



GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 18
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Norway Hall

1419 N. Forest St, Bellingham
(between Champion & Magnolia)

All Democrats Welcome

PROGRAM:

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT

See information at right

LOCAL & STATE HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS

Dr. Dave Lynch will review the efforts local primary care physicians and others in the Whatcom County medical community have undertaken to make health care both accessible and more affordable. Plus the proposal State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler has crafted to provide coverage for Washington State residents for major medical expenses in excess of \$10,000.

42nd Legislative District Democrats Meeting

Saturday, June 13, 10am-Noon

Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr. Ferndale

PROGRAM: County Council candidate Meet-and-Greet

June 2009
Vol 5, Issue 6
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www.whatcomdemocrats.com
360-647-7661

Thank You, County Council, For Holding Down Taxes

FACT: The County budget is balanced every year. For twelve straight years there has been no County property tax increase.

Brett Bonner, unsuccessful candidate for Mayor of Bellingham, has gathered the required signatures for a mini-initiative calling for voter approval for County property tax increases using “banked” taxing capacity.

State law limits property tax increases to 1 percent a year, unless approved by the voters. It allows local governments to “bank” unused tax increase capacity for use in later years, if needed.

A mini-initiative is a proposed ordinance that is placed on the County Council’s agenda by petition of three percent of the County’s voters. The Council is required to hold a public hearing on the ordinance, which will be on June 23rd, and publicly vote on the proposal. A mini-initiative does not place an issue directly on the ballot for voters to weigh in on.

Members Consider Endorsements

In accordance with our Endorsement Policy, the membership of the Whatcom Democrats will consider candidates for endorsement, at its June meeting. Members must attend to participate.

At press time, with two days left for candidate filing, no new candidates have popped up, and all four Democrats running for the four County Council seats do not yet have opponents. Three of four Bellingham City Council races are in the same situation. The two Port of Bellingham races will have competition, and perhaps a Primary with three candidates.

See page 3 for statements from two running for Bellingham Ward 6, and a re-cap of all the candidates.

Whatcom County has built up considerable “banked” taxing capacity over the past decade because the County Council has not raised taxes anywhere near as much as they are allowed to by state law, or as much as just about any other local jurisdiction has.

Bonner is trying to tap into the rightwing politics of perpetual outrage to gather support for his mini-initiative.

Local rightwing extremists would like to sabotage good government by demanding that every decision of our elected officials be second-guessed and put on the ballot after a campaign that highlights the cost and ignores the benefits that would be provided.

We believe that our community needs smart, capable leaders who we expect to act in the best interests of the whole community. Citizens should elect the leaders they support and then let those people do the jobs they were elected to do – to listen, debate, vote and then act. This is exactly what the Council has done.

If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!

Please join us in urging our County Council members to vote NO on the banked capacity cap ordinance (mini-initiative).

Call or email the County Council and tell them you recognize and appreciate the long thankless hours they devote to responsibly carrying out their duties. And urge them to reject the banked capacity cap which is intended to obstruct the exercise of sound representative government.

Phone: (360) 676-6690

Email: council@co.whatcom.wa.us

County Council Hearing
Tuesday, June 23rd
6 pm
County Council Chambers
311 Grand Ave, Bellingham

If You Want Single-Payer, Act Now

The prognosis for meaningful health care reform in the United States in 2009 is not good, but there is a glimmer of hope. Congress and the President have invited the Health Insurance Industry to the table, but have excluded single-payer advocates from discussion on legislation.

The Whatcom Democrats Platform calls for "a national single-payer health care plan with privately-delivered services that cover all medically-necessary services." One way to create a single-payer system would be to extend Medicare to all citizens. The financial advantage of a single-payer system is that it eliminates the costs of the health insurance bureaucracy and profits, which currently amount to 30% of health care costs. These savings would be put to covering the 100 million uninsured or underinsured in the U.S. today.

President Obama and many in Congress are promoting a "public option," which would leave the current health insurance system in place, and simply add a public choice, such as Medicare or Medicaid, available to anyone. Even if the health insurance industry goes along with the "public option," it will be so that the taxpayers pay for all the expensive customers, while they keep the healthy, profitable customers.

