



# The 11th District Journal



SEPTEMBER 2007 VOLUME 5, ISSUE 8

The United States Constitution is in jeopardy. The Bush Administration — and most blatantly, Vice President Cheney— continue to disregard our civil liberties. Over the past few months I have come to the decision that legislation to impeach Vice President Cheney is necessary. I have co-sponsored a bill in the US Congress to that effect ([Read the bill](#)).

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=hr110-333>

Jim McDermott <http://www.mcdermottforcongress.com/>

“The school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize.” *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**Approve 4204** School levies in Washington require approval by 60 percent of voters while other elections require a simple majority of voters. Revenue from levies provide schools with fundamental needs. WA ranks 47th in class size. Last year 31 school levies received a majority vote but failed because they didn't get 60 percent. [4204](#) will mitigate this unfair requirement of a super-majority. <http://www.simplybetterschools.org/>

## 11th LD Democratic Organization Chair

Susan Kruller

This is my favorite time of year! We're turning the corner now and heading for the November elections. Voters will head to the polls soon and so this is our chance to really make a difference right now! PCOs have their VoteBuilder accounts to help track voter patterns in their precincts and we're all walking our precincts to raise awareness about voter registration, absentee ballots and telling everyone what candidates or issues the Democrats are supporting. We are also trying to reconnect with previous caucus attendees. Martha Koester and Don Bennett have been working hard to distribute printed canvassing materials – candidate information, slim jims, and walking lists. Give them a call if you need information or materials.

### Annual Picnic A Success

This year's 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats Annual Picnic was one of our best yet! We had lots of members and their families show up in perfect weather for outdoor fun. As always, we love to see our own electeds at any of our activities – and Bob Hasegawa was there to get together with fellow members. Endorsed candidates Bill Sherman, Keith Scully, Kathy Keene, Mayor Kathy Koelker, Shirley Guant-Smith, Brian Kennedy, and Pam Carter were all on hand to talk with us about the primary and key issues. Darcy Burner (8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District race potential for 2008) also joined in the fun and gave an inspiring speech about what a difference we can make with voters.

We had a great raffle with Azziem Underwood - in character as the raffle MC or "captain of our flight" - helping us "put our seats in an upright position" and contribute for great prizes. Thanks to everyone who contributed prizes and those who supported the raffle. We had good music going and lots of fun together...and the food was a barbecue best! We had all you could wish for – all the traditional coal-fired entrees, plus marinated chicken kabobs (which I have on good authority the event chair worked late into the previous night preparing).

As we wrapped it up, we all breathed a sigh of relief, because the weather forecasters had predicted heavy rain. We just finished packing up and the deluge of thunder and rain began. All the volunteers sat up under the covered area and congratulated one another on a perfect day. A big THANK YOU goes out to Event Chair Alene Brede and all the volunteers that made this year's picnic absolutely super! Chuck Laney, Rosemary Quesenberry, George Summers, Emily Willoughby, Shirley Guant-Smith,

### 2008 Caucus Update

Much more planning has gone into the 2008 Caucuses. At the precinct level, we are very close to finalizing the caucus location list and will soon be reserving those sites for February 9. Next, we will identify our conveners for each site and communicating what support positions are needed – so all members can sign up, get trained and really participate in this significant grassroots Party process. Feel free to contact our Caucus Chair George Summers if you have questions about how we run a caucus or want to get involved. As we say – this is YOUR legislative district; every Democrat is valuable and can make all the difference together!

### September Program

The program for September will include a Hot Topic section feature a pro-con debate on the RTID Transportation Plan coming up on the November ballot. Should be an interesting mobility vs. environment discussion – all to determine what makes up a good balance for our region. Also, since we've been mostly preoccupied with endorsement activity in our meetings since April, so this time we'll give some brief status reports to share what's been going on in our Party at the 11<sup>th</sup>, the County and State level. A LOT is going on; you won't want to miss this.

Things are really heating up in politics and now's the time to be a part of it all. Let's all do our best to Get Out The Vote and get our candidates into office! GO DEMS!

**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!**

The newsletter is also available online in PDF format at the [11th LD website](#) and via email. The digital format is in color with active links. You can change the text size to fit your preference.

