



The 11th District Journal



May 2010 Volume 8, Issue 4

11th LD Democratic Organization Chair

Kate Kruller

We have a lot coming up, from this point forward, on the road to the November elections! We're organizing to complete our work with Legislative District Nominating Convention this month. This crucial activity preserves the traditional role of our political party in our nation's future – to let the voters know what nominated **candidates** are! Here at the 11th LD, our elected and appointed PCOs will decide what Democrats in our district deserve have our party's support as they campaign for a position with the Washington State House of Representatives.

We're also about to embark upon our summer community outreach efforts. In June, we will be visible in Renton, Beacon Hill and Burien. We will provide information on each at our meetings, so please learn all you can and volunteer to participate! Usually, we put up an 11th LD Democrats booth and even go through the parade route in Renton. This is our face-to-face with our neighbors and friends where we live. Please volunteer for any of these events because it is a great deal of fun and "many hands make for light work."

June also is when the filing period occurs for candidates for office. This is an important time for our members to be mindful of who is throwing their hat in the ring and what campaigns we should support on the way to Election Day. Do your homework. Bring information to the meetings that we can all use in making the right decision. The 11th Legislative District covers five cities and unincorporated areas of King County. That is a lot to consider. We will hold our endorsement meetings in June and July to weigh in on who deserves our recommendation and support.

I certainly hope you have been able to benefit from the programs we're bringing to you during our meetings and special events beyond our monthly routine. So far this year, we've seen our State Party Chair, our legislators from Olympia, a Seattle Councilmember and the King County Executive. We're also seeing some candidates who are stopping by to talk with us before the meetings, during the breaks and afterwards. I think sometimes we get used to this environment and take it for granted, but I guarantee you that most people you know at work and home never get these kind of opportunities to speak with elected officials and candidates in person – not to mention get first-hand opinions and answers on topics you care about!

So mark your calendar and come down to an event with fellow Democrats, where what you think makes a difference!

Upcoming Programs:

*****11th LD Nominating Convention: Tuesday, May 18, 2010– 7 p.m. at Carpenter's Hall -**
231 Burnett Avenue North in Renton, WA, 98057. Calling all Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)! We have two positions to consider during this State Democratic Party-sanctioned meeting. We will be swift in announcing the process and rendering a decision. Please be on time.

***** 11th Legislative District Democrats General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 - 7 p.m. at Carpenter's Hall.** 231 Burnett Avenue North in Renton, WA, 98057. The second part of the evening will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the upcoming State Party Convention in June, our candidate endorsement process and details on the community outreach events we will participate in over the summer – especially in June!

All it takes is a group of dedicated Democrats combining efforts to get involved, build community and find ways to bring our value systems to life where we live! Together, we can accomplish amazing things! I hope to see you at the next meeting.

GO DEMS!

Kate Kruller - Chair

11th 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

Officers				
Chair	Kate	Kruller	206-853-9330	11demschair@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Jay	Hollingsworth	206-725-4735	jayholli1@msn.com
Treasurer	Marvin	Rosete		marvin.rosete@gmail.com
Deputy Treasurer	Chuck	Laney	425-260-5824	claney06@gmail.com
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WSDCC - Female	Martha	Koester	206-762-6417	formalhaut2003@yahoo.com
KCDCC – Male	Chris	Hintz		chrshintz1@yahoo.com
KCDCC - Female	Rosemary	Quesenberry	425-271-4396	running4renton@msn.com
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KCDCC - LAC	Don	Bennett	206-242-9113	bennettdonebe@aol.com
Appointments				
Programs				
Parliamentarian	Brendan	Donckers		bwdonckers@gmail.com
Raffle	Azziem	Underwood	425-430-2652	meizza@yahoo.com
Membership Retention	George	Summers	206-244-0632	g.e.summers@worldnet.att.net
Webmaster	Alene	Brede	206-396-1237	alene@theflutededge.com
PCO Activities	Grubb	Larry	206-243-3199	larbeag@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Young	Virginia	206-650-0240	greenrolls3@msn.com

TREASURER



Please Send in Your 2010 Membership Dues Now
(Make checks payable to the 11th District Democrats)



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- | | |
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Send to: 11th District Democrats c/o Treasurer:

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11th Legislative District Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Carpenter's Hall – 231 Burnett Avenue North
Renton, Washington 98057

7:00 p.m.
Call to Order
Flag Salute

7:05 p.m.
Approved Past Minutes/MSA
Approved Agenda/MSA
Recognitions/ Introductions:
The Chair recognized Dow Constantine, King County Executive, Zack Hudgins, State Representative who also introduced four guests visiting from Indonesia.