But the people are taking to the streets to show Congress and the President that they want real reform. The Whatcom Democrats joined United for National Health Care in the Ski-to-Sea Parade in Bellingham to promote single-payer. On May 30, large demonstrations calling for at least a federal public option and even single payer were held in 50 cities across the country. An estimated 3,500 marched in Seattle, with a heavy presence of single payer supporters, who even shouted Patty Murray down at the end of her speech—calling for Single Payer.

Now we have to show Congress where the American people stand.

Call Senators Cantwell and Murray, and Rep Larsen, and tell them you want a Single-Payer solution.

Toll free number for any Congress member: 1-866-338-1015

Domestic Partnership Challenged

By Michele Kammerer

On May 26th the California Supreme Court upheld Proposition 8, which banned same sex marriage, and yet allowed the 18,000 same sex marriages that had already taken place to stand. On that afternoon approximately 80 people converged on all four corners of Cornwall and Magnolia in Bellingham to protest the anti-marriage equality decision in California. Tens of thousands of folks protested in over ninety other cities in North America.

This was just a warm-up for a summer of gay-bashing rhetoric in Washington.

WA Referendum 71

The Washington state legislature has passed a series of laws that provide rights and responsibilities to lesbian and gay Domestic Partners. The 2009 DP extension law, SB 5688, was recently signed by Governor Chris Gregoire. State Senator Ed Murray (a prime sponsor) said "the bill treats gay and lesbian families the same as married families without requiring anything different of churches or schools, and without changing the legal, religious or social definition of marriage."

There is significant and well-funded opposition to equal rights for lesbian, gay, bi and transgendered (LGBT) people in this country, with much of it coming from fundamentalist religious groups. The scare tactics that they employ result in huge

donations for the professional hate mongers.

Washington's new Domestic Partnership law is under attack by Larry Stickney, president of the Washington Values Alliance. His group has filed REFERENDUM 71 with the state to repeal the Domestic Partnership law, and they must collect 120,577 valid signatures by July 25 to put the measure on the November ballot in hopes that voters will repeal the new law.

The arc of history moves slowly forward toward equality and civil rights for all Americans. The older, unenlightened right wing is hoping to pass as many anti-queer laws and state constitutional amendments as possible to slow down the rate of change in our nation before the younger and more supportive generations come of age and gain political power.

Decline 2 Sign

Please ask your friends, family and co-workers to help us keep Washington's Domestic Partnership Law intact by not signing Referendum 71.

Pledge to not sign Referendum 71 at equalrightswashington.org

Prop 8 upheld; marriages stand
<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=3943>

Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

email: add@whatcomdemocrats.com

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Membership	Steve Schuck	733-1063	
Technology	(Vacant)		
WCD Women's Clubs	Catherine L. Chambers	647-3888	
Young Democrats	Andrew Lamb	(425) 374-9686	
40 th LD Representative	Bob Burr	671-8862	
42 nd LD Representative	Steve Lydolph	384-5414	

Two Dems Vie for Ward 6 Seat

Catherine Chambers



Local community activist, Catherine Chambers has declared her candidacy for the Ward 6 position on the Bellingham City Council. Cham-

bers, a long time Whatcom County resident, has worked, both in her career and as a volunteer, on women's issues, peace, mental health, domestic violence, poverty and hunger, children's protective issues, youth development and parenting.

Catherine lives at Bellingham Co-Housing, believing strongly in the power of community to enhance and enrich people's lives. She is running for City Council because she believes that her skills will strengthen the council while supporting gender diversity on the council. Catherine is a strong woman who brings to the council an in-depth understanding of the issues facing a broad range of people in this community.

Citing her priorities, Chambers states "We need to continue to support policies which strengthen living wage job development. Clean and safe drinking water is a Bellingham issue as well as a global issue. Our development of the Urban Growth Areas must be in a manner which will create and sustain new and existing communities." As a mother of 3 children, Chambers supports the development of vibrant resources for young people.

Chambers looks forward to meeting with residents of Ward 6 to hear their needs and wishes for their community. She welcomes the dialogue and the opportunity to represent her neighbors on the Bellingham City Council.

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Enjoy the sun with your neighboring democrats

Combine your summer entertaining with some politicking and good conversation about local issues. Host a BBQ, block party, or potluck and invite the candidates.

Call the office at 647-7661 or check whatcomdemocrats.com for contact info.

