

## GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the  
Whatcom County  
Democratic  
Central Committee

Thursday, Sept. 15th  
7:00 – 9:00 pm

1419 N. Forest St, Bellingham  
(between Champion & Magnolia)  
All Democrats Welcome

**No membership  
meeting in August!**

**Please volunteer for one of  
these:**

- ✓ NW WA Fair booth staffing
- ✓ Doorbell to ID our voters
- ✓ Help with the Eleanor Roosevelt Sunset Dinner

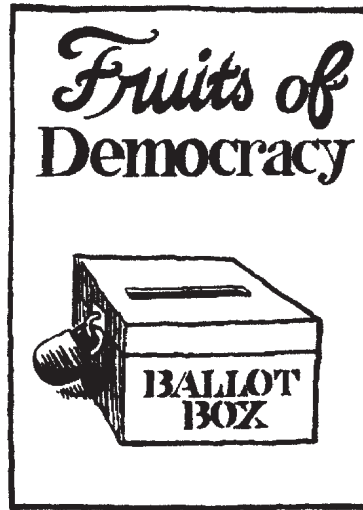
**And plan to attend:**

- One of the Election night parties - check out the website for locations
- Eleanor Roosevelt Sunset Dinner

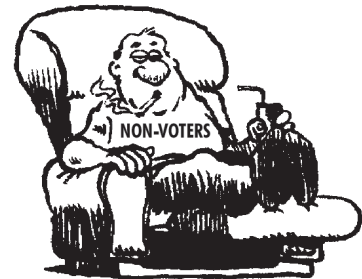
**See inside for more details!**

*August 2011*  
*Vol 7 Issue 8*  
*info@whatcomdemocrats.com*  
*www.whatcomdemocrats.com*  
*360-647-7661*

# Remember to Vote!



**Vegetables of  
Democracy**



## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT DINNER AUGUST 30

ORDER TICKETS NOW!

This year's annual Eleanor Roosevelt Fundraiser is set for Tuesday, August 30, at Bellingham Yacht Club's Windows on the Bay at Squalicum Harbor, from 6 to 9 PM.

This is where we induct newly elected Honored Democrats into our Honored Democrats 'Hall of Fame," hear from Democratic leaders, mix and mingle with local Democratic electeds and notables, mingle with candidates, and of course, raise funds so that we can run an effective campaign against the right wing onslaught.

Tickets are selling well, and this is sure to be an evening to remember, so please plan to attend this important annual event. Tickets for this full-course meal are \$40, \$50 and \$75.

Please go to whatcomdemocrats.com or call 647-7661 for tickets.

### Our Primary Ballot Recommendations

#### County Executive

We endorsed both  
**Tom Anderson**  
and  
**David Stalheim**

#### County Sheriff

No recommendation.

#### Bellingham Mayor

We certified as Democrats

**Kelli Linville**  
and  
**Dan Pike**



**ENDORSED: Pete Kremen for County Council, District 1**

Fellow Democrats,

Throughout my public service, I've devoted myself to improving the quality of life that makes our community such an optimum place to live!

Now, we face major challenges. We must focus on strengthening our economy with higher-wage jobs. To accomplish that, we will assist our existing businesses to thrive and attract new business and industry that are consistent with Whatcom County values.

We must improve infrastructure that supports desired economic opportunities. I'll continue to work collaboratively with federal, state and local officials to effectively address our transportation needs. This will not only put people to work in higher paying jobs but also address critical projects while generating additional employment.

As state and federal funds have been slashed, I've helped to provide funding for critical social services, expand mental health care, create more low income housing, implement assistance for homeless families and improve programs for our deserving veterans.

I'm committed to making our county safer by building a new, "right size" and affordable jail and by seeking creative alternatives to incarceration, where appropriate.

I remain resolute to safeguarding our environment and coveted Whatcom County way of life by reducing urban sprawl, preserving our threatened farmland and farmers, protecting the precious Lake Whatcom watershed, other water bodies and shorelines, while saving special, natural spaces for posterity.

I'll continue my resolve to dedicate my life and extensive experience to serving, protecting and enhancing our community.

**ENDORSED: Jack Weiss for City Council, Ward 1**



I supported removing the Caitac proposal and focus us on proper infill. I introduced resolutions against Bellingham's use of Alberta tar sands oil through our local Transmountain Pipeline and gave two dozen interviews to a touchy Canadian press in the following week.

