



GrassRoots

Newsletter of the Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee

May 2008

www.whatcomdemocrats.com

647-7661

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CAN WE RETAIN HARRIET SPANEL'S SENATE SEAT?

by Roni Beall, Vice-Chair, 40th LD Democrats

The convergence of 3 factors has given elected and appointed PCOs of the 40th Legislative District an important role in the election of the 40th LD State Senator. (1) Sen Harriet Spanel announced that she will not seek re-election, and while we are saddened by this news, we are also energized, understanding how important it is that Democrats retain this seat.

(2) The US Supreme Court ruled that the "top two primary" or "winnowing primary" is to replace the Primary Election process which has been in use in Washington. Simply put, this means that regardless of party affiliation, the top two vote-getters move on to the General Election.

NOTE: Neither major political party favors the top-two system because of the potential for two persons from the same party moving onto the General Election ballot, essentially shutting out the other party. The more crowded the Democratic field, the more likely that the Democratic vote will split and result in no Democratic candidate making it to the General Election.

(3) The State Democratic Party enacted rules in 2005 to address the changes that the Top-Two Primary would

bring. These rules call for the Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) to select a Democratic Party nominee at a convention prior to May 23rd.

For the 40th LD Senate race, with so many good candidates, selecting a single party nominee before June, before campaigning has begun in earnest, has some significant down-sides. Alternatives to the state party's Nominating Rules have been proposed and will be considered by the 40th LD Democrats at the following meeting:

40th LD Dems Ponder What to Do with Six Democratic Candidates

*40TH Legislative District Democrats
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING*

Friday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Garden Street Family Center upstairs Conference Rm
Holly and Garden Streets, Bellingham
(Registration begins at 5 p.m.).

This is for all PCOs, all members in good standing, and other residents of the 40 LD who would like to become members and participate in the discussion regarding the top-two primary situation, and what the 40th can do to help assure that we retain Senator Spanel's seat.

40th Legislative District NOMINATING CONVENTION

Sunday, May 18, 1 p.m.

Anacortes Library, M Avenue between 9th & 10th.
(Registration begins at 12:30)

Precinct Committee Officers will decide on a State Senate nominee.

Gov. Gregoire Headlines May 31st Dinner



Our Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner is fast approaching, and tickets are selling fast as nearly everyone is eager to spend an evening with the Governor. As our major fundraiser of the year, this event also includes a live auction, recognition of elected officials and past party chairs, plus the bestowal of Honored Democrat status to some of

our local party stars. This will be a fun-packed evening, and general ticket prices are reasonable at just \$35 for a gourmet dinner.

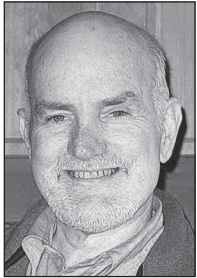
You can purchase your tickets at www.BrownPaperTickets.com or call the Whatcom Democrats Office at 647-7661, and please remember to specify your choice of entrée. Doors open for registration, mingling and no-host bar with light background music beginning at 5pm, and dinner at 6 pm.

**Whatcom Democrats
Monthly Membership meeting**
Wednesday, May 14th, 7 pm
Garden Street Family Center,
N. Garden at Holly, Bellingham

- Finish up Resolutions coming out of the County Convention

Many Strong Candidates for the 40th Legislative District Senate Seat

Senator Harriet Spanel's retirement opens her seat to a vigorous Democratic nomination contest. Below are the six declared Democratic candidates' statements (listed alphabetically by last name). GrassRoots asked for 150 words plus a pic. Some editing by GrassRoots has been done.



Hue Beattie

"With over 35 years of democratic party experience it's too much for a small article. I want to represent you in Olympia as well as Harriet. I have a WEBSITE: huebeattie.com Check it out and contribute if you can. My goal is to have the most small contributors."

Paul Gonzales

"Mr. Gonzales, a resident of Mount Vernon, is a 22 year veteran of the Washington State Patrol. He has received various service commendations, including an International Award from AAMVA for his work in public safety.



Gonzales is very active in his community, having served on the Mount Vernon City Council, the Mount Vernon Planning Commission, and the Mount Vernon School Boundary Committee, the Red Cross FEMA Board, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission LE Board, and the DSHS Board. He is a member of the Washington State Trooper's Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and a past member of the Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon.

He attended Eastern Washington University before enrolling in the Washington State Patrol Academy where he graduated in 1987. Paul is married to Lynda L. Gonzales, a teacher for the Burlington-Edison School District. They have twin sons attending college. Contact: (360)202-0404."



Ken Henderson

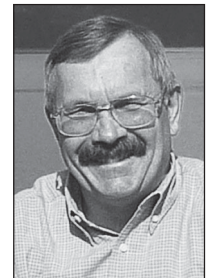
I am Ken Henderson and asking for your support for the State Senate seat that Harriet Spanel is retiring from. I have worked with many of you in all the issues I have worked on over the years.

