



# The 11th District Journal



December 2009 Volume 7, Issue 12

## 11th LD Democratic Organization Chair **Kate Kruller**

December is here, and it is time to get into the spirit of the season, look back on a successful year and celebrate! The **11<sup>th</sup> LD Annual Holiday Party is set for December 8 at Carpenter's Hall in Renton starting at 6:00 p.m.** There will be no other meeting this month – just the party! We're providing the same as we did last year: Turkey w/the usual fixin's (gravy, stuffing, and mashed potatoes). All we ask is that you bring a favorite potluck dish to complement the main meal. This event is typically packed with members – along with family and friends they bring. Festivities include a great spread of food and beverages, the return of the Beaconettes singing group, wonderful raffle prizes, and top-flight entertainment to make for a perfect night! We also thank a few members in a more formal manner – honoring them with awards for their hard work and efforts in 2009. Why December 8? Because we think that's the week to beat any threat of snow – which slowed us down in the past! This is a LOT of fun, and I hope you can make it!

With that event still ahead of us, let me take pause to thank everyone for coming to our Election Night Event in November out at the Glen Acres Golf Course & Country Club. Larry Grubb and George Summers had been telling our Executive Board about this location for an event for a long time, and we think it was a perfect spot to gather together as Democrats. And we had Democrats from all over the area - folks from the 33<sup>rd</sup> LD, 34<sup>th</sup> LD and 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District made it down to watch the election returns on a big screen TV and cheer for those we endorsed as many of them were selected by voters to hold office! I should also say we were treated to lively music from Birney and Geoff, making the atmosphere just right for the night.

It was another great year for Democrats with the November elections, and we all should be pleased to see the results! I want to thank everyone for what they did to make that happen - be it through being actual candidates, individual direct financial contributions, processing applications and conducting endorsement considerations, volunteering hours on phone banks, assisting with campaign fundraising efforts, putting up campaign signs, making up materials for the legislative district members to hand out while canvassing our precincts, offering spare time posting our candidate endorsements online and including them in our newsletters, posting the candidates messages/advertisements/newsletters via our listserv distribution, making our membership lists available to endorsed campaigns, coordinating our PCOs, creating events that feature candidates/campaign representatives, and walking our precincts to inform voters. Even though we are very thin on the bench in terms of numbers – we are very large in effectiveness in terms of our activist spirit. I know our membership works very hard to get involved in various ways – and I am very proud of our organization and membership for that!

One result of the elections was that Dow Constantine moved up to King County Executive (Wa Hoo!), but that left his King County Council Position 8 seat vacant. This prompted Representative Zack Hudgins to request an endorsement from the 11<sup>th</sup> LD in his bid for selection to that vacant seat. The request came after our November event, so with an online vote by your Executive Board, I was authorized to hold an online meeting for the General Membership regarding that request. From noon November 20-noon November 22, I contacted as many members as I could via e-mail and on the phone to call for a vote. The result was resounding support for the endorsement. This needs to be ratified during our gathering on December 8. We will call a short meeting during the Holiday Party on December 8 at Carpenter's Hall (the ratification vote will come up at 7 p.m. after we've had some food) - just one more good reason to make it down for our December 8 event.

### Upcoming Programs

\*\*\* Be sure to attend our next meeting on **Tuesday, December 8 at 6 p.m. at Carpenter's Hall.** **WARNING:** This will be our only gathering in December. **Do not show up on the Third Tuesday of December!**

*Note: 6:00 p.m. Holiday Party begins and continues until 7:00 p.m. when we'll take a brief break in the evening for a ratification vote when a good number of the members have arrived. Then the party continues after the vote.* We're providing the same as we did last year: Turkey w/the usual fixin's (gravy, stuffing, and mashed potatoes). All we ask is that you bring a favorite potluck dish to complement the main meal.

Come home for the holidays to our year-end party, gather with those you know and celebrate a great 2009!

GO DEMS!

Susan Kruller – Chair, 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization

## Welcome to the 11th Legislative Democratic Organization

You are Invited to attend the Monthly Meetings  
and engage in democracy in action!  
Your dues enable you to receive the district newsletter,  
help us defer our meeting expenses,  
and support our efforts on behalf of Democratic candidates.  
We provide or participate actively in fun and  
informative opportunities to reach out to Democrats  
and other voters in the 11th District.

Your volunteer efforts will further our goal  
of active members in all of the 11th District precincts.

We welcome you!

