

The Demo-Chat 2004

Volume 2, Issue 10 of the 33rd District Democrats Newsletter.

Jack Arends, Editor

October 2004

33rd LD DEMOCRATS

Executive Board for 2003-04

Chair:	Tara Jo Heinecke	206-870-8819
Vice-Chair:	Tim Clark	253-854-1895
Secretary:	Tina Shamseldin	206-409-3038
Treasurer:	Cass Prindle	360-280-6661
WSDCC Reps:	Jo Ladd Clark	253-854-1895
	Aaron Ernst	206-579-6875
KCDCC Reps:	Elizabeth Brant	206-870-1759
	Chris Elwell	206-784-8206
KCDCC Alts:	Meenakshi Sharma	206-878-4988
	Clark Dodge	206-244-9849
KCDCC LAC Reps:	Barbara Fithian	206-242-5055
	Bob Fithian	206-242-5055
KCDCC LAC Alt:	Dan Caldwell	206-824-0736
Parliamentarian:	Bob Stephens	206-824-2699
Registrar:	Jean Hueston	206-878-8706
Admin. Officer:	Diane Odegard	206-870-7090
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Jim Fossos	206-824-8537
KCYD Reps:	Audry Cohen	206-212-0769
	Shaun Miller	253-872-9973



These Democrats represent the 33rd Legislative District in Olympia. Representative Shay Schual-Berke, Senator Karen Keiser, and Representative Dave Upthegrove are there to serve you. Please contact them if you have an inquiry.

Senator Karen Keiser	360-786-7664/ FAX 360-786-1999
Rep. Shay Schual-Berke	360-786-7834/ FAX 360-786-7317
Rep. Dave Upthegrove	360-786-7868/ FAX 360-786-7317
Legislative Hotline	1-800-562-6000

Coordinated Campaign Opens Office in Des Moines

As this edition of *The Demo-Chat* was being prepared for publication, we received word that the coordinated campaign will open an office Saturday, Oct. 9, in Des Moines for the balance of the campaign season. The office is located at 22513 Marine View Drive South, Suite #200.

Field organizers Amy Meadows (33rd) and Kerry Wade (11th) plan to work from this office. Phone numbers will be published on our new web site, www.33rdDems.org, when they become available.

Canvassing of precincts in the 33rd was scheduled Oct. 9-10; phone banking continues. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help Amy, please contact her at amym@wa-democrats.org

Makeese Motley, field organizer (11th, 33rd, 34th) for Sen. Patty Murray, also will welcome volunteers. Please contact him at makeese@pattymurray.com

October General Meeting Monday, Oct. 18, 2004

Normandy Park Congregational Church
19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park, Washington
AGENDA

(Additions may be made to this agenda, and general-election endorsements may be considered at this meeting)

7 p.m.	Call to order, approval of agenda and minutes
7:15 p.m.	Presentation re: 33 rd District Democrats web page
8:15 p.m.	Campaign reports
9 p.m.	Adjourn

-- Jack Arends, editor, The Demo-Chat

General Election Endorsements

President-Vice President: John Kerry-John Edwards

22513 Marine View Dr. S., Des Moines; or 1848 Westlake Ave. N., Seattle, (206) 281-9124
johnkerry@wa-democrats.org; e-mail: amym@wa-democrats.org (Amy Meadows, organizer)

U.S. Senate: Patty Murray

People for Patty Murray, P.O. Box 3662, Seattle, WA 98124 (206) 286-9199
www.pattymurray.com; e-mail: makese@pattymurray.com (Makeese Motley, organizer)

U.S. House, 8th District: Dave Ross

12443 Bel-Red Road, Suite 360, Bellevue, WA 98005 (425) 454-1320 www.daveross2004.com

U.S. House, 9th District: Adam Smith

P.O. Box 23626, Federal Way, WA 98093 (253) 572-6125 www.electadamsmith.com

Governor: Christine Gregoire

P.O. Box 2114, Olympia, WA 98507 (360) 570-8990; Seattle (206) 328-2969
www.gregoire2004.com

