

## GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the  
Whatcom County  
Democratic  
Central Committee

### Membership Meeting

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

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

All Democrats Welcome

**PROGRAM:** Final endorsement for 2009 election season. Candidates and issues to be considered:

**Bellingham City Council Ward 6,** see page 3

**Bellingham School Board** Position 4 (page 3) and position 5 (page 4)

**Whatcom County Library System Levy** (page 5)

**Referendum 71,** Domestic Partnership rights (page 5)

**Initiative 1033,** Tim Eyman's latest anti-tax proposal (page 4)

### Whatcom County Democratic Picnic August 30, 3-7 pm

Fairhaven Park, 107 Chuckanut Dr,  
Bellingham, Upper Pavillion  
\$7 per person,  
Hemplers Hot Dogs and drinks  
Bring a side dish to share  
Dessert contest among candidates

August 2009  
Vol 5, Issue 8  
info@whatcomdemocrats.com  
www.whatcomdemocrats.com  
360-647-7661

### Primary Election Ballots Due August 18

Thanks to a three-way race for the County Council At-Large seat, all voters will receive ballots this Primary election.

Here are the candidates endorsed by the Whatcom Democrats that will appear on your Primary ballot:

**County Council At-Large:** Laurie Caskey-Schrieber (see page 2)

**Port of Bellingham District 1:** John Blethen

**Port of Bellingham District 2:** Michael McAuley



### Debate Centers on Details of Health Care Public Option

Whatcom Democrats passed a resolution at the July 16th membership meeting expressing profound disappointment with Congressman Rick Larsen's statement that he would not support the public option in current health care reform legislation.

The Whatcom Democrats platform endorses a national single-payer health care plan. Since single payer health insurance legislation is not currently being considered, Whatcom Democrats consider inclusion of a public option an essential part of any Health care reform bill.

A recent poll shows that 76 percent of the American public feel it is important to "give people a choice of both a public plan administered by the federal government and a private plan for their health insurance."

Congressman Larsen had stated that he would not vote for the current public option because payments were tied to

**We support candidates who will ensure that our communities are great places to live, work, learn and play and:**

#### Encourage Sustainable Economic Vitality

- Advance sound governance and fiscal responsibility
- Support local business
- Foster job growth

#### Manage Growth Effectively

- Preserve our agricultural lands
- Retain and enhance neighborhood character
- Maximize transportation alternatives

#### Conserve Our Environment

- Protect water quality in all watersheds
- Clean up contaminated sites
- Protect and restore wildlife habitat

Medicare reimbursement rates.

On July 28th, Congressman Larsen announced that a deal was reached between House leadership and a health care "equality coalition" of Members of Congress including Larsen, other Washington Democrats and Representatives from sixteen other states who are working to fix long-standing Medicare reimbursement problems that have hurt access to health care for Washington seniors.

Larsen has pushed to get a fair deal for Washington state and change the way health care is delivered to reward "value not volume" – value for the patient, not volume of tests or procedures.

"One hundred and four thousand of my constituents don't have health insurance, and local families and businesses are struggling with the high cost of care," said

*continued, page 2*

## Remembering Karen Durham 1940-2009

by Stephanie Kountouros

I first met Karen Durham through working at Sean Humphrey House, the AIDS support center named after her son who died of the disease. Their founder and board member, Karen was someone who combined a deep understanding and compassion for people living with AIDS with a fearless determination to increase their quality of life and provide services. Volunteering with her as she managed Greta Cammermeyer's 1997 congressional campaign, I got to know Karen the political strategist whose focus and inspiration helped lead a powerful grassroots campaign.

A Bellingham native and lifelong community activist, Karen Durham's involvement in our community was diverse and far-ranging. She was on the board of the Bellingham Public Library and League of Women Voters as well as the Farmer's Market Association, serving as Market Manager and helping it grow to its present success. She was an active Democrat and member of the Uppity Women of Whatcom County. Her work in these areas and establishment of a viable, important AIDS organization is a powerful legacy. I am inspired and motivated by her legacy and honored to have known her.

## Health Care

*continued from page 1*

Larsen. "My constituents deserve health care reform that works for our state. That is why I am working to pass health care reform that expands access to care for local seniors and other patients. Our deal is an important step toward reaching that goal."

The initial idea of a public option was to bring needed competition into the financing of health care. John Geyman MD, of Physicians for a National Health Program says, "Forget that dream. Although the current House and Senate bills both include a "public option", it is in name only. What might have roared like a lion is becoming, at most, a mouse that barely squeaks."

While the position of the party is clearly in support of single-payer, it is unclear at what point the legislation is so compromised as to warrant opposition.

## Whatcom Democrats' Endorsed Candidate Laurie Caskey-Schrieber, County Council At-Large



As your representative on the County Council, I've worked hard to support our shared values and ideals. For nearly eight years, I've taken actions to protect our sus-

tainable agricultural industry, which produces \$330,000,000 worth of food for our tables each year and adds to the value of our local economy.

I have strengthened our park system by securing funding for land acquisitions and maintenance to keep parks open. I have also worked with the school district superintendents to pass a school impact fee ordinance, so that schools aren't adversely affected by growth in their communities.