### 2009— 2011 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization Executive Board

<b>Officers</b>				
<b>Chair</b>	Kate	Kruller	206-853-9330	<a href="mailto:11demschair@gmail.com">11demschair@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Jay	Hollingsworth	206-725-4735	<a href="mailto:jayholli1@msn.com">jayholli1@msn.com</a>
<b>Treasurer (Acting)</b>	Marvin	Rosete		<a href="mailto:marvin.rosete@gmail.com">marvin.rosete@gmail.com</a>
<b>Deputy Treasurer</b>	Chuck	Laney	425-260-5824	<a href="mailto:claney06@gmail.com">claney06@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Karen	Patterson	425-226-5066	<a href="mailto:khenry1994@hotmail.com">khenry1994@hotmail.com</a>
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<b>KCDCC – Male</b>	Chris	Hintz	435-442-0153	<a href="mailto:chrishintz1@yahoo.com">chrishintz1@yahoo.com</a>
<b>KCDCC - Female</b>	Rosemary	Quesenberry	425-271-4396	<a href="mailto:running4renton@msn.com">running4renton@msn.com</a>
<b>KCDCC - M Alt</b>	Marvin	Rosete		<a href="mailto:marvin.rosete@gmail.com">marvin.rosete@gmail.com</a>
<b>KCDCC - F Alt</b>	Brooke	Lindquist	425-255-8419	<a href="mailto:brook.lindquist@gmail.com">brook.lindquist@gmail.com</a>
<b>KCDCC - LAC</b>	Don	Bennett	206-242-9113	<a href="mailto:bennettdonebe@aol.com">bennettdonebe@aol.com</a>
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<b>Raffle</b>	Azziem	Underwood	425-430-2652	<a href="mailto:meizza@yahoo.com">meizza@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Membership Retention</b>	George	Summers	206-244-0632	<a href="mailto:g.e.summers@worldnet.att.net">g.e.summers@worldnet.att.net</a>
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Young	Virginia	206-650-0240	<a href="mailto:greenrolls3@msn.com">greenrolls3@msn.com</a>

# TREASURER



**Please Send in Your 2010 Membership Dues Now**  
*(Make checks payable to the 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats)*



**Memberships:**

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| ___ Captain Membership \$50.00  | ___ Living Lightly \$6.00          |
| ___ Liberty Membership \$100.00 | ___ Silver Membership \$250.00     |
| ___ Family Sponsorship \$100.00 |                                    |
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**Send to: 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats c/o Treasurer:**

**PO BOX 1133, Renton, WA. 98057-1133**

## Salvaging something from the current health care legislation mess

We have no alternative to dumping a bottle of Chanel #5 into a full cat box—at least according to the cheerleaders for the Pelosi health care bill. They are perfectly right, of course, in insisting that there are some things in this bill that are worth having. I just don't get the insistence that these things absolutely have to be tied to the forced purchase of a garbage product from private insurance thieves. It is exactly like insisting that expensive perfume **MUST** be dumped into a pile of used kitty litter instead of being kept in its own bottle. Or that you absolutely have to eat a poison ivy salad just because it's dressed with expensive balsamic vinegar.

There is a really big constituency of Democrats out there who desperately want any bill at all so that Obama and the Dems don't look foolish after all the health care uproar. As a result, they have thrown away all capacity for logical analysis. I certainly agree that we do need to come with some bills that could pass, benefit at least some, and not permanently entrench the non-productive health insurance industry in power over us.

In addition to Democrats, there are also a lot of microconstituencies like parents of uninsured 20-somethings, affluent people who are now uninsurable and could afford outrageous premiums, etc, that would benefit from one or more provisions in the legislation as proposed. It is tactically stupid to insist to them that Chanel #5 is bad and that they don't really want any. Better to point out that they have more productive uses for it than pouring it all over a pile of steaming cat waste.

Why not try to save only what's worth saving instead? I've rearranged the numbered highlights in Speaker Pelosi's press release, and have the following suggestions. (I've noticed that neither Pelosi nor any of the people hyping this press release have said a single thing about mandates, nor about the likelihood of the public option being more expensive and available to only 2-15% of the public. I'm sure they are hoping that no one notices.)

I have analyzed the press release below as a starting point for laying out some alternatives.

### Put all the useful parts of Medicare reform into one separate bill.

Include with 6-8 the Dicks/Inslee bill (Cantwell in the Senate) changing reimbursement to end the penalty against states which provide better results with less money now.

6. **ELIMINATES COST-SHARING FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICES IN MEDICARE**—Eliminates co-payments for preventive services and exempts preventive services from deductibles under the Medicare program.

7. **IMPROVES HELP FOR LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES**—Improves the low-income protection programs in Medicare to assure more individuals are able to access this vital help.

8. **PROVIDES NEW CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE**— Prohibits Medicare Advantage plans from charging enrollees higher cost-sharing for services in their private plan than what is charged in traditional Medicare.

1. **BEGINS TO CLOSE THE MEDICARE PART D DONUT HOLE** — Reduces the donut hole by \$500 and institutes a 50% discount on brand-name drugs, effective January 1, 2010.

