



GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Thursday, Oct. 20th
7:00 – 9:00 pm

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

All Democrats Welcome

Meeting Agenda

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 pm Program

Join us for a simple dinner, delectable desserts and an informative update on local campaigns and ballot measures. Dinner is \$10

As Democrats, we are dedicated to improving our community both through the choices we make at the ballot box and at home.

This election is all about turnout! We can not stress enough how important it is for Democrats to push as much as they can from this day forward. We are actively recruiting phone and literature drop volunteers.

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Vol 7 Issue 10
info@whatcomdemocrats.com
www.whatcomdemocrats.com
360-647-7661

Battleground: Whatcom



Fighting for our Future

The very future of Whatcom County is going to be decided this month. In just a couple weeks, ballots are going to arrive, and our very way of life in Whatcom is at risk.

With conservatives swarming the airwaves, the newspapers, and the internet with their smears and fear-mongering, the time has come to stand up and fight.

Are you ready to fight for an economy of progress that invests in the future? Are you ready to fight for our working farmers, and clean drinking water? Are you ready to work towards common sense solutions and efficient government? Are you ready to fight for the future of Whatcom?

Our candidates have been slugging it out against the onslaught of gravel miners ' dirty money, and extreme right slander. They need our help to get them over the finish line.

Call the office today and join the fight for Whatcom's future! We need doorbellers, phonebankers and letter-writers. **Call today at 647-7661 to see what you can do to save our county.**

Whatcom Dems Candidates

County Treasurer: **Steve Oliver**
County Auditor: **J. Lynne Walker**
County Council,
Pos. 1: **Pete Kremen**
Pos 2: **Christina Maginnis**
Pos 3: **Alan Black**
Bham Council,
Pos. 1 **Jack Weiss**
Pos. 3: **Cathy Lehman**
Pos. 5 **Terry Bornemann**
At-Large: **Seth Fleetwood**

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

County Exec:
*We recommend a vote for **Jack Louws**. See inside for more info.*

Initiatives: Direct Democracy in Action

Here in Whatcom County, we will be looking at a few initiatives.

Red Light Cameras

In Bellingham, citizens will be voting on whether or not Red Light Cameras should be allowed in the city. This initiative is complicated by two factors. First, the courts have been divided over whether or not this initiative will be legally binding, and second, Mayor Dan Pike signed a contract with the Arizona-based company while opponents were gathering signatures for the initiative. Now that the contract is signed, the red light camera company has grounds to sue us for breach of contract.

Privatizing Liquor Sales

For the second year in a row, Costco and a few other big retailers in Washington State have been trying to privatize parts of our liquor sales. Detractors say this would be a huge blow to our unionized liquor store employees, and reduce revenue coming into the state while proponents claim it will reduce liquor prices. Drink up!

Tim Eyman Latest Scheme

There will be a Tim Eyman measure on the ballot this year, trying to gut transportation budgets and make it difficult for our state to maintain our infrastructure. **We voted to oppose this measure at our last membership meeting.**

Check the State Democrats website for their take on the initiatives at www.wa-democrats.org

Whatcom Democrats have endorsed the initiative I-502, an effort to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana. We are trying to collect enough signatures to place this **on the 2012 ballot**. This measure would reduce the burden on our law enforcement, and provide over \$230 million dollars to our state for education and public health.



Vote Early (but not often)

Think your ballot arrived on time in the last election? Maybe not.

Just because your ballot is in the mail by November 8th does not guarantee it will be post-marked November 8th. Even dropping a ballot at the post office doesn't guarantee it will get to Everett and processed before midnight. If it is Election Day and you still have your ballot, the only way to be certain it will be counted is to get it to your closest ballot drop box before that box is closed. Refer to the yellow insert with your ballot to find the times and locations for the nearest ballot drop box. In Bellingham, the collection box is one block south of the courthouse in the parking lot. It closes at 8pm sharp and no attempt to stuff a late ballot inside will result in it being counted. Even worse is putting a ballot in the Treasurer's box in front of the courthouse, which can take a couple days to arrive at the Auditor's office.

Two hundred and sixty-six ballots were not counted in this year's primary; many of them included entire families whose votes were not counted because they were late. Please take the time to mail your ballot early. If you find that you've waited until the last possible moment and want to be certain your vote counts, come to downtown Bellingham and drop your ballot in the collection box in the parking lot south of the courthouse on Grand BEFORE 8pm. Any ballot received after that time will not be counted.