There are some great new features at the 11th LD web site. Join the Discussion Group and be heard by the entire membership. You will find it at <http://www.11thliddems.org>

Some members of the 11th LD Dems are receiving the monthly newsletter via email as a PDF file. If you would like to also receive the electronic version, in color with active links, send me a [email message](#) with: Newsletter in the subject and you will be added to the emailing list. [james.flynn@comcast.net](mailto:james.flynn@comcast.net)

**2007— 2008 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization Executive Board**

<b>Officers</b>				
<b>Chair</b>	Susan	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</b>	Chuck	Laney	425-260-5824	<a href="mailto:claney06@gmail.com">claney06@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Jim	Flynn	425-277.0950	<a href="mailto:james.flynn@comcast.net">james.flynn@comcast.net</a>
<b>WSDCC - Male</b>	Azziem	Underwood	425-430-2652	<a href="mailto:meizza@yahoo.com">meizza@yahoo.com</a>
<b>WSDCC - Female</b>	Martha	Koester	206.762.6417	<a href="mailto:formalhaut2003@yahoo.com">formalhaut2003@yahoo.com</a>
<b>KCDCC – Male</b>	Chris	Hintz	435 442 0153,	<a href="mailto:chrshintz1@yahoo.com">chrshintz1@yahoo.com</a>
<b>KCDCC - Female</b>	Jeanette	Kelley	425-226-0382	
<b>KCDCC - M Alt</b>	Dennis	Moyers		
<b>KCDCC - F Alt</b>	Bonnie	Harger	425-255-8419	<a href="mailto:bhargerj321@aol.com">bhargerj321@aol.com</a>
<b>KCDCC - LAC</b>	Don	Bennett	206-242-9113	<a href="mailto:bennettdonebe@aol.com">bennettdonebe@aol.com</a>
<b>Appointments</b>				
<b>Programs</b>	Brendan	Donckers		<a href="mailto:bwdonckers@gmail.com">bwdonckers@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parliamentarian/SAA</b>	Emily	Willoughby	206-241-5885	<a href="mailto:emilya57@comcast.net">emilya57@comcast.net</a>
<b>Raffle</b>	Azziem	Underwood	425-430-2652	<a href="mailto:meizza@yahoo.com">meizza@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Webmaster</b>	Alene	Brede	206-396-1237	<a href="mailto:alene@theflutededge.com">alene@theflutededge.com</a>
<b>PCO Activities</b>	Grubb	Larry	206.243.3199	<a href="mailto:larbeaq@hotmail.com">larbeaq@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Past Chirman</b>	Prince	Ed		<a href="mailto:Ed.prince@hotmail.com">Ed.prince@hotmail.com</a>

# TREASURER

## Charles Laney



**Please Send in Your 2007 Membership Dues Now**  
*(Make checks payable to the 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats)*



**Memberships:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Membership \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription only \$10.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership \$250.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Sponsorship \$100.00    |
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**Send to: 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats % Chuck Laney Treasurer:**

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

**11th Legislative District Democratic Organization****No August Meeting - Just Lots of Summer Fun**

Thanks Alene Brede, Emily Willoughby, Don Bennett, Larry Grubb, Chuck Laney, George Summers and everyone who helped make this summer a lot of fun for the 11<sup>th</sup> LD by sponsoring events. Thanks Martha Koester, Gerie Ventura for the pics. Link to Gerie's Pics at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/moxieg/sets/72157600942505442> and others at: <http://www.seattleoptin.us>

### **Seattle Human Rights Commission to hold public meeting September 19 on police professional accountability**

The Seattle Human Rights Commission (SHRC) will hold a public meeting on police professional accountability on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 7-9 p.m. at the University Heights Community Center, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle.

The meeting is in response to recent news reports about the system for dealing with complaints of police misconduct through the Seattle Police Department's Office of Professional Accountability (OPA). A panel composed of members of the Seattle Police Department (including the OPA) and community representatives will discuss the current system of police accountability.

"This is an opportunity for the general public to gain an accurate sense of how our system of law enforcement functions, and to offer feedback on the current OPA system," said Julian Wheeler, Seattle Human Rights Commissioner and co-coordinator of the public meeting. Panelists will include Nick Licata, Seattle City Council President; Kathryn Olson, OPA Director; Peter Holmes, chair of the OPA Review Board; Regina LaBelle, Legal Counsel for Mayor Greg Nickels; James Bible, Seattle/King County NAACP; the Rev. Dr. Sandford "Sandy" Brown, Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle, as well as representatives from the Police Department and community groups. Those in attendance will have an opportunity to pose questions to panel members and express their own views. The Seattle Human Rights Commission will utilize information from the event to develop appropriate recommendations to the Mayor and City Council to improve the complaint process.

"The meeting offers a chance for officials from the Police Department and OPA to hear directly from community members while the City Council and the Mayor's Police Accountability Review Panel address questions about the police accountability process," said Michael Fitch, Chair of the Commission's Public Safety Task Force and also a co-coordinator of the meeting.