Attorney General: Deborah Senn

P.O. Box 22329, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 568-3310 www.senn4ag.com

Auditor: Brian Sonntag

2906 S. Proctor St., Tacoma, WA 98409 (253) 779-4039 www.sonntag2004.com

Secretary of State: Laura Ruderman

16625 Redmond Way, Suite M #465, Redmond, WA 98052 (425) 821-4721
www.lauraruderman.com

Treasurer: Mike Murphy

P.O. Box 1342, Olympia, WA 98507 (360) 357-4620 www.mikemurphy2004.com

Commissioner of Public Lands: Mike Cooper

P.O. Box 1324, Edmonds, WA 98020 (425) 670-3648 www.mikecooper.org

Washington State House of Representatives: Shay Schual-Berke and Dave Upthegrove (33rd); Joe Henry and Mark Miloscia (30th); and Geoff Simpson and Pat Sullivan (47th).

Referendum 55 (Charter Schools): NO

Initiative 297 (Hanford Cleanup): YES

Initiative 872 (Top 2 or "Cajun" primaries): NO

Initiative 884, (Raise sales tax 1% to create K-12 education fund): YES

Initiative 892 (Tim Eyman's gambling initiative): NO

King County Initiative 18 (reduce King County Council to nine members): NO

King County Proposition 1 (advisory ballot on proposed RTID plan): YES

General Membership Meeting Minutes
Normandy Park Congregational Church
September 20, 2004

Meeting Opening

Chair Tara Jo Heinecke called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Winnie Becker led the flag salute. The minutes were reviewed. Carol Rose moved to accept them as written; Bob Fithian seconded; the motion carried. Tara Jo gave an overview of the agenda.

King County Councilwoman Julia Patterson



Councilwoman Patterson spoke to the group about Initiative 18 and Prop. 1 & 2 Advisory Ballots.

Initiative 18, proposed by the King County Corrections Guild, would reduce the size of the council to nine members from the current 13. Julia, who does not usually speak on this topic, briefly reviewed some of the pro's and con's of this initiative, including the potential cost savings (\$3 million out of an approximately \$3 billion budget) and the decrease in representation for citizens (an increase from 133,000 people per official to 200,000 people per official). The initiative also requires that redistricting of areas take place by January 2005, within six weeks after passage of the initiative.

Julia spoke about the Prop. 1 Advisory Ballot to ask if voters if they support the draft plan the Regional Transit Investment District (RTID) is considering, and Prop. 2 to ask voters to select which type of tax they would be most likely to support to pay for transportation costs in our area in a future initiative. Currently, the revenue sources for transportation are insufficient to pay for such major reconstruction, estimated at \$12 billion. Julia said the House passed legislation last year for a five-cent gas tax increase that will raise approximately \$4.5 billion statewide, with \$1 billion allocated to projects in King County. Unfortunately, \$1 billion falls significantly short of the money needed to complete the King County RTID projects. The RTID Executive Board has adopted a plan that has identified the "highest priority" projects that include major improvements to I-405, SR-167, I-5, SR-520 and the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Terry Bergeson



Terry Bergeson is seeking a third term as Superintendent of Public Instruction. She states that achievement is up and that we can't turn back now.

Terry reviewed the academic standards/core curriculum that includes core literacy skills, big concepts, analytical thinking and the connection between school and life to prepare for future careers. She feels strongly that prior to the Education Improvement Act, there was no systematic approach to learning that could be measured across classrooms and schools.

Terry says progress has been made and that students in all ethnic and socio-economic groups have steadily improved their achievement during the past seven years as measured by the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, which was rated among the ten best assessment systems by the Princeton Review. When asked about the WASL, she said it contains 1,100 pages of poorly written bureaucratic legislation that needs changes.

Judith Billings, former Superintendent of Public Instruction



“Our constitution requires an education system,
not a testing system.”

