



GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Thursday, Nov. 17th
7:00 – 9:00 pm

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

All Democrats Welcome

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Recap of Election Results
- 2) Election of Board Secretary (PCOs vote)
- 3) Endorsement Policy --
Consideration of amendments (all members vote). See page 3.

Resolutions:

- 1) To co-sponsor a Poor Peoples' March in Whatcom County January 16, 2012 (2nd reading)
- 2) In support of forming a coalition of local groups to press for the abolition of corporate personhood (1st reading)

**For Election Night Parties -
see page 3**

November 2011
Vol 7 Issue 11
info@whatcomdemocrats.com
www.whatcomdemocrats.com
360-647-7661

Get Those Ballots In!

Fighting for Good Jobs
in Whatcom County



Pete Kremen Christina Maginnis Alan Black

Have you volunteered yet?

If so, thank you. If not, don't wait up, we need all those ballots turned in as soon as possible. Remember, local elections are often decided by a handful of votes, make sure yours is counted.

But we need more than that, we need help with our campaign literature drop this weekend, and making that last burst of phonecalls to make sure that everyone knows what is at stake this year.

Are you willing to give a few hours of your time to save our county? Call the office today at (360) 647-7661 to join in with the biggest Get Out the Vote operation this side of the Obama campaign. Get involved today!



Our Official Endorsements

I-1125: **Vote No**
County Executive: *See Below*
County Council,
Pos. 1: **Pete Kremen**
Pos. 2: **Christina Maginnis**
Pos. 3: **Alan Black**
County Treasurer: **Steve Oliver**
County Auditor: **J. Lynne Walker**

Bellingham Mayor: **Kelli Linville**
or
Dan Pike

Bham Council,
Pos. 1: **Jack Weiss**
Pos. 3: **Cathy Lehman**
Pos. 5: **Terry Bornemann**
At-Large: **Seth Fleetwood**

County Exec:
*We recommend a vote for **Jack Louws**.*

Call the Office today to see how you can help make a difference in these last couple of days before the election! Call (360) 647-7661.

Rep. Kris Lytton Speaks About Revenue

I am hearing from many of you that the budget should not be balanced with just cuts; that revenue must be part of a thoughtful solution. In my opinion, nothing should be considered off the table when our state is going through this kind of crisis.

However, raising new revenues or even closing existing tax loopholes is not something that can be done by the legislature without a "supermajority" approval. That's because in the 2010 election, Washington voters passed Initiative 1053 which said: "... legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval."

Getting that supermajority is extremely unlikely. Therefore, any efforts to increase revenues will have to be approved by the voters before a single penny can be raised. Sending a proposal to raise revenues and save certain important programs to the ballot will certainly be discussed in the coming weeks and months. But because those revenues can't be counted until they are approved, an all-cuts budget will still have to be written.

I do hope this information has been helpful and that you will come see me at one of my events around the district!

Regards, Kristine

Cascadia Weekly Editor Shares Election Thoughts

The Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club will be holding their monthly meeting on November 11, 2011. The meeting will be held at Fairhaven Park Pavilion beginning at 11:30 with a lunch of soup, salad, rolls and dessert for a cost of \$8.00. Our guest is Cascadia Weekly editor Tim Johnson who will give an election wrap-up. We will also celebrate Veterans Day and all Veterans are encouraged to attend at no cost (it is our treat for lunch). Please join us to celebrate another election season and all of our Veterans. For information please contact Catherine Chambers at 647.3888.



Get Ready for our Annual Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 10th, 6-10pm at The Elks Club, 710 Samish Way in Bellingham. This festive event is aimed at raising spirits and funds for our 2012 convention and caucuses.

Join us for a holiday potluck, volunteer awards, Dessert Dash PLUS live music and dancing - All for just \$15 (\$20 at the door). Go to www.whatcomdemocrats.com or call our office at 647-7661 for tickets today!

Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event for everything from event set up to clean up (and everything in between too!). Not available to volunteer that day, but you still want to help?

November 28 through December 8, we

will need ticket sellers. We also will need people willing to help out as raffle basket item coordinators and solicitors. If you can help out any of these tasks please let me know at volunteerwhatcom@gmail.com.

Remembering Polly Hanson

Whatcom County Democrats lost a great friend, hard working, dedicated Democrat with the passing of Polly Hanson at the age of 84. Polly spent her early years in Illinois and graduated from the University of Michigan. She married Carl Hanson in 1950.

Polly became the director of the Whatcom County Library system. She also became very active in our local Party. Polly was elected secretary of the Central Committee and served on our E-Board. Many were the ferry rides from Lummi Island along with her good friend Janet Lutz-Smith to attend our monthly meetings. She was always proud of the privilege of working with the Lummi Indians and was involved in the foundation of the Northwest Indian College. She won her election to serve our County on the 2004 County Charter Review Board. We will miss you, Polly. You have mentored us and remain an inspiration to us all. We will keep your hope alive!

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			recsec
State Committeewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340	staterwoman
State Committeeman	Richard May	671-5597	stateman
Affirmative Action	Pending Appointment		
Campaign	Temp. Chair Riley Sweeney(360)	649-1801	
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		whatcom@ydwa.org
40 th LD Representative	David Narsico	441-2293	
42 nd LD Representative	Sherry Zeilstra	380-1438	

Where are we going to be on Election Night?

This year, because of the aggressive efforts by the campaigns to organize their own election parties, we will just recommend a series of places to find your fellow Democrats counting down the minutes till the results are announced.

