



GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
**Whatcom County
 Democratic
 Central Committee**

Thursday, July 21st
7:00 – 9:00 pm

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

Meeting Agenda

1. Re-consideration of endorsement for County Exec race.

See article right and candidate statements on page 3.

2. Moving Whatcom Forward:

Join us for a discussion with local economic thinkers and planners, elected officials, candidates, and community members as we survey the current jobs outlook and come up with concrete ideas and a course of action for creating jobs and boosting economic activity in the county and region. And then we'll connect the dots to this fall's election of county and city officials that can make things happen!

July 2011
Vol 7 Issue 7
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www.whatcomdemocrats.com
 360-647-7661

Whatcom Democrats Endorse!

Over 300 Democrats Step Up to Choose our Candidates



Democrats and candidates packed Norway Hall for our annual June endorsement meeting. Hundreds of ballots were cast, counted and re-counted and when the dust had settled, we had made endorsements in a whole slew of races (see list to the right).

Thanks to all who showed up and participated in this important step in the democratic process of electing our leaders, thanks to the cooks, Laurel and Ronalee, for a great meal to get us going, and thanks to our Executive Board and volunteers who made the meeting run smoothly.

County Executive Race REVOTE

Supporters of David Stalheim's campaign have asked to revisit the endorsement for the County Executive campaign at our July meeting. So bring your friends and we will vote on only the county executive campaign. Tom Anderson is certified as a Democrat. David Stalheim cannot request to be certified because of his current job, but has been active in the party.

Official Whatcom County Democratic Endorsements

County Council

Dist 1 - **Pete Kremen**
 Dist 2 - **Christina Maginnis**
 Dist 3 - **Alan Black**

County Offices

Auditor - **J. Lynne Walker**
 Treasurer - **Steve Oliver**

Bellingham Council

Ward 1 - **Jack Weiss**
 Ward 3 - **Cathy Lehman**
 Ward 5 - **Terry Bornemann**
 At-Large - **Seth Fleetwood**

No candidate received the required 2/3 vote of support for endorsement in the County Executive, County Sheriff, and Bellingham Mayor races. These races may be considered again for endorsement before the election. (see article to the left)



ENDORSED:

**Alan Black
for County
Council,
District 3**

I presently serve on the Blaine City Council. I am a retired 747 Captain

and have also served in Vietnam. I was a member of the AFL-CIO Air Line Pilots Association for 33 years, and understand well the contribution that the union movement has made to the lives of American workers.

Throughout my career in aviation, I have demonstrated my leadership abilities by making accurate judgments and decisions that have resulted in successful outcomes. The decisions the County Council will be called on to make during these next four years will require the ability to consider not only the future consequences of our actions, but also the possibility of unintended consequences.

In my cockpit resource management I have learned to listen to all options and use my skills in critical analysis to act decisively when the solution becomes clear.

Our problems in Whatcom County cannot be deferred. While closely adhering to the political goals of the Democratic Party, I also know that good ideas can come from many sources and that all ideas should be considered.

I believe together we must:

- Preserve our environment, including farmlands, shorelines, air and water quality, by following sound environmental principles.
- Seek a long term solution that will provide safe, clean drinking water for our community.
- Support our business community, while attracting new employers that offer good paying jobs.
- Preserve the social safety net for our most vulnerable.

I'm honored to be endorsed by WA Conservation Voters, and the Sierra Club

Meet our new Program Coordinator

Hi! I'm Suzanne Kite.

As I'm becoming familiar with the inner workings of this group, I realize that the pulse of our organization is comprised of the volunteers who help with just about everything! All of the Board and Committee members are volunteers, as is our office staff. Without people willing to help us reach our democratic goals, this organization – and most non-profits – could not exist.

So, I am putting out a call to ALL members to become a bigger part of our heartbeat. We have a variety of volunteering opportunities to suit your skills and schedule!

Our office is open Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. While most of the 2-hour time slots in the office are currently filled, we would like to expand our on-call list to fill-in for these shifts as needed. Office routines are not difficult – a little computer work, answering phones, general office work, and helping visitors.

