

Notes from the Chair

by Roslynne Reed



Our last general meeting featured Chris Reykdal, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Members of Mason County School Boards were invited, but only two showed,

Shelton School Board Chair Brenda Hirschi and School Board Member Cheryl Williams, who is running for re-election. Chris made a good case for why he should be elected as our next Superintendent. I have not heard of any other campaigns, so we will keep an eye on this one for future support action by the Party. Chris also gave a presentation along with Senator Ann Rivers at a recent Washington State School Directors Association meeting in Seattle. This bi-partisan panel's main message was, "You can't drink, gamble or smoke your way to education funding." Besides the "sin" taxes, their

group looked at capital gains taxes and advocated for local levies funding local school projects. They have introduced Bill 6130 and have scheduled listening sessions throughout the state in the next few months. Education is a big deal in Washington State because the framers of our Constitution included in Article IX, Section 1, mandating "it is the paramount duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

There are a few opportunities to listen to local candidates who are running for various offices. Please try to attend and show support for these citizens who are willing to inconvenience their private lives to serve the public. Coming up on October 6 at 6 p.m. will be a candidate forum sponsored by the Hood Canal Improvement Club in Union to be held at the Alderbrook Yacht and Golf Club. On October 13 at 2 p.m. the Mason County Senior Activities Association will sponsor a candidate forum at The Pavilion. The Association is partnering with the League



of Women Voters, who will moderate the event.

Our next general meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, at the Grove Street Brewhouse at 6:00 p.m. for social time. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. We expect to discuss the election process coming up for 2016.

Notes from the Vice-Chair

by John Piety

I have been trying to get a reasonable understanding of why what was once an active political party has gone into such a state of inactivity.

The note from a Concerned Democrat in this newsletter details further efforts to reach voters. Comments on this or that note are really welcome. My outline here is to offer thoughts on how we might build the party. We need those willing to attend meetings as well as those willing to become more active.

Much of this might be obvious, but it is apparent that for a group to build, besides having a common goal, each person needs

to develop a sense of ownership. At our meetings is each person able to speak and be listened to often enough to meet this goal? I tried many years ago to generate some discussion, but felt a number of folks thought the dull business of this party was more important. My argument is if you are not really involved in the business, what will keep you involved?

One can try to have guests of interest, but if we are just spoken to and have no exchange with the speaker we have not done anything to generate interest.

At the 35th LD meeting on the 19th we

just had two great speakers. They both took questions and offered a real opportunity for an exchange of ideas. In fact the business part took little time. I cannot speak for anyone but myself, but I would definitely return for this exchange.

Another suggestion for building a strong group is to offer some challenge or empowerment. As the one responsible, I have been trying to get the PCOs active, but I had little success. I think the effort to get everyone possible in my precinct to vote Democratic is a fun task. I wish I knew how to generate this concept for others. If someone

... contd. on p. 2

Upcoming Events

Wed, Oct 7, 12:30 pm, Executive Committee Meeting, Shelton

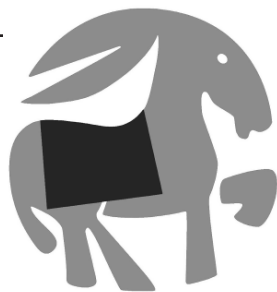
Wed, Oct 14, 6:00 pm, Social time, 6:30 pm meeting — Mason County Democrats monthly general meeting, Grove Street Brewhouse, 1st and Grove, Shelton. Food and drink available; cash only.

Wed, Oct 21, 11:30 am — **Mason County Democratic Women's Club** at El Puerto de Angeles V Restaurant in Gateway Center, Shelton.

Deadline for articles, news, letters and photos for each monthly issue is the **25th of each month**, but

please send articles as you have them. Help write what you'd like to read!