Dan Pike's Party

Upstairs of Bayou on the Bay starting at 7pm. 1300 Bay St., Bham.

Kelli Linville's Party

Copper Hog starting at 7pm. 1327 N. State St, Bham.

J. Lynne Walker's Party

Chuckanut Brewery at 7pm. 601 W. Holly St. Bham.

Cathy Lehman, Alan Black and Christina Maginnis Party

5:30pm at the Brandywine. 1317 Commercial St, Bham.

Also, Communications Chair and newsletter editor Riley Sweeney will be posting live-updates to his personal blog. Check it out at www.sweeneypolitics.com

OCCUPY BELLINGHAM

Our friends and allies in the Occupy Bellingham movement have been making themselves seen and heard. They have set up camp in Marine Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham and as of printing, the Bellingham police have pledged to work with the campers in a safe, flexible and measured manner. The Whatcom Democrats stand in solidarity with the Occupy movement in the efforts promote economic justice and reign in the excesses and greed of Wall Street. You can find out more through the "Occupy Bellingham" Facebook page.

Remember, while it is important to raise awareness about these essential issues, do not forget to "Occupy the Ballot Box" as well. Mail in those ballots today!

Doug Ericksen: No Friend of Working People

by Riley Sweeney

In the final weeks before the election, Doug Ericksen continues to display his disdain for the hard-working people of Whatcom County. Frequent readers of this newsletter might remember my report about Doug Ericksen's plan to dismantle our unions? Despite his campaign's attempt to spin that away, he has come out again in the Whatcom Watch as being anti-working people.

Whatcom Watch: "Do you support County employees' right to organize? Do you support unionized county employees' right to strike? Why?"

Doug Ericksen: "Yes, state law allows County employees to organize. No, I do not believe it is legal for public employees to strike under current state law.

First, note the language. He was asked if he supported their right and he grudgingly says, "well it is legal but . . ." but that isn't even nearly as insulting as the second part. He does not believe in the legal right for public employees to strike. Yes, some specific employees (like Police or Firefighters) are forbidden from striking but for many employees that is still a perfectly legal option. Working people have the right to see their grievances addressed. Apparently not in Doug Ericksen's eyes.

In Ericksen's view, it is just fine if working people get together but they better not fight back. To deny our public employees the ability to strike is to cripple our working people's ability to push back against management.

With this total lack of respect for working people, it is no surprise that Doug Ericksen has a lifetime record of 18% from the Washington State Labor Council. 18% is pitiful. Just shameful. Doug Ericksen's extreme views have no place in Whatcom County politics and I hope this November, the voters will make that crystal clear.

Ready to change marijuana laws?

Join New Approach Washington at our All Ages Happy Hour, find out more about I-502 and how you can get involved.

Come to Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State St. in Bellingham on Friday, November 11th at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

We've got information about I-502 and we've got pizza and beverages: stop by! New Approach Washington is sending an initiative to the 2012 legislature to tax and regulate marijuana for adults 21 and over. Join with hundreds of volunteers across the state working to end prohibition!

To volunteer, contact Justin: Justin@newapproachwa.org, 206-619-8385

Endorsement Policy Changes

While this election is fresh in our memories, and before we jump into the 2012 election cycle, the Executive Board is proposing some changes to the Endorsement Policy to clarify and solve some problems that came up in the 2011 process.

Proposed changes to be considered at the November membership meeting include:

- * Limiting certification of candidates for campaign resources to publicly-declared Democrats;
- * Allow for consideration of endorsement of candidates who for some external reason can't ask for it themselves;
- * Requiring a standard questionnaire for all candidates seeking endorsement; limiting the option of re-visiting an endorsement vote

Full text of the policy and proposed changes are posted on our website, and available at our office.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

Phone Bank Help. From now until the election (November 8) we will be running our phone banks to remind voters to send their ballots in on time. If you have a couple of hours to spare and can help make some phone calls, let me know at volunteerwhatcom@gmail.com. Calls will generally be made week-days between 10:00 and 2:00. Come make a difference!

Other Help

We know that there are a lot of very talented people out there! If you have a special skill that you would like to share, please let me know at volunteerwhatcom@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!!

A big round of applause is due to our wonderful Office Volunteers. Their collective efforts and dedication keeps the office running smoothly and efficiently day-in and day-out! Next time you are in the office, remember to give each of them a personal "Thank You."



Whatcom County Democrats

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2011 Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7 Voter Registration Deadline	8 Election Night 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Beaver Inn, Bham.	9 Green Drinks 6pm- WWU Advocates, Squalicum Boathouse, 2600 Harbor Loop, Bham	10 10am- Whatcom Fair Voting Mtg. RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St., Bham. 5pm- Rep. Lytton Campaign Kick-off, 334 Bayside Rd Bham.	11 Veterans Day	12 10am- 42 nd LD Dems Mtg, 2064 Vista Dr, Ferndale
13	14 Noon-Democratic Women's Club Mtg, Round Table Pizza at Sunset Square, Bham	15 1pm- Great Decisions, 2401 Cornwall, Bham. 7pm- Young Dems Social, Chuckanut Brewery, 601 W. Holly, Bham.	16 5:30pm- Sen Ranker fundraiser, 334 Bayside Rd, Bham.	17 7pm- Membership Mtg, see cover for details.	18	19
20	21 Noon- Lunch with Rep. Lytton, Dems HQ, 215 W. Holly, Bham	22 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Beaver Inn, Bham.	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30 7pm- Executive Board Mtg, Dems Hq, 215 W. Holly St, Bham	1	2	3