*Throw the above on the burn pile and start over. This is an area where incrementalism is witless. Pass one piece of legislation abolishing the entire donut hole starting now. And negotiate bulk prices with pharmaceutical companies while you are at it.*

2. **IMMEDIATE HELP FOR THE UNINSURED UNTIL EXCHANGE IS AVAILABLE (INTERIM HIGH-RISK POOL)** — Creates a temporary insurance program until the Exchange is available for individuals who have been uninsured for several months or have been denied a policy because of pre-existing conditions.

*Burn pile. A useless overpriced waste of money, given that it would probably be like what high risk pools at the state level are now. **Just let high risk people into Medicare early like we already do with disabled people.** Put the subsidy money into Medicare to take care of the extra expense.*

**Private insurance consumer protection bill. Another separate bill with 3, 4, 5 and 10**

3. BANS LIFETIME LIMITS ON COVERAGE—Prohibits health insurance companies from placing lifetime caps on coverage.

4. ENDS RESCISSIONS—Prohibits insurers from nullifying or rescinding a patient's policy when they file a claim for benefits, except in the case of fraud.

5. INCREASE DEPENDENT AGE FOR POLICIES THROUGH AGE 26: Allows those through age 26 not otherwise covered to remain on their parents' policies at their parents' discretion

10. CONTINUITY FOR DISPLACED WORKERS—Allows Americans to keep their COBRA coverage until the Exchange is in place and they can access affordable coverage.

9. IMMEDIATE SUNSHINE ON PRICE GOUGING—Discourages excessive price increases by insurance companies through review and disclosure of insurance rate increases.

*Burn pile—this is useless tripe, not unlike Conyers' sternly worded letters to Rove et al chastising them for refusing to answer subpoenas. If we have to work through private insurance, just cut the nonsense and directly regulate what they can charge and what they must cover like every other civilized country with privately insured universal care does.*

12. HELP FOR EARLY RETIREES—Creates a \$10 billion fund to finance a temporary reinsurance program to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees age 55-64.

*Burn pile. Useless to retirees with no access to such benefits, or whose benefits are inadequate to their actual medical needs. **Put the \$10 billion into Medicare, and allow retirees in this age group to join it, as Senator Rockefeller has already proposed.** Direct benefits to retirees should trump benefits to employers.*

**Each of the following could be separate bills.**

11. CREATES NEW, VOLUNTARY, PUBLIC LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM—Creates a long-term care insurance program to be financed by voluntary payroll deductions to provide benefits to adults who become functionally disabled.

13. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS—Increases funding for Community Health Centers to allow for a doubling of the number of patients seen by the centers over the next 5 years.

14. INCREASING NUMBER OF PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS — Provides new investment in training programs to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals.

**What you should your Democratic representatives for**

1. Support the Weiner amendment, allowing a floor debate and vote on single payer.
  2. Put the Kucinich amendment back in. This would allow states to waive ERISA requirements so that states could pass single payer programs.
  3. Pass the Rockefeller amendment, either as an amendment or separate legislation.
  4. Support the Dicks/Inslee/Cantwell amendment to equalize Medicare payments to West Coast states, which provide better health care outcomes for seniors at lower cost.
  5. Support Medicare expansion as an alternative to setting up a brand new bureaucracy.
- Demand that they eliminate age discrimination from final legislation.

**What you should ask Dave Reichert about**

Just ask him whether he supports the Republican legislation to abolish Medicare. Make note of any equivocations.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**11th Legislative District Democratic Organization**  
**November Online Meeting**  
**Held noon November 19 to noon November 22, 2009**

Meeting called to order by the 11th LD Democratic Chair at noon November 19. Meeting was authorized by a recommendation from the 11th LD Executive Board in an online motion/vote meeting process conducted during the previous 48 hours. An online meeting was utilized, because time was of the essence.

Chair opened the floor for a motion regarding Rep. Zack Hudgins request for an endorsement regarding King County Council Position 8.

A number of motions to endorse Zack Hudgins were submitted in reply. Motion was acknowledged from PCO Terry Cockrill and with the Second by PCO Suzie Sheary

Motion: That the 11th Dist membership endorse Zack Hudgins for the King County Council Position 8 Vacancy.

Discussion was allowed until noon the following day. The Chair provided those receiving the e-mail call to vote more information on how the online vote would be processed, and how the notification would be handled if the endorsement was supported. Discussion was closed by exception at the set time of noon November 20.

The 11th LD Democratic Chair called for a vote from noon November 20 - noon November 21 unless there was an objection. Voting was conducted by submitting a Yes (for the motion) or No (against the motion) via e-mail to the Chair and Vice Chair. Some votes were requested/received via phone from members without e-mail access.