I had my optometry business for many years here and was active the entire time. I have served on boards for United Way, Whatcom Parks Foundation and the Volunteer Center/RSVP to name just a few. I was

appointed to the Bellingham Planning Commission in 1985 and after 5 years elected to the Whatcom County Council and later served 8 years on the County Parks board. I have served on the Whatcom Transportation board, was Chair of Whatcom Council of Governments, served on boards for mental health and aging and health services. I have a strong record in environmental protection, particularly for Lake Whatcom. I understand the diversity of issues facing the district and will work hard to connect with people to address them. Please contact our campaign at campaign@kenhendersonoforsenate.com or 360-739-6751.

Steve Hopley

"Steve Hopley holds a Master's in Science from the UW, and has a diverse employment, public service, and cultural-experience background. He is a strategic thinker, dedicated to safeguarding our quality of life; providing children the education they need; building a prosperous economy



based on a sustainable foundation; and protecting all our citizens from devastating health care costs. Steve's family settled on Samish Island in 1877. The Hopley name is known and respected in the area and Steve enjoys significant grassroots support. Both Steve and his wife, Gail, are active in various community organizations. Steve is a 2nd-term Port of Anacortes Commissioner and has played a pivotal role in establishing the Port as a leader in environmental cleanup efforts in Puget Sound. Steve looks for innovative solutions and is not afraid to go against

Continued, page 3

Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851
Vice Chair	Abe Jacobson	734-5019
Treasurer	Peggy Borgens	384-0861
Recording Sec.	Michele Kammerer	398-2878
Corresponding Sec.	Roni Beall	756-1405
Affirmative Action	Rosalinda Guillen	738-0893
Campaign	Dave Willingham	224-5628
Candidates	John McGarrity	738-9695
Finance (Co-chairs)	Roni Beall	756-1405
	JoAnn McNerthny	441-2728
Issues/Resolutions	Tim Douglas	676-8530
Membership	Steve Schuck	733-1063
Communications		
Technology	Satpal Sidhu	398-7906
State Committeewoman	Maggie Hanson	733-2539
State Committeeman	Hue Beattie	671-5597
Women's Club	Catherine Chambers	756-6759
Western Democrats (WWU)	Annie Jensen	wwudems.org
42 nd Legislative District Rep.	Frances Badgett	527-1097
40 th Legislative District Rep.	Tom Pasma	(360) 661-4485

Six Dem Candidates for 40th Senate

conventional wisdom. He has demonstrated his ability to organize an effective political campaign, and win!"



Stephanie Kountouros

A long-time community activist, Stephanie Kountouros has the crucial perspective of a community leader, social worker, and grassroots organizer.

As Whatcom for Obama Coordinator, Stephanie created a well-organized grassroots movement. Stephanie has

worked professionally with survivors of domestic violence, people with AIDS, mental health and chemical dependency issues. A staunch advocate, she is dedicated to championing these issues in Olympia.

Stephanie prioritizes crucial issues facing our citizens. Compelled to work for long-term change in these areas, she pursued a Masters in Social Work. Focusing on social justice, discrimination and issues of aging and labor, poverty and immigration issues.

Stephanie is dedicated to active, accountable representation. She understands that effective legislation takes more than representatives. It is the strength and organization of community coming together to support and champion issues that gets things done. Stephanie pledges to listen to the concerns of her constituents and build partnership with voters.



Kevin Ranker

"I look forward to building upon Senator Spanel's progressive legacy. As San Juan County Council chair, leader of conservation organizations and lifelong Democrat I have a track record of putting our ideals into action. In Olympia I'll be a champion for our environment, local jobs, public schools

and quality of life. I have worked regionally as a non-profit director and County official to protect farms and open space, protect air and water quality, and promote land use policies that respect our small towns and Main St. businesses. Raised partly by my grandmother, a public school teacher on Orcas Island, I know that good schools are the backbone of strong communities. From pre-K through four-year universities, investments we make today open doors to future opportunity. Learn more at www.kevinranker.com.

"Kevin is the experienced, ideal choice for State Senate in Whatcom County and throughout the district."

--Whatcom County Councilmember Bob Kelly

What about the 42nd Legislative Dist. race?

PCOs in the 42nd LD will hold their Nominating Convention on Saturday, May 10th, 10 AM - noon, Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale. Frances Badgett, 527-1097. Kelli Linville is running for re-election.

ELECTION INTEGRITY: It can't be taken for granted

The Whatcom Democrats do three things to help insure the integrity of our local elections. First, under the auspices of Marian Beddill, we were founding members of Whatcom Fair Voting (WV). This is a non-partisan group dedicated to assuring that our local elections are conducted in a transparent and verifiable manner.

Second, we are members to the Citizens Election Advisory Committee (CEAC). As Democrats, we have one official person who attends this monthly meeting with the County Auditor and her staff to discuss election related issues.

Third, many of us have trained to become Political Election Observers. With a 2-hour annual training, our volunteers can be on-site during the ballot handling and counting process, to ensure that every vote is counted accurately.

To date, first Marian Beddill, and more recently, Roni Beall have been shepherding this process, serving as lead election observers, scheduling the 2-hour observer training, and scheduling and communicating with the election observers so that we have someone observing various parts of the election process.