~Judith Billings

Judith Billings served two terms as Superintendent in our state eight years ago and is running for the office again because she is concerned about the assembly-line curriculum that has narrowed our children's educational experience. She hopes to bring balance back into our schools. Judy has been endorsed by the Washington Education Association and the Washington Education Association Political Action Committee (WEA-PAC). She said she is against charter schools that will drain money from public schools.

Endorsements

Group members made a number of motions toward endorsement for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (sole endorsement of Terry Bergeson, sole endorsement of Judith Billings, and dual endorsement) but no motions passed.

The group discussed whether or not to endorse Dave Ross for the 8th Congressional District, with two members speaking in favor and two against. Some concerns were raised, including the note that Dave supports charter schools. Bob Fithian made a motion to **endorse Dave Ross in the 8th Congressional race**; Chris Elwell seconded the motion; and the motion carried (33 in favor, 7 opposed).

Tim Clark made a motion to endorse the following candidates for the state House: **Joe Henry (30th) and Mark Miloscia (30th)**; Cass Prindle seconded the motion; the motion carried (unanimous). Jim Fossos made a motion to endorse the following candidates for the state House: **Geoff Simpson (47th) and Pat Sullivan (47th)**; the motion was seconded and carried.

Initiatives/Referenda on the Ballot in November.

The group discussed **Referendum 55 on Charter Schools**:

Ballot Title

The legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2295 (ESSHB 2295) concerning charter public schools. This bill would authorize charter public schools and would set conditions on operations. Charter schools would be operated by qualified nonprofit corporations, under contracts with local education boards, and allocated certain public funds. Tim Clark made a motion to **oppose Referendum 55**; Jeffrey Loy seconded the motion; and the motion carried.

The group discussed **Initiative 297**:

Ballot Title

Initiative Measure No. 297 concerns "mixed" radioactive and non-radioactive hazardous waste. This measure would add new provisions concerning mixed radioactive and nonradioactive hazardous waste, requiring cleanup of contamination before additional waste is added, prioritizing cleanup, and providing for public participation and enforcement through citizen lawsuits. There were two speakers in favor, none (seriously) against. Jean Hueston made a motion **to support initiative 297**; Bob Tobin seconded the motion; the motion carried.

The group discussed **Initiative 872**:

Ballot Title

Initiative Measure No. 872 concerns elections for partisan offices. This measure would allow voters to select among all candidates in a primary. Ballots would indicate a candidate's party affiliation. The two candidates receiving the most votes would advance to the general election, regardless of party.

There was a lively debate on this initiative, including concerns that if passed, candidates from minor parties would never reach the general election and that potentially candidates in the same party could have costly and prolonged campaigns running against each other. A speaker on behalf of the initiative (Audry Cohen) noted that many people were angry after the primary, and expressed the belief that making voters choose a party versus a person may lead to decreased voter participation in our state. Tim Clark made a **motion to oppose Initiative 872**; Meena Sharma seconded the motion; the motion carried (41 votes against the initiative, 3 in favor).

The group discussed **Initiative 884**:

Ballot Title

Initiative Measure No. 884 concerns dedicating funds designated for educational purposes. This measure would create an education trust fund for smaller classes, extended learning programs, certain salary increases, pre-school access, and expanded college enrollments and scholarships, financed by increasing the retail sales tax by 1 percent.

There were speakers both for and against supporting this initiative. Some members felt we should learn more about this initiative before making a decision, especially since it recommends an increase to the regressive sales tax. Other members said we cannot rely on levies; the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless has endorsed this initiative because they believe it would do more good than harm for the people they serve. Jim Fossos made a **motion to support Initiative 884**; Bob Tobin seconded the motion; and the motion carried (32 for and 10 against).