Please send articles to:
Linda Amar, 360-427-1651
LindaRAmar@gmail.com



MCDCC Executive Committee

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Publisher: Mason County Democratic Central Committee
Editor: Linda Amar
Co-Editors: Diane McLean
 Marilyn Vogler
Editorial Board: Mason County Democratic Executive Committee
Contributors: Concerned Democrat
 Irene Bowling
 John Piety
 Marilyn Sayan
 Marilyn Vogler
 Roslynn Reed

MCDCC Contact Points

Office: No local office till 2016
Mailing: P. O. Box 1272
 Shelton WA 98584
Phone: (360) 427-2731
E-mail:
contact@masoncountymocrats.com
Web site:
<http://www.masoncountymocrats.com>

Opinions expressed by our contributors do not necessarily represent the views of Mason County Democrats as a whole.

Mason County Democratic Women's Club Update

by Marilyn Sayan

President, Democratic Women's Club



The Democratic Women's Club is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at El Puerto Restaurant in Gateway Center. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program following a short business meeting at noon. Barbara Adkins from the Mason County Community Development Office has agreed to come talk about the County Comprehensive Plan review process.

Last month, we had open discussion about a variety of subjects. Upcoming fundraisers were discussed, the first being the MCDCC garage sale set for Saturday, September 26th at the home of Jane and George Roush. Sale items are still needed. The 35th Legislative District fundraiser is set for November 15th at the Admiral Theater in Bremerton. Additionally, the Women Demos are planning a wine and cheese fundraiser next February and will welcome help from other Democrats in putting it together!

County Auditor Karen Herr noted

there had been some changes to the voter registration laws and forms and described the efforts she and her staff are undertaking to increase voter registration this election cycle. She encouraged anyone who assists in registering voters to pick up copies of the new forms.

Discussion then turned to the Mason County Comprehensive Plan and the current process by which changes to that plan are to be made. Those in attendance agreed that we should seek further information about the process and determine how we can assure that citizen participation will be a major factor in the development of changes to that Comprehensive Plan.

Hopefully you will join us on October 21st to hear the information Barbara has to share with us.

Peace,
 Marilyn Sayan

Notes from the Vice-Chair, ... contd. from p. 1

feels they can do so please offer your help! I cannot see any plan more effective than just talking to as many people as one can reach.

What can be done to make our meetings something you look forward to rather than just an obligation? We believe climate crisis is quite real. Perhaps we could consider this as a topic for discussion or to help build meeting interest. One can read the existing documentation that suggests that our water will no longer be available enough to be free. What I mean by free, as there is a cost to everything, is free enough to not worry where your next drink may come from. Commercial interests are now trying to buy and control water rights. I like to think just working to try to prevent that type of control by some wealthy individual or corporation could fill our meeting room!

One discussion at the 35th was TPP. You may not know the full extent of this trade proposal and perhaps it will not directly have an impact on your life, but for your grand-kids' life could very well just be hell on wheels. Our 6th district congressman, Derek Kilmer, needs to know how you feel about this, and of course a number of other issues. Perhaps, working on some of these issues may help build the party.

Locally, we used to have good turnouts

at official county and city meetings. One could include PUD #3, to name another agency meeting where we all could witness how our officials deal with issues that have an impact on our lives. These opportunities still exist, but few show up to question or review authority in action. Maybe we could help fix this concern.

Currently, Mason County is reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. From my perspective, the deal may be rigged, like in the old days, for those who will benefit from eliminating the restrictions many folks have fought for. The realtors have waited us out. Now, they are ready to act to open everything up for development—again, just like the good old days—because people have become complacent. If the realtors can ignore the EPA, they can certainly ignore us.

I will continue this rant in more depth in the next newsletter. In the meantime, ask interested individuals how a new company with no local history can build in an area where the state kept giving a shoreline permit restriction waiver for many years?

Washington State Democrats State Meeting in Wenatchee, September 19-21 Resolutions Passed

by State Committee Man Larry King and State Committee Woman Laurel Nelson-King

739 The transportation package and operating budget must be placed on the ballot as required by (Tim Eyman's) Initiative 960.

Resolved, that we support Advisory votes 10-13 on the November ballot.

(Submitted by 45th L.D.)

740 Initiative 1401 would help animals that are threatened with extinction from poaching.

Resolved, that we support Initiative 1401 on the November ballot.

(Submitted by 45th L.D.)

