

Dear PCO,

You will decide important changes in the 34th district's legislative offices which have been triggered by the resignation of Senator Erik Paulsen. As a follow-up to an earlier letter I sent you, **I am including here more in-depth information about my background and position on issues affecting our 34th Legislative District.** I know it's a lot to read, but I want to give you as much information as I can about me and where I stand.

I am a candidate for the appointment to the House of Representative, Position #2 because I believe I have

- ✓ **the EXPERIENCE and effectiveness in developing public policy.**
- ✓ **the COMMITMENT and passion to the Democratic Party and Democratic principles.**
- ✓ **the TIME to devote full time to serving all the people of the 34th Legislative District.**

I represented the 34th District in the Legislature in 2002, so I know what it takes to stand up for our district. It was an honor to represent the 34th when I was appointed to serve during that legislative session, with the understanding that I would step aside when Rep. Eileen Cody was redistricted into the 34th.

- **I have worked hard for the 34th for over 30 years** - even when it was the old 31st! I have worked in the trenches on behalf of the 34th District Democrats for much of my adult life and I love this district and this organization. I have served in a number of roles with the 34th, including:
 - ◆ Chair of the 34th District Democrats (2001). As chair, I organized an outreach campaign that resulted in a significant increase in PCOs and district membership, undertook the first audit of our books, and initiated a successful direct mail fund-raising campaign.
 - ◆ PCO- 18 years
 - ◆ Treasurer; KCDCC Representative; State Convention Delegate
 - ◆ Founding chair, the current King County Legislative Action Committee (KC LAC), 2003. Under the KC LAC, we brought all the Democratic legislative districts in King County together to study legislative issues and lobby as one voice at the state, federal, and local government levels. We organized the first King County Democrats' Legislative Action Day during the 2003 Legislative session. Increasing responsibilities of my "real" job forced me to resign that position but I am pleased the KC LAC has grown more successful each year since then.
- **I will devote myself full-time if appointed.** I am eligible to retire and have been considering doing so by early next year. If appointed, I would retire immediately and then devote full time to representing the 34th Legislative District as a legislator.

- **I have the people and policy skills to build coalitions and get things done.** I believe in coalition-building and negotiating. For example:
 - **As a legislator**, I organized fellow members of the Judiciary committee, including the long-time chair, to participate in conference calls during the 2002 legislative session with former State Senator and Supreme Court Justice Phil Talmadge to discuss legislative options to several bills introduced in response to 9-11. The legislation would have given local and state authorities broad powers to take away citizen privacy rights and habeas corpus protections, so I asked Phil to give us his advice. These experienced legislators and I worked together to understand the effect of these bills and drafted amendments, some of which were adopted.
 - **As a union steward** for AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees,) Local #1923 I represent 100 federal employees, and I have successfully negotiated resolution of a number of employee-management issues.
 - When I was **with Congressman McDermott**, I helped found *The SSI Resource* and *The Medicare Savings Program Coalitions*, partnering with the Social Security Administration and the WA Department of Social and Health Services, and many local agencies. These coalitions provide valuable training about safety-net entitlements for advocates of seniors and the disabled. This model has been replicated around the country and is still being used to help improve the quality of life for many people in our nation. I also served as Jim's district health policy advisor.
 - ◆ Working with the **Business Leadership Network** (businesses that are leaders in hiring the disabled), I spearheaded a coalition that worked successfully to pass the state Medicaid Buy-in Program, which signed into law in 2001.
 - ◆ For several years I volunteered with the **Seattle-King County Dispute Resolution Service** in the Seattle and Burien Small Claims Courts. By conciliating with litigants (landlord-tenant, neighbors, employer-employee, business-customer, etc) to facilitate pre-trial agreements, I developed the negotiating skills that are so important as a legislator.
 - ◆ As a member of the **City of Burien NW Planning Council** I worked with residents of the northwest area of the city to develop a future development blueprint for that area.
 - ◆ As a liaison for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, I have worked on a number of health policy issues. I also created a new network of health provider organizations among four states (WA, OR, Idaho, and Alaska) to implement a new Medicare benefit program. This required leadership, superior networking skills among disparate groups, and the ability to clearly explain federal health care policy.

- ◆ I believe in public service, and I have spent my adult life giving voice to those who **had none**. Through my 25 years of work for Congressmen McDermott and Lowry helping constituents solve their problems with government agencies and with CMS, I know how powerful our government's capacity is to help, and how great that same capacity is to harm. As a legislator, I can offer not only a broad policy background but solid experience making it happen and in running a quality constituent service office.

My position on some of the most important policy issues affecting the 34th LD is attached to this letter.

Despite the fact that Democrats will control both houses of the Legislature in 2008, that doesn't mean all of our legislative wishes will be granted. For example, stopping Glacier mining, providing affordable health insurance (and forcing Wal-Mart to pay its fair share!), allowing local governments to finance campaigns, sun-setting tax credits, etc. – these have yet to be passed despite our majorities. **You can expect me to be a leader in seeking common ground with other lawmakers** in an attempt to forge agreements and avoid stalemates.

I Will Be Accessible to You

I pledge to work hard, to listen and to communicate regularly with you, the precinct committee officers, who are the heart of our district organization, and with the 34th District citizens. During my appointment **in 2002, I offered community meetings during the legislative session and will host them again**, if appointed. I believe it is very important to offer voters the ability to meet face to face with their elected representatives and most people are not able to travel to Olympia during the week. My door would always be open, and you could always count on me to vote our Democratic principles.

I grew up in Seattle, I graduated from Seattle University, and I have taught grade levels ranging from Head Start to high school. I've been a single parent, so I understand the need to live within a budget, to earn a living wage with and health benefits, and to get the support needed to take care of children and aging parents.

I ask for your vote. It would be an honor to represent you, and I hope to bring **leadership, dignity, policy expertise, and respect** to this office. I have a strong history of Democratic activism and I have been there for the 34th district over many years. If those values are important to you, I hope you will consider supporting me to fill Position 2.

Thank you for the work you do and for being a part of the democratic process. I hope you will get in touch with me by phone or email with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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