7:10 p.m.
Key Speaker for the evening was Dow Constantine, King County Executive who expressed his sincere thanks to the 11th LD for their support, hard work and volunteer hours during his campaign. Mr. Constantine spoke to membership about putting together a blue print/road map for improving customer service, stewardship of the county finances and control cost. He also wants to engage the public and work more with county employees. Some goals he is working on will be to grow new business, improve the building permits process - but also keep in mind public safety, visiting cities around King County and appointing a new labor relation person. Some challenges he is facing is the Green River flooding issues, ways to protect gains we have made and getting government on foot. After Mr. Constantine addressed the membership time was permitted for Q&A.

Major questions presented were: The closure of South Park Bridge, fear in the community, loss of jobs, King County animal shelter, Youth services and the potential closing of Lindberg Pool. The 11th was encouraged to focus on helping KC work better for Skyway, develop ways to make government fit for people and get involved with local causes. We are thankful for the time Dow took out of his busy schedule to come and visit the 11th LD.

7:45 p.m.
Zack Hudgins, State Representative addressed the membership first with a sincere thanks for the support given to him and other representatives. A recap of the State Budget was presented with focus and discussion regarding the Museum of Flight acquiring a space shuttle, standard barriers and the state printer. Q&A followed with questions regarding the tax increase, House Leadership, Port of Seattle, job creation and loop holes which a task force will be formed to review. Once again we appreciate Representative Hudgins and his openness to answer those hard and tough questions.

8:05 p.m.

Resolution to Oppose the Proposed Anti-Panhandling Law: Target Poverty, Not the Poor. Motion, discussion, question, then followed by the final vote. 18 to approve 6 to opposed, resolution passed.

8:15 p.m.

Break

8:30 p.m.

Joe McDermott, State Senator announced to the membership that he will run for position on the King County Council representing District 8. Senator McDermott wants to stimulate the building trade, increase jobs by improving the convention center, increase local revenue, closing the loop holes that now exist in our state government and the relocation of the Aviation High school with the Museum of Flight. Q&A followed with the following topics, job creation, the capital budget, and cost of the aviation school and the annexation of North Highland. The 11th LD also thanks Senator McDermott for coming out and sharing with the membership.

8:45 p.m.

Two other resolutions presented: Resolution to Endorse I-1068, Eliminating All Criminal Penalties for the Adult Use, Possession and Cultivation of Marijuana.- MSA by Acclamation

Member Thomas Campbell was approved as a new PCO-MSA

8:50 p.m.

King County Democratic Convention-Results presented by Chair Kate Kruller who also announced that the 11th LD Nominating Convention will be May 18th.

8:55 p.m.

Officer Report, thanks to all the officers of the 11th for their commitment.
Legislative Recap by Don Bennett, thanks again for your dedication Don.

Raffle Prizes

9:00 p.m.

Good of the Order

If you would like observe and volunteer in the upcoming election please contact Emily at (206) 241-5883.

Remember the upcoming movie event featuring Michael Moore's film.

9:05

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by:
Karen Patterson, Secretary

Top Two Primary FAQ

by Dwight Pelz, Chair, WSDCC
April, 2010

What is the difference between the Top Two primary, and the primaries we have always conducted in Washington?

A primary election can serve either one of two roles: either to **winnow down** the number of candidates who will appear on the general ballot; or to **nominate** the candidate for a political party.

In a non-partisan election, such as city council races in Washington, the primary takes a field of candidates running for a given office and **winnows down** (reduces) that field to two.

Historically in Washington, for a partisan race such as the Legislature or Congress, the primary **reduces** the field to two; but also serves to **nominate** the candidate of the Party. In 2004 Ron Sims ran against Chris Gregoire for Governor. When the voters gave more votes to Gregoire, they **nominated** her to be the **nominee** of the Democratic Party.

The Top Two Primary will only serve to **winnow down** the field to two candidates; and will no longer **nominate** a candidate for one party or the other. This is true even when the general election features one Democrat against one Republican – neither will be the nominee of their party.

Why are we holding Nominating Conventions?

The Top Two primary took from our party the ability to have the voters nominate a candidate. We are not willing to have this vital role eliminated. That is a time honored role of our political party in America – to let the voters know who is our **nominated candidate**.

The Supreme Court in its ruling clearly acknowledged the right of the parties to nominate through "whatever mechanism" we choose. "Whether the parties nominate their own candidates outside the state-run primary is simply irrelevant. In fact, parties may now nominate candidates by whatever mechanism they choose because I-872 repealed Washington's prior regulations governing party nomination."

Finally, in order to sustain our challenge in the courts to the Top Two Primary it is necessary that we retain our authority to nominate our candidates by conducting our own Nominating Conventions.