And recently, I instigated the approval of bike lanes for Northwest and Elm Streets.

These are just the high points of many, many issues, programs, and projects that I have led, opposed, or participated in.

I look forward to four more years. I want to continue focusing on proper land use and transportation planning, working with my colleagues and the community to strengthen our response to the Lake, and to help business development while protecting our community and neighborhood values.

When I first decided to run four years ago, I remembered my years in school.

Do my homework and ask good questions. Speak from the heart. Be fair in my deliberations and decisions. Choose decisions that help a smaller group of people only if it doesn't conflict with the goals or interests of a larger group or the community as a whole.

Highlighting some of the 2500 votes I have made in the last 3 1/2 years I worked with a council majority to expand our BTV 10 coverage of meetings. I led the effort to establish the Transportation Commission as a means for citizen input to transportation planning. I authored a compromise to the big box ordinance changes acceptable to all sides.



DON'T RUN OUT OF BRAINS AND BECOME A POLITICAL ZOMBIE! LOG ON TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TODAY. [facebook/whatcomdem](https://facebook.com/whatcomdem)

**Whatcom Democrats Executive Board**

email: [add@whatcomdemocrats.com](mailto:add@whatcomdemocrats.com)

Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851	demchair
1st Vice Chair	Mark Lowry	223-3986	demvchair
2nd Vice Chair	Mike Estes	220-1100	
Treasurer	Peggy Borgens	384-0861	treas
Secretary		398-2878	recsec
State Committeewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340	staterwoman
State Committeeman	Richard May	671-5597	stateman
Affirmative Action	Pending Appointment		
Campaign	Pending Appointment		
Candidates	John McGarrity	738-9695	
Communications	Riley Sweeney	360-649-1801	
Finance	Roni Lenore	510-435-4747	
Issues and Resolutions	Acting Chair Mike Estes		
Membership	Steve Schuck	733-1063	
Technology	Shane Roth	922-0442	
WCD Women's Club	Catherine L. Chambers	647-3888	
Young Democrats	Mary Bell		
40 <sup>th</sup> LD Representative	Maggie Hanson	733-2539	
42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Representative	Sherry Zeilstra	380-1438	

## An Open Letter About “Entitlement Reform”

Dear Everyone who keeps describing Social Security as “Entitlements”,

Somehow the word “entitlement” has taken on a negative connotation in American politics. Dictionaries, as they’re apt to do, add to the confusion by offering multiple definitions from “a right to benefits specified especially by law or contract” to “a belief that one is deserving of or entitled to certain privileges.” So an entitlement under the first definition could mean my constitutional right to vote, bear arms and write this blog. The latter definition of “entitlement” suggests that I am owed something no matter if I earned it. A feeling of entitlement has associations with elitism and inheritance.

Sadly, its this connotation of “entitlement” that pundits and politicians, on both sides of the aisle, conjure when they describe Social Security as an “entitlement”. I take great offense to this and so should anyone who works for a paycheck. Social Security is not something you just get handed by the government. It is something that you and your employer pay into most of your working life. Social Security benefits are earned. You have to work 10 years (40 quarter credits) in Social Security covered employment just to be vested. You and your employer have to pay into the system and the amount of your benefit at retirement is determined by your earnings and number of years worked. That’s not entitlement or a birthright; it’s a fund managed by our federal government and paid into by working people and their employers

And yes, the fund isn’t being managed well enough at this time to give me confidence that it will be there when I retire in 40 or 50 years. But when I hear someone telling me we have to tackle entitlement reform and they mean Social Security, I get more than a little wary. I get downright pissed.

### Continued to your right

You can find more online at [www.sweeneypolitics.com](http://www.sweeneypolitics.com)

## An Open Letter to the Bellingham Voter

You are a Whatcom County resident and you need to vote on County races. And I’ll prove it to you right now.

The next time you draw water from your tap, remember that all of that water started its journey into your home from County jurisdiction. If you want a say in how Lake Whatcom is restored, it is not enough to vote for a City Council that will do that. The City of Bellingham controls a fraction of the shoreline of the lake. The overwhelming majority of the shoreline property on Lake Whatcom is in County jurisdiction. You need a County Council that is sensitive to your concerns. The County Council you have right now isn’t sensitive to your concerns.