Membership Agrees to Temporary Chair Stipend

At our last membership meeting, the membership approved a proposal by the executive board to pay our chair a stipend of \$800 per month for September, October and November. This was intended as a measure to ensure a paid staffer is present during campaign season, since we let go our previous employee earlier this year.

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	staterman
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	

Why do we “recommend” Jack Louws?

At our last membership meeting, the body decided to “Recommend” Jack Louws? Why? What does that mean? Have we taken leave of our senses? Here to answer that is Communications Chair, Riley Sweeney.

First off, Why are we recommending a Republican?

First off, no Democrat made it past the primary, a casualty of our top-two system. So we can choose one of the two Republicans, or ignore the race let conservatives choose our leader.

Yeah, but Jack Louws?

Jack Louws is conservative, (both candidates are), but Jack has public and private sector executive experience, as mayor of Lynden, and actually agrees with us on a few key policy points (like complying with the Growth Management Act).

Okay, but couldn't we just do a write-in campaign?

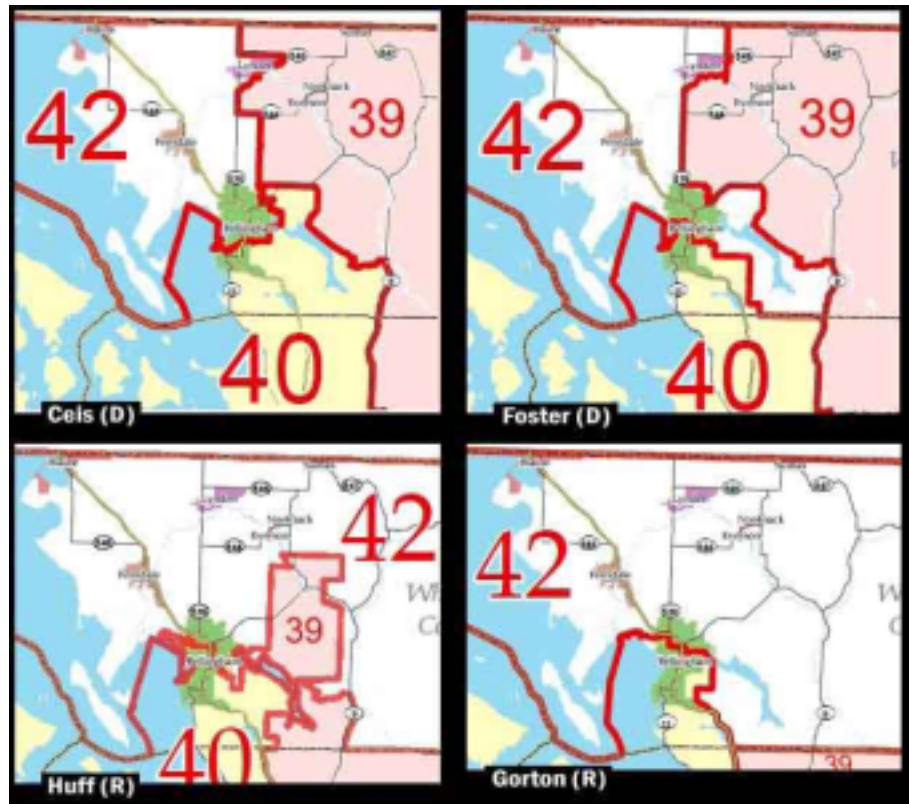
We could, but by sitting this election out, we are handing over the executive position to Doug Ericksen.

Now if that doesn't terrify you, here is a quick preview. He wants to dismantle our county unions, gut any social programs he can get his hands on, and threatened to have our technology chair arrested just for daring to record Doug in a public space.

So what does this “recommend” mean?

Just that. We recommend that you vote for him, it isn't an endorsement, just an attempt to let people know that the Whatcom Democrats would prefer him over Doug Ericksen.

If you are interested in getting a Jack Louws sign, please contact their campaign at votejack@iknowjack2011.com or call our office and we'll get you in touch. You can also find out more reasons to vote for Jack Louws at www.iknowjack2011.com



Redistricting Whatcom County

by Riley Sweeney

The plans are out and four men have redrawn the political boundaries. Washington State is one of the few smart states that has a truly bipartisan process for redistricting. There is a panel of five people; two Democrats, two Republicans, and one non-voting staff person. Then they get a bunch of feedback and blend those four maps into one proposal (through a great deal of negotiating and compromise) and that one map gets an up and down vote in our state legislature (almost always passing). This process is a great deal less controversial than say, Texas, where the Republican-controlled State Legislature redraws the whole darn thing.

