

34th District Democrats
Minutes of the August 2008 District Meeting

1. Chair Ivan Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM at the Hall at Fauntleroy. State Representative Sharon Nelson led the flag salute. The members approved the minutes of the July meeting and the Treasurer's report as published in the newsletter and on the website.
2. Chair's Report. Ivan Weiss
 - 2.1 There will be canvassing this weekend in targeted precincts. Kimber McCreery has the list of precincts. She will let PCOs know if their precinct is one targeted for canvassing. Ann Martin has walk lists for these precincts.
 - 2.2 We continue to phone bank at Coffman Legal on California.
 - 2.3 If you wish to stand for election as a Precinct Committee Officer, you can still file with King County to be a write-in. If you get even one vote and no other candidate receives a vote, you will be elected.
 - 2.4 This Saturday at the Machinists' Hall there will be a Labor-Neighbor canvass. Join this event and march with the labor councils. The canvass will use handouts - see example handouts including Gregoire versus Rossi at wslc.org/cope/00form.htm.
 - 2.5 There will be a fundraiser for U. S. Representative Jim McDermott this Saturday at Vashon Island Winery, which is owned by PCO Ron Irvine. This is also the annual picnic of the Vashon Democrats.
 - 2.6 On Sunday August 17th, Marcee Stone and Max Vekich are hosting a fundraiser for Joe McDermott. See website for details.
 - 2.7 On August 28th, the date the next president of the United States is nominated by the Democratic Party, Barack Obama makes his convention acceptance speech. There is a convention watching party at Gordon's on the Green at Foster Golf Course in Tukwila hosted by the 11th District. See www.34dems.org calendar for details.
 - 2.8 The Garden Party was August 8th. Ivan has an autographed copy of the book *Audacity of Hope* autographed by Barack Obama. Ivan auctioned it - new member Alex Morgan purchased it for \$225.
3. First Vice Chair's report. Tim Nuse.
 - 3.1 The primary election is this Tuesday. There is also a special event - Gov. Chris Gregoire will be at the Spitfire Grill - 2219 - Fourth Ave. on election night. The event suggests a \$50 donation, a trivial amount but a chance to hang out with the Gov.
 - 3.2 Coordinated campaign. Our local campaign manager is Kimber McCreery who is working with Les Treall, David Ginsberg, and Artemis OakGrove. Three weeks before the general election we'll be asking PCOs and members to be out in strength knocking on doors for Democratic candidates.
4. Program - Richard Conlin - Annual Report
 - 4.1 Seattle City Council President Conlin passed out his cards and encouraged members to contact him or sign up for his e-mail newsletter, which has 8000 subscribers. He also distributed a handout showing City Council accomplishments over the past year. Conlin encourages people to hold the Council accountable.
 - 4.2 Some of the accomplishments include:
 - 4.3 The Council has added more police patrol officers to the Seattle Police Department.
 - 4.4 They put new Police Accountability system in place including a new set of 7 appointees for police accountability review board.

- 4.5 Conlin himself is appointed to the Sound Transit board. Sound Transit put forward a proposal for the November, 2008, ballot to expand light rail. Conlin stated he would like to have light rail to West Seattle.
 - 4.6 The Council also put a pro-parks levy on the ballot.
 - 4.7 Questions from the membership included: affordability of transit, single payer healthcare system, affordability of housing given all the new construction near downtown. There was a question about development in West Seattle Junction which is driving out neighborhood business. A member asked about annexation of White Center and Conlin responded that the legislature created a sales tax credit for Burien to annex but not Seattle. The council has not made a decision and, in his mind, the people of that area should have the right to make a decision of which City to join. Another question concerned the proposed City of Seattle Municipal Jail - one of the most challenging issues we'll deal with. Conlin will work with King County and suburban cities who must put sites on the table. A final question concerned public funding for political campaigns, which Conlin supports to be on the ballot for 2009.
5. Program: Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson spoke.
 - 5.1 She asked for votes for her fourth term. Bergeson told stories about teaching kids from the Cape Verde Islands without benefit of a multi-cultural or language curriculum. She stated the WASL brings more accountability to schools and, as a result, students are paying attention to school. Over the last 15 years dropout rates have been reduced. She feels the "No Child Left Behind" mandate is a punitive system imposed by the Federal government. It does not address issues of children with disabilities and imposes a system of accountability which is burdensome on teachers. Bergeson hopes for a change of administration in Washington to improve this situation. The major problem, in her mind, is lack of funding for education to allow the State to properly fund school districts like Seattle.
 - 5.2 Questions to Bergeson included after school programs and what how she use additional taxpayer dollars (if available): She responded: salaries, reduce reliance on passing local levies, reduce class sizes.
 - 5.3 A question concerned the average scores in school districts and the whole state, which are below minimum standards in math and science. What is she doing about it? Bergeson talked about raising the standards and changing the curriculum, e.g. phonics and reading to improve education.
6. Garden party report. The Annual Garden Party and Auction was August 8th. We grossed \$9,000 to \$10,000 with about \$3,000 of expenses. That plus our bank balance means we have a healthy treasury.
7. Campaign Contributions
 - 7.1 We discussed how to make these contributions. The State Party is making all the contributions to Federal candidates - we have no obligations there. We cannot give money to state legislative candidates other than our own legislators. We can give each candidate for State office up to \$27,000. And we can give money to ballot initiatives or community organizations to do community building.
 - 7.2 Finance Committee Chair Walter Sive handed out the 34th's present budget status (with the Garden Party figures). He stated we've done a great job raising money. The proposed budget includes some funding for different campaigns, printing door hangers, mailing sample ballots and newspaper ads.