Who decided we should hold Nominating Conventions?

In 2005 the State Central Committee extensively debated how the Party would nominate candidates in the event that the State or the courts implemented the Top Two Primary. The Central Committee voted and passed the **Rules for the Selection of Candidates and Nominees for Public Office**.

These rules were applied in 2005 in two County Council races, one in King and one in Snohomish. In King County, PCO's had to choose between two incumbent Democrats, and nominated Bob Ferguson over Caroline Edmonds. Both candidates filed, and the race was very close, and not decided for a week after the voting.

On March 18, 2008 the US Supreme Court ruled against us on the Top Two Primary, forcing the Party to revisit the Rules adopted in 2005 by the Central Committee.

In April, 2008 the Executive Board met and reviewed these rules, and confirmed that we should conduct nominations in accordance with these rules for the 2008 election cycle. The LD and County organizations did heroic work to comply by these rules in the midst of a Presidential year, and all the burdens that places before local parties.

Rules Adopted in 2009

In 2009 the Central Committee Rules Committee reviewed the Rules for Nominations, in light of our 2008 experiences, and placed the Rules for Nomination before the Central Committee at its September, 2009 meeting in Walla Walla. These Rules were adopted. The only significant change to the previous rules was the provision that the Central Committee, not congressional district caucuses, would nominate candidates for the US House.

Why Should the PCO's Have the Power to Nominate?

There is ample precedent for this. Elected PCO's are elected public officials, and granted legal powers by statute. PCO's are currently charged by state law with the responsibility to nominate a candidate to the county authority, to fill vacancies in the Legislature and other partisan positions.

This is not a task PCO's in Washington shirk, even when it means choosing between two or more good Democrats to be the next legislator. When PCO's choose a person to fill a vacancy, that person is usually sworn into office within a week. The "winning" candidate takes office, the "losing" candidates go home.

Filling a vacancy arguably is a more consequential task than nominating a candidate at a Nominating Convention. Both the nominee and the challenger are free to file for the position, and campaign for the Top Two primary. In highly Democratic districts the two may face each other a third time, on the general election ballot.

What if our LD or County Organization Does not Nominate?

It is the policy of the WSDCC to have a nominee in contested partisan races. According to the **Rules for the Selection of Candidates and Nominees for Public Office**, the State Party Chair shall nominate a candidate in the event that the local party does not. When possible, I shall seek the input of the Executive Board prior to taking such action. In 2008 I nominated one candidate for the State House, where the local LD organization declined to hold a Nominating Convention.

Nominations vs. Endorsements

Nominations and endorsements are not the same. Rules for **nominations** are set by the State Central Committee, which clearly states:

These rules are mandatory and are not amendable by any party organization other than the Washington State Democratic Central Committee or the State Convention.

Rules for **endorsements** are set by the local parties, and they are free to set whatever rules on endorsements they wish. They may have a two thirds requirement, they may allow for dual endorsements. They may open endorsements up to a broader set of Democrats than PCO's.

In fact it is theoretically possible that local party might nominate Candidate A and endorse Candidate B.

Why Isn't the State Party providing a specific agenda and set of rules for nominating convention?

First, the rules surrounding Delegate Selection are more detailed and more specific than the Rules for Nomination. Delegates serve at the State Convention, which is the highest authority within the Party.

Secondly, we could over-complicate the conduct of Nominating Conventions, but the fact is that our local parties have the skills to conduct these Conventions without a lot of guidelines from the State Party.

What resources will the State Party be providing to nominated candidates? How does this compare to resources provided to endorsed candidates?

The State Party will not be providing any specific resources to nominated candidates. As an example, all candidates running as Democrats (prefers Democratic Party) in partisan elections receive access to the Voter File.

The one exception will be as follows. The Coordinated Campaign will only list nominated Democrats in its literature. Since 99% of our literature is for the General Election, not the Primary, this will only be significant in a race where the Top Two candidates are both Democrats.

What happens if the nominated candidate doesn't make it out of the primary election?

In this case, the local party will be encouraged to host a Nominating Convention after the Primary. If the local party fails to do so, the State Central Committee or the Executive Board may choose to address the matter at its September meeting.

What nominations will take place at the State Convention and who will be allowed to vote?

Nominations for statewide office are conducted at the State Convention. Delegates vote.

Official Call

11th Legislative District Nominating Convention
Tuesday May 18, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.
Renton Carpenters Hall - 231 Burnett Avenue North

Proposed Agenda and Rules

for the

Nominating Convention for Washington State Legislators in the 11th Legislative District

The purpose of this meeting is to choose an official Democratic Party nominee for both of the 11th Legislative District state representative positions and the state senate position, all of which will be on the ballot in 2010.