741 Some eligible voters face barriers to voting and governments have a responsibility to remedy the voter exclusion that results from at large voting systems.

Resolved, that we request that the State Legislature pass the Washington Voters Rights Act.

(Submitted by 34th and 43rd L.D.)

742 Taxpayers demand greater accountability and investment in infrastructure, student loans, creating jobs and keeping taxpayer dollars in Washington State, not on Wall Street.

Resolved, that we support creation of a publicly owned State Bank and support

an initiative on this subject for the 2016 election. (Submitted by 11th L.D.)

743 Crude oil from tar sands in Alberta will be transported to and stored in the proposed oil terminal in Hoquiam.

Resolved, we oppose this crude oil proposal and communicate this to the governor.

(Submitted by Grays Harbor County Democrats)

749 College athletes often must pay sports related medical bills and have been stripped of their labor rights.

Resolved, we call for basic protections and recognize their efforts to establish a union for college athletes.

(Submitted by the Young Democrats)

750 The Spokane Tribe has requested approval for a casino from the Department of the Interior.

Resolved, we endorse approval by DOI and call for Governor Inslee's approval.

(Submitted by 3rd L.D.)

751 Washington State has just had the hottest year on record with the worst droughts and wildfires caused by climate change.

Resolved, we renew our call for urgent action to prevent climate change and miti-

gate its effects.

(Submitted by Agriculture and Rural Caucus)

752 Planned Parenthood provides many services to women and does not receive any funding for abortions from the federal government.

Resolved, we support Planned Parenthood and continued federal funding and send this resolution to all Democratic organizations, Congress and the President.

(Submitted by the Women's Caucus and the Progressive Caucus)

754 Firefighter and EMT's are engaged in fighting massive fires burning throughout Washington State.

Resolved, we recognize, commend and support all firefighters and EMT's.

(Submitted by Mason County Democrats, signed by 50 members and approved by Agriculture and Rural Caucus)

Full text of the above resolutions are available at: <http://www.wa-democrats.org/content/resolutions-0>

PCO Update/Concerns

by Concerned Democrat

An information handout about the electoral process, including important voting dates, has been created, for the purpose of contacting potential voters. This handout ("flyer" or "information flyer") will be used to help get folks registered. The flyer was also mailed to each PCO, along with suggestions for ways to use it. The data collected can help us update the VoteBuilder database for each individual in each precinct.

As a beta-test, I used the flyer to doorbell. My results? Out for 1.5 hours. Knocked on 30 doors. 11 real people contacts (37%), 9 doors with little information other than an occasional name (30%), 2 no trespass signs (do not go there), 2 with locked gates (in a regular effort leave brochure). From this effort it was calculated 27% of these doors are worth door belling, 13% can be ignored and 27% are the ones to be called after the ballots come out to make sure they send theirs in to be counted!

This is very important: During the initial walk-about, **everyone took the handout!!** It had information they could

use. Who knows what they did with it, but even an individual who wants Obama gone put the handout in their pocket. They were much more willing to talk and ask questions than during regular election handout sessions.

A few quick notes from the field test:

1. First, be sure to get the name on the mail box. This is to help cross match the number address with the voter data base.
2. Second, it has been suggested that a 4th sub-division needs to be added, at least in the outlying areas. Check to see if the house might be a vacation home. If this is not the voting address, ignore it along with the other party(s)' people.
3. Third, remember we are not trying to get votes at this stage; we are trying to get potential voters, first by registering them (hopefully as Democrats), second by building a real-time database that will help us contact them to get their vote when it counts.

One does not have to be a PCO to

conduct this walk-about and collect these data. Contact your PCO, however, to get the voter lists so that you can update them with your results.

If you cannot conduct a walk-about or make it to the meetings (every second Wed. of the month), or hate that type of activity, perhaps you can contribute with some of these non-meeting events, like yard sales, or phone-calling. We may be setting up some information booths in high traffic areas--can you sit and hand out stuff for a couple of hours?