If you are interested in keeping your local Democratic Party efficient, vibrant and one of the best county political organizations in WA, please call me at 647-7661 or leave a message with your contact information. My email address:

office@whatcomdemocrats.com

I look forward to meeting you all and I thank you, in advance, for your generous help!

-Suzanne

Mid-2011 Membership Review

by Steve Schuck

A BIG Thank-You to Judy, Peggy and the office volunteers for efficient handling of over 220 membership payments that were received during May and early June, and to the campaigns for encouraging almost 100 new members to join in time for the June endorsement meeting. We welcome you to a group of concerned, active, progressive citizens that now numbers just shy of 800, and we hope that you will renew for the 2012 election season, which promises to be big.

Your membership runs for one year from the day that we record your payment. Renewal notices are sent out during the month before your membership lapses, and reminders are sent periodically thereafter. Please promptly respond to your renewal notice to avoid these reminders.

Paper newsletter recipients can help us conserve much-needed funds by registering at our web site to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

Candidate Statements to Come!

Tune in next month for Jack Weiss, Seth Fleetwood, Steve Oliver, Pete Kremen and many more of our endorsed candidate's statements

Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

email: 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	Bryna Sweeney	398-2878	recsec
State Committeewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340	staterwoman
State Committeeman	Richard May	671-5597	staterman
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	Pending Appointment		
Membership	Steve Schuck	733-1063	
Technology	Shane Roth	922-0442	
WCD Women's Club	Catherine L. Chambers	647-3888	
Young Democrats	Mary Bell		
40 th LD Representative	Maggie Hanson	733-2539	
42 nd LD Representative	Sherry Zeilstra	380-1438	

**ENDORSED: Christina Maginnis
County Council, District 2**

My name is Christina Maginnis and I am running for Whatcom County Council District 2. Over the past 8 years of making Whatcom County my home, I've seen how uncertainty about jobs, land use, water, and growth can devastate people. We need to work together to protect farmland and local farmers, ensure clean drinking water today and for our kids, and grow local businesses to keep our economy strong.

I'll work with other council members to maintain an agricultural land base necessary to keep local farmers and farming a strong part of our County legacy.

I'll keep families safe by working for a fast response time if you have to call 911.

I'll create incentives for clean energy businesses and green development jobs here in Whatcom County.

Since 2007, after completing my masters degree at Western Washington University, I've worked with the Washington State Department of Ecology, as a stormwater specialist and grants manager. My job focuses on working with local government staff to help meet state rules, and overseeing projects and budgets for clean water grants and loans.

I've been an appointed member of the Lake Whatcom Watershed Advisory Board for the past 5 years working to help protect the drinking water supply for Bellingham and parts of Whatcom County. These experiences give me a deep understanding of how critical water and land use issues are to the county.



**Tom Anderson
for County Executive**

Certified Democrat

Whatcom County is in a

leadership crisis. Our county needs an Executive that will stand strong for good jobs, smart planning and clean drinking water. I support the values espoused by the Whatcom Democrats platform and am actively seeking the endorsement of the Whatcom Democrats in my campaign for County Executive.

As you next Executive, I will:

Build Understanding to fix the broken partnerships between local governments. We cannot let this conflict between urban and rural divide us on the essential challenges we face.

Listen and Learn to get the County planning process serving our citizens, and not special interests.

Seek Input for an acceptable Jail proposal that matches with the values of our community, rather than wasting seven years and many thousands of dollars on something without public support.

Take Action to ensure our drinking water remains clean and our farmers have access to water to produce our food.

We need leadership now to prepare for coming challenges.

Editor's Note: Because of the HATCH Act, David Stalheim cannot ask for our endorsement himself, hence Jean Melious wrote a candidate statement on his behalf. To be fair, we are also re-running Tom

Anderson's statement for comparison.



**David Stalheim
Whatcom County Executive**

By Jean Melious

We couldn't ask for a better candidate for Executive than David

Stalheim. David has 24 years of experience working with people, projects and budgets to make communities better. He has successfully managed large organizations and budgets, winning awards for everything from making Wenatchee a "Great American Main Street" community to developing a greenway plan for the Dungeness River.