The group discussed **Initiative 892** (Eyman's gambling initiative):

Ballot Title

Initiative Measure No. 892 concerns authorizing additional electronic scratch-ticket machines to reduce property taxes. This measure would authorize licensed non-tribal gambling establishments to operate the same type and number of machines as tribal governments, using part of the tax revenue generated to reduce state property taxes. The group moved quickly to approve a motion **to oppose Initiative 892**. The motion, made by Jim Fossos and seconded by Tim Clark, passed unanimously.

Jim Fossos made a **motion to oppose Initiative 18 to reduce the King County Council to nine councilpersons**; Lisa Pymate seconded the motion; the motion carried (43 in favor of motion to oppose, one in opposition of motion). Cass Prindle made a motion to **support Prop 1. Advisory Ballot on proposed RTID plan**; Chris Elwell seconded the motion; and the motion carried.

New 33rd LD Democratic Web Site

Due to time restraints Steve Desilets was not able to do the overview of the new website (www.33rdDems.org) that he has been constructing. The group applauded his

efforts and looks forward to visiting the web site and hearing more about it in October. Steve states our web site can have the following purposes:

1. Collect donations/fund raising
2. Resource center/Links to other web sites
3. Announcements/message board
4. Contact center
5. Discussion rooms
6. "Tell a friend" option
7. Conduct polls/share results

Other Business

- A special thank you to Wendy Morgan, Helen Miller and Florence McMullin for donating baskets for the drawings.
- The League of Women Voters is holding a forum Oct. 12 at the Good Neighbor Center in Renton (by Valley Medical) to discuss ballot measures. The doors open at 6:30 and the presentations start at 7 p.m.
- Another forum regarding initiatives will take place at Emerald Downs from 7-9 p.m. Oct. 14.

Membership Business

Cass Prindle gave the treasurer's report, stating that as of Sept. 20 we have **\$1,478.74 in the non-exempt account and \$251.72 in the exempt account.** We do have outstanding bills including our \$1,000 contribution to the coordinated campaign. Meena Sharma made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Jack Arends seconded the motion; and the motion carried.

During the first half of the meeting prior to voting, Jean Hueston gave the registrar's report and stated we had 46 voting members attending. Toward the end of the meeting, new persons attending for the first time were welcomed. Tim Clark made a motion to enter into membership the following individuals: **Michael Mott, Norma Kelsey, Omaha Sternberg; Bonnie Clair, Sitges Marshall, Jeannie Jones, and Louise Owens;** the motion was seconded by Jeffrey Loy, and the motion carried.

Tara Jo made a move to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tina Shamseldin, Secretary, 33rd District Democrats

Help Wanted: Demo-Chat Editor

Hi, everyone: Because of increasing responsibilities at work, I have advised Tara Jo Heinecke that after the re-org in December, I will be unable to continue as *Demo-Chat* editor. Tara Jo asked me to let people know we need to recruit a replacement, so here is my notice. If you would like to be the Demo-Chat editor, please contact Tara Jo at THeinecke@aol.com Thanks!

Jack Arends, editor, the Demo-Chat

The Demo-Chat 2004

33rd Legislative District Democrats

2035 S. 223rd Street

Des Moines, WA 98198

E-mail: demochat@33rdDems.org

Message board: 33rdDistrictDemocrats@yahoo.com

Visit us on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.33rdDistrictDemocrats.com>

<http://www.33rdDems.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**For more Democratic Party
information, visit these web sites:**

<http://www.wa-democrats.org>

<http://www.kcdems.org>

or call Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Upcoming Events ...

Oct. 14, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

33rd LD E-Board Meeting

Carpenters Specialties Training Center

20424 72nd Avenue South, Kent

Information: Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Nov. 11, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

33rd LD E-Board Meeting

Carpenters Specialties Training Center

20424 72nd Avenue South, Kent

Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Monday, Oct. 18, 2004, 7 p.m.

33rd LD General Meeting

Normandy Park Congregational Church

19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park

Information: Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Monday, Nov. 15, 2004, 7 p.m.

33rd LD General Meeting

Normandy Park Congregational Church

19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park

Information: Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2004: General Election