The City of Bellingham has no legal say in the fate of the Gateway Pacific Terminal. It is the County government that has standing to decide this issue. Every train car of material (\*cough\*COAL\*cough\*) that goes to the Gateway Pacific Terminal will roll through downtown Bellingham. If you want a say in how the Gateway Pacific Terminal will be negotiated, or whether it will be built at all, before those cars start rolling through your fair city, it is not enough to vote for a City Council that will represent you. You need a County Council that will be sensitive to your concerns, too. The County Council you have right now isn’t sensitive to your concerns.

If you live in Bellingham, you need to look in the mirror and see a County resident. And you need a County Council that looks at you and sees a County resident. The County Council you have right now isn’t sensitive to your concerns.

You pay County taxes. County decisions affect you every day. You are a County resident. You are entitled to responsive representation in the County Council. But in order to get what you are entitled to, you have to be a County voter. The County Council you have right now isn’t sensitive to your concerns.

Grab your ballot, Whatcom County voter (who lives in Bellingham), and fix that.

Sincerely,

*Shane Roth*

Whatcom Democrats Technology Chair (and Bellingham resident)

Whatcom County



Democrats

*The Whatcom Democrats.  
Not crazy enough to threaten to blow up the  
Country’s economy, just crazy enough to be push  
for change from the status quo. Check out our  
website, [www.whatcomdemocrats.com](http://www.whatcomdemocrats.com) today to find  
out how YOU can get involved*

### Entitlement Reform Cont.

When they say entitlement in this context, it’s as if they’re saying “I want to steal the money out of our savings account because the working people who paid into it don’t have a right to it.” Let’s do reform if there is the will to so. I recommend we start by remembering that Social Security is an earned benefit and not something entitled by residential status, birthright or citizenship.

Sincerely,  
*Riley Sweeney*  
AKA  
*The Political Junkie.*

### Want to Volunteer? Sure you do!

We have Voter ID packets ready to roll at the Dems office so stop by and pick up your doorbelling packet today? ID-ing voters not your cup of Golash? How about staffing our booth at the Lynden Fair? Call the office today to grab your slot at the Lynden fair.

Staffing the booth involving far too much face time? Might I recommend the variety of office tasks that need tackling? We have sorting, filing, envelope stuffing and I’m sure a whole mass of wonderfully exciting minutia. Call the office at 647-7661 to figure out how you can best help your party!

**Yard Sale Weekly Drop Site  
Opening July 14**

Party volunteers are gearing up for our yard sale in September, and now you can drop off your donations directly at our storage site on Thursdays from 11-1. Someone will be there to help you unload. Please call the office for details. You can also bring things to our office on Bay Street (215 W. Holly, Suite B-27. Hours: M-F 10am - 2 pm), or we can arrange a pick-up at your home. Call 647-7661 for information.



**Whatcom County Democrats**

215 W. Holly Street, Suite B-27  
P.O. Box 3095  
Bellingham, WA 98227

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**You there! Buy a ticket!**

The Eleanor Roosevelt Sunset Dinner is our most important fundraiser, and we need everyone's support. Please buy your tickets today. Heck, buy one for a friend. Do it today at [www.whatcomdemocrats.com](http://www.whatcomdemocrats.com)

**August 2011** Check [whatcomdemocrats.com](http://whatcomdemocrats.com) for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7	8 Last day to register to vote in person at the County Auditor's office	9 7pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, Bham.	10	11 10am- Whatcom Fair Voting Mtg, RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St., Bham.	12	13 40 <sup>th</sup> LD Meeting, Time and Location TBA
14	15 Lynden Fair ALL WEEK LONG	16 Lynden Fair 7pm- Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham ELECTION DAY!	17 Lynden Fair	18 Lynden Fair	19 Lynden Fair	20 Lynden Fair
21	22	23 7pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, Bham.	24 12pm- City Club, 3240 Northwest Ave, Bham. 7pm- E-Board Mtg, Dems HQ.	25	26	27
28	29	30 6pm- Eleanor Roosevelt Sunset Dinner. See article inside. At Windows on the Bay, 2627 S Harbor Loop Dr. Bham.	31	1	2	3
4 LABOR DAY Never forget the sacrifices of our unions	5	6 6pm- Jobs with Justice, 1700 N. State St, Bham.	7 5pm- Green Drinks	8 10am- Whatcom Fair Voting Mtg, RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St., Bham.	9	10 10am- 42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Mtg, 2064 Vista Dr, Ferndale.