We need that kind of experience to guide our upcoming decision about whether to locate a coal terminal in Whatcom County. We need David's leadership to make sure that our new jail is the right size and in the right place. We need David's skill and knowledge to make our good intentions about cleaning up Lake Whatcom turn into real progress.

David is currently Bellingham's Block Grant Manager, working to make housing available to everyone. He knows that the County Executive needs to help people who have been hurt by our battered economy. You may have heard about his pledge to donate \$50,000 of his salary to charity. When I asked him about it, he said, simply, "I think it is sad that so many have so little." And that's who he is.

I am telling you about the person I know because David can't speak for himself in this newsletter. The federal Hatch Act prevents his participation in "partisan" publications.

But David will be speaking for himself, loud and clear, over the next few months. Please meet him, support him, and help him to beat Doug Ericksen.

www.davidstalheim.com

2011 Honored Democrat Nominations Now Open

This year's inductees into the Whatcom County Honored Democrats rostrum will be awarded at our August 30 Eleanor Roosevelt Sunset Dinner at the Windows on the Bay events facility at the Bellingham Yacht Club.

Nomination forms are available at the Democratic office on Bay Street in Bellingham (Office is open 10-2, M-F). Nomination deadline is July 26. Membership will vote on this year's Honored Democrats at the July Central Committee Meeting.

Qualified nominees are members of the Whatcom County Democrats who have made long standing contributions to our local party.

Maggie Hanson is this year's Honored Democrats Committee Chair. Please direct any questions to Maggie at 318-3557.

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.

Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner

Save the date of August 30th at Windows on the Bay at Squalicum Harbor. Rep. Jay Inslee and Sen. Maria Cantwell have been invited to speak. Tickets go on sale for \$40 a piece starting July 11th at our website or by calling the office. You don't want to miss this!



Whatcom County Democrats

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Democrats Annual Picnic

Come July 31st at 3pm to Fairhaven Park for our annual picnic, hosted by the Democratic Women's Club. Tickets get you a delicious meal and are \$7 at the door. Join us for fun, games and elected officials. Contact Catherine Chambers with questions at 305-2252

July 2011 Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10 Noon- Voter Reg. at Pride Fest, Bham Farmers Market.	11	12 4pm- Firefighter's Fundraiser for Dan Pike, Boundary Bay Brewery, 1107 Railroad Ave, Bham. 6:30pm- Tea Party Forum (Mayor), Whatcom Community College, Bham 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, Bham.	13	14 10am- Whatcom Fair Voting Mtg, RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St., Bham. 7pm- Issues and Resolutions Cmte Mtg, Whatcom Dems HQ	15	16 11am- Voter Reg at the Bellingham Farmer's Market.
17	18 5pm- Tom Anderson Meet and Greet at Robbi Ferron's house, Bham	19 6:30pm- Tea Party Forum (Mayor), Whatcom Community College, Bham 7pm- Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	20	21 7 pm- Monthly Membership Mtg., Norway Hall, Bham. See 1 st Page	22	23
24	25	26 6:30pm- Tea Party Forum (County), Whatcom Community College, Bham 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, Bham.	27 Ballots Mailed for Primary Election 12pm-City Club, 3240 Northwest Ave, Bham. 7pm- E-Board Mtg, Dems HQ. 7pm- Bill Mize Forum, 2821 Mt. Baker Highway	28 10am- Citizen's Elections Advisory Cmte, County Courthouse, Bham.	29 5pm- Medicare Birthday Party, The Leopold Ballroom, 1224 Cornwall Ave, Bham.	30
31 3pm- Democratic Women's Club Picnic, Fairhaven Park, Upper Pavilion, Bham.	1	2 6pm- Jobs with Justice mtg, Union Temple, Bham. 7pm- Young Dems Social, Copper Hog, Bham.	3 6pm- Green Drinks	4	5	6
7	8 Last Day to Register to Vote in Person	9 7pm- Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, Bham.	10	11 10am- Whatcom Fair Voting Mtg, RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St., Bham.	12	13