Prior to the noon deadline on November 21, Jay Hollingsworth respectfully raised an objection to the deadline and requested that the 11th LD Democrats vote on the motion be extended until noon November 22. The Chair recognized the suggestion and agreed that the extended vote total would be fairer - given that many members may not be allowed to view their e-mail on a work day and that some may not read their e-mail before noon on a Saturday. It made sense to extend the vote to a greater portion of the weekend to allow more members a chance to weigh in.

Chair extended the vote deadline to noon November 22. Voting continued and was conducted by submitting a Yes (for the motion) or No (against the motion) via e-mail to the Chair and Vice Chair. Some votes were requested/received via phone from members without e-mail access.

Chair closed the vote, with no objection, at noon November 22. The tally was conducted and reported via e-mail and will be posted in the December Newsletter.

Result: 49 Yes votes – 1 No vote. Therefore, the motion carries.

Chair adjourned the meeting at time of the tally report on November 22. This vote will be ratified for the record December 8, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kate Kruller

## 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization Endorsement Consideration for Zack Hudgins regarding King County Council Position 8 Vacancy

**Results for Online Meeting Vote ending  
Noon Sunday November 22, 2009**

**Motion:** That the 11th Dist membership endorse Zack Hudgins for the King County Council Position 8 Vacancy.

**Members that voted:**

Jay Hollingsworth	Virginia Young	Joan Hernandez	George Reilly	Pam Carter
Chuck Laney	Chuck Parrish	Chris Hintz	Kay Lutz	Willa Henderson
Brendan Donckers	Margarita Prentice	Martha Koester	Jeanne Legault	David Cockrill
Rosemary Quesenberry	Brian Kennedy	Nancy Harkrider	George Scarola	David Fleetwood
Emily Willoughby	Robin Jones	Kathleen Keene	Jeannette Kelly	Mark Kearns
Barbara Burke	Shirley Guant-Smith	Jim Flynn	Teresa D. Minks	Ron Lamb
Susan Sheary	Kay Batt	Mark Milodragovich	Roger Pence	Bob Mair
Alene Brede	Terry Cockrill	Dian Ferguson	Mary Lou Gilbert	Meegan Prince
Brook Linquist	Don Bennett	Larry Grubb	Bonnie Harger	Ed Prince
Don Tinker	Zack Hudgins	Lawrence Freeburn	Robin Guevara	Jerry Siedl

**Overall Responses:** 37 responses via e-mail; 14 responses via phone. 50 total votes.  
Per Robert's Rules (latest version), abstentions are not included in the final tally count.

**Result: 49 Yes votes – 1 No vote. Therefore, the motion carries.**

The meeting adjourned at the publication of the endorsement vote result.

**Handling the result:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization Chair will send notification of the membership endorsement in writing and e-mail to Zack Hudgins. This will be done as soon as the votes are tallied - or by December 1 or sooner. The Chair will also send a copy of that notification to the KCDCC and the King County Council members.

**Radification:** Robert's Rules (latest version) says you can use remote-access (electronic/telephonic) motion/voting processes with one caveat - it must be ratified by the membership at the next meeting for the record. The 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization is authorized to conduct its notification process - knowing that it has a validated vote result and can account for that to the membership at the next meeting. The ratification process will be conducted at the Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 to officially enter it into the record. Projections are that the vacancy officially comes open December 1, that the King County Council has to publicly post the vacancy for a certain amount of time (at least a week) and that the selection process may take an additional week to determine. The ratification should occur before that amount of time transpires.

Thank you everyone for your participation in this meeting!

GO DEMS! -

Kate Kruller

Chair, 11th Legislative District Democrats

206.853.9330

[11demschair@gmail.com](mailto:11demschair@gmail.com)

<p><b>Official Call</b>          11th Legislative District Monthly Meeting          Tuesday December 8, 2009 – Holiday Party/Dinner 6:00 p.m.          Ratification of November Online Meeting 7:00 p.m.    <b>Carpenter’s Hall 231 Burnett Avenue North          Renton, Washington 98057</b>    <b>Executive Board Meeting: Thursday January 7 at 7pm</b>          Renton Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Avenue North</p>	<p><i>Note: 6:00 p.m. Holiday Party begins and continues until a brief break in the evening for theratification vote when a good number of the members have arrived. Then the party continues after the vote.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed Meeting Agenda</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m.          Call to Order          Flag Salute</p> <p>7:05 p.m.          Approve Past Minutes/Approve Agenda          Announcements and Introductions</p> <p>7:10 p.m. – Ratification vote regarding the endorsement vote conducted online in November starting noon November 20, 2009 and adjourned at noon November 22, 2009</p> <p>7:15 p.m. - Adjourn</p>
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*The 11th District Journal is published on a monthly basis as a means of notice of general membership meetings. It is published and distributed 10 days preceding general meetings pursuant to District Bylaws.*

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