Again, this note is being published here in the hope of generating feedback on what members reading this newsletter might like included. I still stand by this statement, but now I am concerned about how many individuals are actually reading this newsletter as well. So far that has still been a big bust, but I am a concerned Democrat and will continue to try to drum up support to get real Democrats elected!

What is important is for everyone to please find some way to help!

A Challenge for You

by Marilyn Vogler



I have a challenge for you all (or at least those of you who support the notion of a state income tax). While we are not *required* to pay a state income tax, there is nothing in state law prohibiting us from doing so.

So ...

1. Pick a state, any state that has an income tax. Maybe a state you've lived in, want to retire to, have children living in, hope never to ever, ever visit ... pick a state.
2. Go to this website <http://www.bankrate.com/taxes.aspx> (or some other that will provide tax rates state by state) and find what state income tax rate you'd pay if you lived there. In my experience, it's generally based on a percentage of taxable federal income.
3. Using your most recent tax forms, calculate your hypothetical state income tax.
4. Then go to this Website: [http://](http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Sales-Tax-Deduction-Calculator)

www.irs.gov/Individuals/Sales-Tax-Deduction-Calculator.

This will take you through a series of pages to determine the estimated sales tax you would pay wherever you live based on income, number of deductions, and zip code. NOTE, this is calculated on your GROSS income – you can deduct either income tax paid OR sales tax but not both from federal taxes if you itemize, so it's a *pre*-deductions calculator.

5. Add the two together: the hypothetical income tax you'd pay and the estimated sales tax you'd pay, both for your chosen alternative state.
6. Now, go back to the IRS site: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Sales-Tax-Deduction-Calculator> and figure the estimated sales tax for your actual, real, Washington State ZIP code.
7. Subtract the (estimated) sales tax you pay in Washington (#6) from the total tax you'd pay in

some other state (#5), and yes, I'm assuming you'd be paying more.

8. You now have a dollar figure for what TAXES you would have paid in your chosen state – income tax plus sales tax, over and above what sales tax you paid in Washington.
9. Now's the hard part ... if you believe we should have an income tax, pledge to contribute this amount to your city or county over the next year. You can specify what it's used for (which of course you can't if it's a *required* tax, but since it's voluntary, support something you ♥, to use a common vernacular.

It is a challenge I made to myself this past year, and have met; I intend to do it again in 2016 – I wouldn't suggest any of you do more than I am willing to do myself, but having never, ever lived anywhere before that didn't have a state income tax, it may be easier for me than for someone who's *never* paid it. Cheers!



35th LD November 15 Fundraiser Concert

The 35th LD is doing something different this year. Instead of picnics or breakfasts, our major fundraiser event is a concert at the Admiral Theater in Bremerton. Please see our flyer on page 5. Better yet, print the flyer and post it in your neighborhood.

This will be an exciting event, one made possible by our Chair, Irene Bowling. Her standing in the musical community, along with her own creative energy, afford us a unique opportunity to reach people whose opinions may differ radically from ours but who, like us, appreciate good musical entertainment.

Tell your friends and neighbors. When they're printed, sell tickets to them!



NOVEMBER 15

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

2:00 TO 4:00



WEST SOUND EXTRAVAGANZA!

JOIN US FOR AN INTIMATE FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON
OF MUSIC, DANCE, ART AND HUMOR, IN THE BEAUTIFUL
ADMIRAL THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN BREMERTON.

SPECTRUM DANCE THEATER (CONTEMPORARY), "90 FLYING FINGERS" (9 PIANO'S), PRISM
DANCE, MARK SALMAN (CLASSICAL CONCERT PIANIST), "SWING FEVER" (BLUE GRASS), CHARLES
BERT STEPHENS AND IRENE BOWLING (BARITONE AND CONCERT PIANIST), JAZZ PIANIST AARON
OTHEIM AND FRIENDS, DAVID EISENHOUR (SCULPTURE) AND SURPRISE GUESTS!!!

TICKETS \$25

(\$30 AT THE DOOR)

CHILDREN UNDER 12-\$12

ADMIRALTHEATRE.ORG/TICKETS



A BENEFIT FOR
35TH LD DEMOCRATS