Michael Lilliquist



Perhaps the simplest definition of a Democrat is a person who believes that government can be a tool for progress. I believe that our government can make

a positive difference in our lives, and I hope to help make a positive difference here in Bellingham through the City Council.

Even in this time of economic turmoil, I believe that the concerns and challenges of growth, in all its forms, continue to be central issues for Bellingham. Under our American system, local government has a unique authority and responsibility for our quality of life and for how we use our land. I believe the people of Bellingham understand that a long-term viable future will require new ways of balancing our built and natural environments, and to accomplish this we must find new ways of doing our public and private business. At the same time, we need to realize that every time we succeed in increasing the desirability of living in Bellingham, we also exacerbate issues of social equity and housing affordability. Making Bellingham a great place to live is our public purpose, and making Bellingham a great place for all its citizens is our moral calling.

As an active neighbor, I have learned the complexities of planning and public participation, while as member of city boards, I understand the difficulty of crafting workable solutions. Working with others, in non-profits and volunteer organizations and through the political process, to develop genuine, long-term solutions for the challenges facing our community has become my calling. That is why I now hope to serve my community, as a citizen first, elected to represent all of us on the City Council. I ask for your support and your vote.

For weekly updates of Democratic Party and community events, subscribe to our Announcement list, at whatcomdemocrats.com, menu item "Get Involved".

Candidates Announced or Filed by June 3

Candidates previously endorsed by the Whatcom Democrats are indicated by an asterisk. Challengers "certified" by the Whatcom Democrats as democrats are indicated by #. All current announced candidates are listed.

Bellingham City Council Ward 6: Incumbent Barbara Ryan* is retiring. Michael Lilliquist# and Catherine Chambers# are running.

Bellingham City Council Ward 4: Incumbent Stan Snapp* is running for re-election.

Bellingham City Council Ward 2: Incumbent Gene Knutson* is running for re-election.

Bellingham City Council At-Large: Incumbent Louise Bjornson* is retiring. Seth Fleetwood* is running.

County Council Dist 3, Position A: Incumbent Carl Weimer* is running for re-election.

County Council Dist 2, Position A: Incumbent Laurie Caskey-Schrieber* is running for the At-Large seat. Ken Mann* is running.

County Council Dist 1, Position A: Incumbent Ward Nelson retiring. Dan McShane* is running.

County Council At-Large: Laurie Caskey-Schrieber* is running.

Port of Bellingham District 2: Incumbent Doug Smith, Doug Karlberg, and Michael McAuley are running.

Port of Bellingham District 1: Incumbent Scott Walker*, John Blethen# and Hamilton Hayes are running.

Collecting Now for Fall Sale!



Household Goods, Working Electronics, Smaller Pieces of Furniture, Clothing in Good Condition, Collectibles

Drop off at 215 W. Holly Street, Suite B-27 (enter on Bay) M-F, 10 am to 2 pm

For details call 647-7661 or email events@whatcomdemocrats.com

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Whatcom County Democrats

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 Bellingham, WA 98227

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE 2009

Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7 6 pm - MoveOn.org meeting, 100 E. Maple, Bham 6 pm - Slum Doctor's Ethiopian Dinner	8 7pm — Forum on G.I. Sactuary City, Municipal Court Bldg, Bham	9 7pm — Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	10 3:30-7:30 – 10 th Anniv. Pipeline Explosion, Whatcom Falls Park, Maritime Heritage Park 4-6:30pm — Break up Banks Rally, Federal Bldg	11	12	13 10 am — 42nd LD Dems Membership Mtg, SEE PAGE 1
14	15 7-9 pm -- Finance Cmte mtg, office	16 1 pm — Great Decisions, 1st Congregational Church, B'ham 8 pm — Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	17 5-7pm — Ken Mann Campaign Kick-off, Squalicum Boathouse	18 7 pm – Whatcom Dems Membership Mtg, SEE PAGE 1	19	20 9 am – Lynden Democrats, Dutch Mother's, Lynden
21	22 Newsletter copy deadline	23 6 pm – Co. Council Hearing, see page 1 7pm — Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	24 12n — City Club, Northwood Hall, Bham 7 pm – Whatcom Dems E-Board Mtg, Office.	25 7pm - United for National Healthcare, 1700 N. State St, Bham	26	27
28	29	30	1 6 pm – Green Drinks	2	3	4 Independence Day