The Seattle Human Rights Commission is a volunteer group that advises the City of Seattle on human rights issues. For more information about this event, please contact Julian Wheeler at: [julianfwheeler@aol.com](mailto:julianfwheeler@aol.com) or Marta Idowu at [marta.idowu@seattle.gov](mailto:marta.idowu@seattle.gov). Seattle Office for Civil Rights, (206) 684-4540

**SECRETARY**

Jim Flynn

During the July 11<sup>th</sup> LD meeting we listened to Rep Bob Hasegawa prevail in a debate with Sen Margarita Prentice on proposed legislation of and issue called the Rainy Day Fund. The fund sets aside one percent of tax revenue to support programs during downturns in the economy. This may be an ideal budgeting strategy for an upper class household that can afford it, but not what we see as fiscally responsible for the State Government. Taxpayers from South King County have seen a list of programs for low income child care, housing, health care and education terminated during the last eight years of prosperity due to budget cuts. Bob didn't need to point out that the one percent is, in effect, a tax cut. Washington has emergency funding procedures and discretionary spending funds available. The membership voted to oppose the Rainy Day Fund.

Listen to short audio clips of part of the debate at my website, <http://www.seattleoptin.us/RainyDay>

Representative Hasegawa will have an uphill battle in this next legislative session. When George Summers, chairman of the Caucus Committee, introduced Wyatt Ho and me to the Spokane County Democratic Organization at a picnic there in August we listened to Senate Majority Assistant Whip from the 6<sup>th</sup> LD Chris Marr, Senate Majority Leader from the 3<sup>rd</sup> LD Lisa Brown and Speaker of the House from the 43<sup>rd</sup> LD Frank Chopp speak in favor of the Rainy Day Fund. Remember, during the 2006 campaign they spoke strongly in favor of the Estate Tax, aka the Paris Hilton Tax, with revenue allocated to desperately underfunded education in Washington. Any such revenue added to the State coffers is chump change compared to revenue taken away by the Rainy Day Fund. After the picnic festivities Chris Marr spoke to me and I asked him to oppose the legislation. We need to find a way to help Representative Bob Hasegawa in his effort to stop the Rainy Day Fund and put our tax money to work.



View Pictures of the Spokane event at <http://www.seattleoptin.us/Spokane>

Shirley Gaunt-Smith is running for Renton City Council Position 3. She brings a wide array of skills and experience to her candidacy, including managing multi-million dollar projects at Boeing that were accomplished on schedule and within budget. Following a 37-year career at Boeing, she retired in 1995 and returned to the University of Washington where she earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration.



As the availability of low-cost housing in Renton has dwindled, she has become increasingly concerned with the growing numbers of homeless women and children. Shirley's proven business skills, life experiences, volunteer service and contemporary academic achievement make her uniquely qualified to meet the challenges faced by members of the Renton City Council.

Shirley Gaunt-Smith has been endorsed by the 11th District Democrats, 37th District Democrats, and the King County Democrats and many other individuals and organizations. See Shirley's great website at, <http://www.shirleygauntsmith.com>

Please consider voting for Shirley on November 6th and lending support for her campaign. Please contact the campaign office at 425.228.8763 or email Shirley at [GauntSmith@comcast.net](mailto:GauntSmith@comcast.net).

VOTE SHIRLEY GAUNT SMITH FOR RENTON CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 3

Thank you,  
Susan Sheary  
Campaign Staff

**Last minute items that need your consideration :**

South Park Fiesta Patrias event (Sea Mar Fiesta Patrias) - Sept 15.

**Vote Yes Proposition 1 Annex to Renton** <http://www.bensonhill.com>

**Endorse the Roads & Transit package on the ballot this fall:** <http://www.yesonroadsandtransit.org>

**Approve 4204 Simple Majority School Levies.** <http://www.simplybeterschools.org/>

**Upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> District Meetings**

**General Meeting: Oct 16th – 7pm**  
Carpenter's Hall, Renton

**Executive Board Meeting:  
Oct 4th – 7pm**  
Carpenter's Hall, Renton

**Official Call**

11th Legislative District Monthly Meeting  
October 16th 2007 - 7:00 p.m.  
Renton Carpenters Hall - 231 Burnett Avenue North

Proposed Agenda  
(Endorsements may be considered)

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

7:02 p.m. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Proposed Agenda

Introductions

7:05 p.m. Hot Topic – Roads & Transit Ballot in November

7:20 p.m. Program Speaker

Break

8:05 p.m. Officer and Delegate Reports

8:25 p.m. Caucus Update – George Summers

8:30 p.m. - Old Business

8:40 p.m. New Business - Resolutions: (1) Medic One Funding  
(2) Simple Majority

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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