantwell's U. S. Senate seat on the Democratic ticket. Wilson wants to reach out to military families and labor.
 - 28.2 Wilson feels we've organized our economy around all things military. This is one reason we engage in military adventures is because we've invested so much in the military. He proposes to take a huge portion of this and direct it towards a national back-to-works program to bring renewable energy resources and sources to communities.
 - 28.3 Wilson 51 year-old father to a 3 year old son - his "personal war on terror".
29. Questions and answers for Mark Wilson:
 - 29.1 What's he offering Eastern Washington voters? The voice of reason. Opposition to Bush policies which take us in a direction of mutually assured destruction.
 - 29.2 What would he do differently than the current Senator? Sensible, immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. Mission is accomplished. Now Bush and Cheney and their cronies are plundering and privatizing everything.
 - 29.3 What is his position regarding drilling in ANWR? Opposes drilling in ANWR. Need to push renewable energy thru Apollo Alliance and similar initiatives.
 - 29.4 What does he think about the filibuster of Judge Alito's nomination (Cantwell voted for cloture)? Very disturbing outcome. Wilson would have voted no to cloture and against Alito's confirmation.
 - 29.5 What does he think of CAFTA and similar trade agreements? Need to renegotiate these - we've outsourced a million jobs. One result: China adding is adding 30,000 vehicles to the world in Beijing alone.
 - 29.6 Does he have sufficient financing – a war chest to oppose Cantwell? Yes - he has 6 months between now and the primary - what counts is votes not dollars. Wilson has volunteers working on his behalf.
 - 29.7 How does Wilson feel about the destruction of the oceans? "President Gore" was traveling the country recently against global warming. Wilson was a meteorologist in the Marine Corps – there is a collision impending between peak oil and global warming. Need to go renewable in a huge way. Rebuild railroads - move away from the family car.
 - 29.8 Wilson would make the final 2 years of the Bush nightmare hell for W and company - unifying behind whoever is the nominee. We also need to elect Darcy Bruner - get a Democratic majority in Congress.
 - 29.9 What's difference between Wilson and Maria Cantwell? 51% of Americans are women, 18% of Congress are women – he is only running against Cantwell because he feels she does not represent Washington State and is not re-electable. Our own State party platform needs to be a litmus test for support - she must commit to it - we need an electable candidate.
 - 29.10 Wilson has run for three different offices under three different parties – won't that harm his chances? On the contrary, Wilson believes this is one of his greatest strengths – ability to reach out to others. 129 votes were difference in governor's race. He is able to talk to issues.
30. Megan Dixon. Megan works with the “yes on I-937” - clean energy initiative.
 - 30.1 Twenty-one other states have passed a renewable energy program. Texas has one of the

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- strongest renewable energy programs. Environmental impacts are strong concern - reducing pollution and global warming. Such reductions will benefit world farms. Passing this initiative increases the amount of wind power in Washington State - each turbine will generate \$5000 for the farmer owning the land. The initiative needs to collect 160,000 signatures by June 30th this year to get the initiative on the ballot. They need our help.
- 30.2 This initiative will also unite the progressives of Washington state - wrest the initiative process from Tim Eyman.
31. Richard Conlin, Seattle City Councilmember.
- 31.1 Conlin started by thanking us for our support – he carried all but 8 precincts in the 34th - appreciated our endorsement and support.
- 31.2 Focus on three issues -
- 31.2.1 First, Conlin is chairing the Environment, Emergency Management and Utilities Committee. It will work on critical issues, e.g. emergency management. We have some serious needs to make sure our City is as prepared as it possibly can be. We need to get the information out to the neighborhoods. Earthquake preparation and pandemic flu are top priorities. Conlin serves on the Board of Health.
- 31.2.2 Second, there is a special committee on annexation, created this past Monday (March 6th). Members are Councilmembers Conlin, Drago and Della. They will work with Burien and other jurisdictions to help illuminate the issues and come to a decision this year.
- 31.2.3 Third, the Viaduct. Today the legislature approved a measure which puts the City Council in the position of approving the alternative for the viaduct. The Council can conduct public hearing / process and vote itself to recommend an alternative, or put an advisory measure on the ballot in November.
- 31.3 A number of members then asked questions or made comments on the viaduct / tunnel issue. Conlin clarified that the Legislature’s mandated deadline is November 1st for the Council to act. The Seattle City Council never has had the authority to act on the issue before - now they do. It is unusual for the Council to be put in the position of influencing this decision. Mitigation of the problems of commuting and noise during the construction process is another portion of this decision.
32. Open Microphone. At this point, Chair Weiss asked members to come to the microphone to speak on any issue they wished. Some topics discussed included use of computer systems used for voting, support of labor unions, e.g. Northwest Airlines, announcement of the Young Democrats’ upcoming Awards Banquet, support of biofuels, public funding of election campaigns, a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, impeachment of President Bush, a federal Department of Peace, the travesty of the need to raise the Federal government’s debt limit from 8.1 billion to 9 billion, an invitation to attend the West Seattle Democratic Women’s meeting, discussion of the Cantwell-Wilson U.S. Senate race, Adam Smith’s support of trade with China, yet China tramples on human rights, a request for supporting our state employees and our state employees bargaining unit, announcements about the Drinking Liberally Burien group and Hospitality House’s spring fundraiser in Burien, clearly defining criteria for closing Seattle Public schools (the 34th district will take a disproportionate hit) and privacy - unwarranted wiretaps done by the Bush administration.
33. Chair Weiss announced that next meeting in April will feature our annual legislative session wrap-up with Senator Erik Poulsen, plus Representatives Eileen Cody and Joe McDermott.
34. No PCO applications were received this month.
35. The Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schrier, Secretary