8. Allan Munro moved adoption of the budget. Seconded. Discussion:
 - 8.1 Statement: Eileen Cody wants to give up the money we'd give her and would rather send out a sample ballot to the whole district.
 - 8.2 Q: Does the budget allow funding of initiatives like opposing the jail siting in Highland Park. Answer: Yes - see line item for \$1000 for community groups.
 - 8.3 Q: Does the budget allow for sample ballots for the whole district? Answer: No. It does allow sample ballots for PCOs to distribute door-to-door which is a more effective way to get out the vote.
9. Laura Feinstein moved we amend the budget and take dollars allocated to McDermott, Cody and Nelson of \$4,500 and put it back into the regular budget. Vote on the amendment: In Favor: 49 Opposed: 15. Passed.
10. Joe McDermott moved we amend the budget to mail a sample ballot throughout the entire legislative district (which mailing could be a postal card).
 - 10.1 Discussion: We made an estimate of \$30,000 to do this, 45 cents per household and guesstimate of 60,000 households.
 - 10.2 Joe thinks it could be done for \$4500 saved from the senator/rep plus \$8500 left in budget at the end.
 - 10.3 Vote on the amendment: In Favor 29: Opposed: 38. Failed.
11. Jeff Upthegrove moved to amend the budget to include \$1000 contribution to the campaign for Secretary of State of Jason Osgood.
 - 11.1 Discussion: We've allocated money for four of the five statewide candidates on the ballot but not Osgood.
 - 11.2 Vote on the amendment: In favor: 14, Opposed: 44. Failed.
12. Al Rouyer moved to amend the budget to increase the allocation to Peter Goldmark from \$1000 to \$2000. Vote on the amendment: Passed unanimously.
13. Richard Bartlett moved to amend the budget to increase the allocation to Chris Gregoire from \$1000 to \$2000. Vote on the amendment: Passed by acclamation.
14. Chris Arkills moved the previous question. Vote on the motion; In favor 49, opposed; 10. (Requires 2/3 vote) Passes.
15. Vote on the underlying motion by Alan Munro to accept the budget as amended. In favor: 52 Opposed: 9. Passes.
16. Appoint PCO in Seattle precinct 1456. Tina Parshall. Passed unanimously.
17. Leadership Development Committee (LDC) report. Steve Karbowski. The LDC had a meeting on 30 July to discuss the draft rules for the Executive Board. Comment period is still open. Next committee meeting is Monday Night August 18th. The E-Board will vote on the proposed rules at its September meeting.
18. Highland Park Action Committee. Dorsol Plants. The City of Seattle recently released a low-rise jail versus high-rise jail study. The City assumed a low-rise jail is the best option based on a study about the jail in Kent. According to Plants, this logic is flawed. According to land use codes a jail can only be sited in downtown unless a conditional use permit is issued. He suggests expanding the regional justice center in Kent or in an Eastside community because Seattle already has the level 3 sex offender facility.

19. PCO Appointment. Seattle 1440. Barbara Shull. Passed unanimously.
20. No old business.
21. New Business.
22. Walter Sive moves we endorse Terry Bergeson for SPI.
 - 22.1 Seattle School District Director Steve Sundquist and former Director Barbara Schaad-Lamphere spoke in favor. Long-time Highline School Teacher Diane Burke and former Seattle Schools student Tyler Smith spoke against.
 - 22.2 Point of order: Do we have to consider an endorsement for other candidates? According to Chair Weiss this rule only applies if other candidates are in the room.
 - 22.3 Vote: 22 in favor. 28 opposed. Motion fails.
23. Dow Constantine moves endorsement of Proposition 1 Mass Transit Now! Dow Constantine spoke in favor. No one spoke against. Passed with only three dissenting votes.
24. Down Constantine moves a "no" vote on King County Initiative 26, which makes most county offices non-partisan, and a vote for the Council Democrats option for the second part of the question on the ballot.
 - 24.1 Dow Constantine and Chris Arkills spoke for the motion (i.e. for a "no vote" on I-26). Ann Martin and Michael Taylor spoke against the motion.
 - 24.2 Vote: 42 in favor, 4 opposed. Motion passed.
25. PCO Appointment Burien 0402. Sherry Leake. Passed unanimously.
26. Shannon Braddock moved to endorse Initiative I-1000, Death with Dignity. Shannon Braddock spoke in favor. Passed with one dissenting vote.
27. Michael Taylor moved endorsement of a "no" or "reject" vote on I-985, a Tim Eyman initiative, which would significantly restrict the use of tolls on highway projects. Passed unanimously.
28. Good of the order.
 - 28.1 Terry Holm - TRM - regarding mass media.
 - 28.2 Democrats Work. This is a national organization and guests spoke about two upcoming events.
 - 28.3 Ann Martin spoke about an upcoming Southwest Youth and Family Services Breakfast on Sept. 16th which features Sen. Tom Daschle.
29. Adjourned 9:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schrier
Acting Secretary