Helping out as an election observer for a few hours or more during each election cycle is a great, "feel-good" activity. At this point, Marian and Roni are looking for people to step into some of the key roles. Please contact them if you'd like to explore how you can get involved. Roni 756-1405; Marian 738-3151.

40th Senate Candidate Contact Info:

Hue Beattie, (360) 671-5597,

<http://www.huebeattie.com/index.html>

Ken Henderson, (360) 739-675,

<http://www.kenhendersonforsenate.com>

Paul Gonzales, (360) 202-0404,

www.electpaulgonzales.com

Steve Hopley, (360) 766-6823,

[<Hopley4Senate@wavecable.com>](mailto:Hopley4Senate@wavecable.com)

Stephanie Kountouros, (360) 734-2686,

<http://www.kountourosforsenate.org/>

Kevin Ranker, (360) 472-1850,

<http://www.kevinranker.com/>

Re-Election Campaigns

40th LD Representatives

Jeff Morris, (206) 428-6075,

<http://www.morriscampaign.com/>

Dave Quall, (360) 299-1301

42nd LD Representative

Kelli Linville, (360)671-2619

Whatcom County Democrats Calendar

All events at 215 W. Holly St, Suite B-27, unless otherwise noted

May

- 9 40th LD Dems Qtrly Membership Mtg, 5:30 pm, Garden St. Family Center, Holly & Garden, Bham.
- 10 42nd LD Dems monthly meeting & Nominating Convention, 10 AM - noon, Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale. Frances Badgett, 527-1097.
- 12 Women's Club Meeting. Espinoza's Restaurant, Sehome Village, Bham. 11:30 am-1 pm.
- 12 Finance Cmte Mtg. Roni Beall, 756-1405. 7-9 pm.
- 14 Affirmative Action Cmte mtg, 6 pm
- 14 Monthly Membership Meeting. Garden St Family Center, N. Garden at Holly Street, Bham. 7-9 pm.
- 15 Communications Cmte Mtg, 7 pm
- 17 Congressional District Caucus, Skagit Valley College, McIntyre Hall, 2501 E College Way, Mt Vernon, 10 am
- 18 40th LD Nominating Convention, Anacortes Library, M Avenue between 9th & 10th., 1 p.m.
- 21 Office Volunteer orientation, 10:30 am.
- 28 City Club program on Top-Two Primary, with Sec of State Sam Reed & WD Chair Natalie McClendon. 12n Northwood Hall, 3240 NW Ave., Bham.
- 28 WD Executive Board. 7-9 pm.
- 31 Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner, see P. 1

June

- 14 Monthly Membership Meeting. Garden St Family Center, Garden and Holly, Bellingham. 7-9 pm. ALL DEMOCRATS WELCOME

How to Get Involved and Make a Difference

The Whatcom Democrats is constantly collecting information about what sorts of volunteer work our members and supporters are willing to do. Even though you've given us your name and interests, the best way to get involved on a decision-making level is to show up at committee and Executive Board meetings, listen and learn what's going on and volunteer to help on the spot.

For our part, our committee chairs will make an effort to plan meetings well in advance and publicize them to all who have expressed an interest in their work. Please check the calendar, above, for meeting dates for the Finance (fundraising), 42nd Legislative District, Communications (newsletter, email, website, etc), Affirmative Action, office volunteer orientation.

Fund Raising Party for Hillary Clinton

Tuesday, May 6, 5:00pm. Hosted by *Hansons for Hillary*. Please join us to watch the election returns from Indiana and North Carolina.

INFO & LOCATION: Maggie 733-2539

Last but not least: LD Caucuses and County Convention a smash success!

We received many compliments on the April 5th caucus and convention at Whatcom Community College. The planning committee did a fabulous job, and everyone was so helpful and cooperative. We actually finished on time!

Buy your tickets NOW!

Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner

with Gov. Christine Gregoire

Saturday, May 31st, 5 pm

Lakeway Inn, Bellingham

www.brownpapertickets.com or call 647-7661

Whatcom County Democrats
215 Holly Street, Suite B-27
P.O. Box 3095
Bellingham, WA 98227

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WHATCOM DEMS YARD SALE UPDATE

Our third annual yard sale will be sometime in the summer. Bring your donations to a Central Committee meeting, or drop them at the Whatcom Democrats Office, 215 W. Holly Street. We are also looking for a few key volunteers to take on the coordination of this event. Call 647-7661 if you would like to help with the coordination of this event.

Campaign news

Coordinated Campaign, the WA State Democratic Party's state-wide campaign effort, has rented a storefront office in the same building as the Whatcom Democrats' office. Their address is 1220 Bay Street, and are planning to begin operations on May 1st. Big need is for 4-5 computers that can run XP or Vista.

PCO News

Please welcome Sharon Alford and Alfred Arkley as newly appointed precinct committee officers.

May 3 Fourth Stop of SiCKO Road Show

Featuring the Michael Moore film SICKO, which documents our national healthcare crisis. Labor Center (upstairs) 1700 N. State St, Bellingham. 7 pm (360) 714-8999. Sponsored by United for National Healthcare. Aileen Satushek, 398-2295 or at aileensatushek@prodigy.net