So let's look at the proposals for our area, shall we? First, tip of the hat to our State Committeeman Richard May who assembled this nice little comparison.

The key here is to look for similarities, because all these plans will have to be merged somewhat into the final product. For instance, three out of the four expand the 39th LD into Whatcom County, meaning that Whatcom County will get to meet a whole fresh set of legislative Republicans. Most of the plans seem to prune off a good deal of rural voters to the East of Lynden. That would make the 42nd more competitive if it weren't for them also moving the 40th/42nd boundary inside Bellingham farther south.

I am also intrigued by Huff and Foster's plan to put the Lake Whatcom area into the 42nd or the 39th, as opposed to the 40th where it is. Would Vincent Buys, Jason Overstreet, or worst of all, Doug Ericksen, work to protect Bellingham's drinking water? Would Doug Ericksen, who got a ZERO Percent rating from Washington Conservation Voters in 2009-2010, stand up for our drinking water? It is a terrifying thought. On the other hand, the influx of more liberal voters might help swing that seat back into Democratic hands.

Both the Democratic plans seem to use the Guide-Meridian as a dividing line which makes sense from a cosmetic point of view. I like the Cels plan. It seems to make the 42nd very competitive without putting our water supply in the hands of knaves.

If you would like more detailed versions of these maps or to leave comments, you can go to the redistricting website at <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>

Yard Sale a Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated items and assisted on the day of. A special shout out to Hue, John Munson, Scott and Corinne, Michele, and Peggy for helping load the truck, and Natalie for coordinating the sale. Together we raised just shy of a thousand dollars to help our campaign efforts.

Become an Election Observer Today!

Shirley Forslof is holding training for election observers and anyone interested in the process Oct 20th from 2-4 pm in the Election Center in the basement of the courthouse. You can check in at the Auditor's office for more specific instructions.

Observers are essential to our smoothly functioning democracy. Call (360) 676 - 6740 for more 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

October 2011

Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9	10 Voter Registration Deadline Noon-Democratic Women's Club Mtg, Round Table Pizza at Sunset Square, Bham	11 4pm- Linville Meet n Greet, 2811 Broadway St, Bham. 5pm- Ferndale Candidate Forum, Central Elementary School, Ferndale. 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Beaver Inn, Bham.	12 5:30pm- Human Services Candidates Forum, 2014 C St, Bham.	13 10am- Whatcom Fair Voting Mtg, RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St, Bham. 7pm- Silver Beach Candidate Forum, 2214 Electric Avenue, Bham 7pm- Birch Bay Candidates Forum, 7038 Jackson Road, Blaine.	14 5pm- Pike Meet n Greet, 2111 Lincoln St, Bham. 5pm- Linville Meet n Greet, 3123 Eldridge Avenue, Bham.	15 9am- Lynden Dems Breakfast, 11 E. Homestead Blvd, Lynden. 9:30am- Ballot Init Forum, 2014 C St, Bham. 2pm- 40 th LD Dem Mtg, 820 E. Washington Ave, Burlington.
16	17 11am- Lunch with Rep. Lytton, 215 W. Holly St, Bham	18 1pm- Great Decisions, 2401 Cornesall, Bham. 7pm- Young Dems Mtg, Chuckanut Brewery, Bham	19 Ballots Mailed 5:30pm- Linville Meet N Greet, 133 Northshore Drive, Bham	20 10am- Civ Election Advisory Cntr, 331 Grand Ave, Bham 2pm- Election Observer Training, 311 Grand Ave, Bham 5:30pm- Mayoral Debate, PAC WWU, Bham. 5pm- LWV County Candidate Forum, 2014 C St, Bham 7pm- Membership Mtg, see cover for details.	21	22
23	24	25 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Beaver Inn, Bham.	26 11:50am- City Club - Bham Mayor debate, 3240 Northwest Avenue, Bham.	27 7pm- United for Nat'l Healthcare mtg, 1700 N. State St, Bham.	28	29
30	31	1 6pm- Jobs with Justice mtg, 1700 N. State St, Bham. 7pm- Young Dems Social, Chuckanut Brewery, 601 W. Holly, Bham.	2 Green Drinks	3	4	5