*Note: Eligible voters include all duly elected or appointed
11th Legislative District Precinct Committee Officers
for their resident precinct.*

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Register for the Nominating Convention

7:00 p.m. - Call to Order: 11th LD Chair, Kate Kruller
Flag Salute

7:02 p.m. - Appointment of Temporary Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian

7:05 p.m. - Report of Credentials Committee: Announcement of Delegates Seated, Credentials Challenges and Quorum

7:10 p.m. - Report of Rules Committee: Adoption of Rules and Agenda

7:15 p.m. - Election of Permanent Chair, followed by the Appointment of Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian

7:20 p.m. - Nomination of candidates

7:25 p.m. – Vote (*elected or appointed, credentialled 11th Legislative District Precinct Committee Officers only*)

7:27 p.m. - Good of the Order

7:29 p.m. - Adjourn

Rules for the Nominating Convention for Washington State Legislators in the 11th Legislative District

The 11th Legislative District Nominating Convention shall be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, immediately preceding the Legislative District General Membership Meeting at Renton Carpenters Hall - 231 Burnett Avenue North. Notice shall be e-mailed members not less than ten (10) days prior to the Nominating Convention

Attendees with voice and vote to the Nominating Convention shall include any duly elected or appointed 11th Legislative District Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) for his/her resident precinct that has signed in for a credential. Other members of the public are invited to attend and observe.

The 11th District Chair shall serve as the temporary chair of the Caucus and shall appoint a temporary secretary, sergeant-at-arms and parliamentarian.

The report of the Credentials Committee shall include the total number of PCOs who have signed in for a credential, as well as the sum of the weighted votes carried by the PCOs when the report is given. The final credentials report shall be adopted prior to the conduct of any other official business.

Each elected or appointed PCO voting at the convention shall be apportioned the number of votes equal to the number of precinct level delegates his or her precinct was allotted during the 2008 National Delegate Selection process. In the case of newly formulated precincts the calculation would be based on the allocation formula used in the most recent delegate selection plan.

The chair of the rules committee shall present the report of the rules committee.

Nominations, seconding speeches and speeches by the candidate on his or her own behalf shall not total more than two (1) minute per nominee. A majority vote is required to elect. If no person has a majority, the candidate receiving the least votes is dropped and balloting shall be repeated using the remaining names. This procedure shall be repeated until a candidate receives a majority. If there is only one candidate, the election may be by acclamation.

The permanent chair shall appoint a permanent secretary, sergeant-at-arms, and parliamentarian.

Rules relating to Nomination of Candidates or the weighted vote allocation to PCOs may not be suspended, amended or otherwise changed.

Nomination of 11th Legislative District candidates will be considered in order, beginning with state representative position #1, and then state representative position #2.

Nominations will be taken from the floor to consider a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination.

Each candidate and/or candidate supporters shall be entitled to address the convention for a total of up to 2 minutes. Each delegate shall vote by signed ballot for no more than one candidate for each office for which nominations are sought. The results shall be tallied and reported to the Chair. The convention may dispense with balloting and nominate by acclamation for any office in which a single candidate is seeking nomination.

The nominee of the Democratic Party shall be the candidate who receives a majority vote of weighted ballots. If no candidate receives a majority of the first ballot, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be dropped from each successive ballot until a candidate receives a majority. In the event of a tie in determining which candidate shall be dropped, the candidate shall be chosen by lot.

The Chair shall appoint a representative tally committee.

Proxy voting shall not be allowed.

A quorum shall consist of 30% of the number eligible to vote as shown on the most recently amended credentials report.

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall prevail in other matters not specifically covered herein.

Official Call

11th Legislative District Monthly Meeting
Tuesday May 18, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.

Renton Carpenters Hall
231 Burnett Avenue North

Proposed Agenda

- 7:30 p.m.
Call to Order
- 7:35 p.m.
Approve Past Minutes
Approve Agenda
Recognitions/Introductions
- 7:10 p.m.
Featured Speaker: To Be Announced (note: past meetings have featured our State Legislators, a Seattle Councilmember, the State Party Chair and the King County Executive – be sure to attend this meeting for another exciting speaker!)
- 8:00 p.m. Break
- 8:10 p.m.
 - State Party Democratic Convention – Details/Process
 - June/July Endorsement Meetings - Details/ProcessUpcoming June Community Outreach Events – Renton, Beacon Hill, Burien
- 8:30 p.m. Officer Reports
- 11th LD (multi-LD) Movie Event Report – Jay Hollingsworth
- 8:45 p.m. - Raffle Prizes
- 8:50 p.m. - Good of the Order
- 9:00 p.m. - Adjourn

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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