While in office I've supported bold actions to protect Lake Whatcom; created new development standards, restricted land clearing to the dry summer months, through down zoning, transfer and purchase of development rights, we've eliminated 3,300 development sites from the watershed. Right now we are working on a re-conveyance proposal, which would transfer 5,000 to 8,000 acres of commercial forest land, back to the county to then manage as conservation parkland. This area is equal to 25% of the entire watershed. Re-establishing the old growth for-

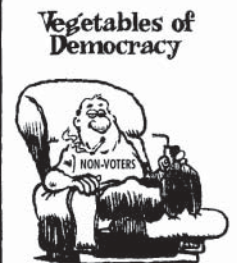
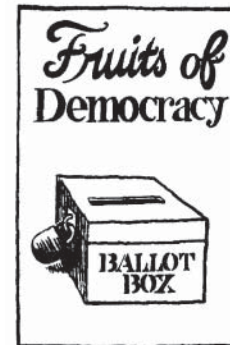
est on this land would be the best action that we could do for the long-term health of Lake Whatcom.

In supporting Democratic values, the council created the Whatcom Alliance Healthcare Access (WAHA) program bringing medical providers together with people in need and without health insurance. This is a novel approach that is receiving national recognition.

Other achievements:

- Secured funding for Drug and Family Court (both lead to reduced rates of recidivism).
- Offered support for local businesses by providing funding for Western's Small Business Development Center.
- Addressed Climate Change by requiring County Government to purchase 100% Green Power.

I appreciate the support that I've received from my fellow democrats, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve you once again. THANK YOU!



### Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

email: add @whatcomdemocrats.com

Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851	demchair
Vice Chair	Bill Newmon	733-5386	demvchair
Treasurer	Peggy Borgens	384-0861	treas
Recording Secretary	Michele Kammerer	398-2878	recsec
Corresponding Secretary	Carole Jacobson	734-5019	corsec
State Committeewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340	statwoman
State Committeeman	Hue Beattie	671-5597	stateman
Affirmative Action	Monica Gunderson	(425) 351-9477	
Campaign	Adam Day	(206) 914-2170	
Candidates	John J. McGarrity	738-9695	
Communications	(Vacant)		
Finance	Roni Beall	756-1405	
Issues and Resolutions	Tim Douglas	676-8530	
Membership	Steve Schuck	733-1063	
Technology	(Vacant)		
WCD Women's Clubs	Catherine L. Chambers	647-3888	
Young Democrats	Andrew Lamb	(425) 374-9686	
40 <sup>th</sup> LD Representative	Bob Burr	671-8862	
42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Representative	Steve Lydolph	384-5414	

## Bellingham School Board Director, Position 4

### Steven Smith



If you think back to your years in school, what lessons, projects or activities do you still remember? Some I have spoken with remember an art project or play, others a history project, still others remember a shop class or an engaging science experiment. The common thread is not the activity remembered, but that the activity touched that person's skills and interests. Unfortunately, mandated standardized testing has forced school districts to create one-size-fits-all curriculums, thus limiting the ability of students to mold their education to fit their needs.

As students enter high school, they should have options to pursue coursework that leverages their unique skills. For some this will mean four-year college preparatory classes. For others this may mean acquiring technical skills for employment after high school graduation. A quality education is not one-size-fits-all; our high schools can and should offer options to meet individual student needs.

A quality education is multi-faceted. At its base is a strong foundation in math, reading and writing. Arts and music education help students develop creative thinking. Self confidence and strong work ethics provide students with 'structural integrity', so that when failures occur students are able to learn from them and carry on. Our schools can and should be places where all students can achieve their potential, and I believe that by working together – educators, parents and the larger community – we can provide a quality education to all students.

Teaching college level accounting for the past 14 years has provided me both the classroom and financial experience to help guide the school district into the future. As a school board director, I will listen to your concerns, and work with educators, community members and my colleagues on the school board to help each student achieve their potential. Website at [www.bellinghamk12.com](http://www.bellinghamk12.com); email [bellinghamk12@gmail.com](mailto:bellinghamk12@gmail.com).

### Rogan Jones



I am a third generation Bellingham resident, active community member, and have two children currently in Bellingham schools. I am running for school board because I want to preserve the character of our neighborhood schools while providing a world-class education for our children.

I currently own and operate Affordable Information Systems, a custom software company as well as manage several commercial properties. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Bellingham, and am a director of the Whatcom Community Foundation and Business Bank.

## Bellingham Council Ward 6 "Do Over"

The membership of the Whatcom Democrats did not endorse a candidate in the Ward 6 race at our June endorsement meeting. A two-thirds majority is required for endorsement, and the vote was enthusiastic, but split.

With preliminary counts on the Primary balloting to look at, we will again consider candidates in this race, on August 20th.

The following candidates, Michael Lilliquist and Catherine Chambers, have been certified as Democrats, and have access to Party resources to pursue their campaigns.

### Michael Lilliquist



Since my family moved to Bellingham, I have been an active citizen, and it's as a citizen that I now want to serve our community on the City Council.

We all want to save Lake Whatcom. I am vice chair of the Watershed Advisory Board, and helped develop 33 specific "management actions" to protect our drinking water.

I served on the 2005 Public School Levy Advisory committee and helped pass a \$67 million bond, the largest school levy in our community's history. The citizens of Bellingham have chosen to keep and maintain our small schools. With public school enrollment completely flat, why is our district continuing to build new schools in undeveloped areas? Our neighborhood schools are centrally located, well loved, and sustainable. They encourage walking and biking, they build community, and make Bellingham a desirable place to live.

There is a disconnect between the long term plans for the schools and the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan. I will work to forge closer alliances between the schools, the city and the county, and to improve communication between the School Board and the citizens of Bellingham.

Consolidating our schools and taking them out of our communities is a mistake. Vote Rogan Jones for School Board.

We want a healthy democracy and public process. I have been one of those involved citizens. I helped found Citizens' Forum, to set up a better kind of community dialogue.

We want responsible and sustainable growth—change on our terms. On my own and through Futurewise Whatcom, I've worked on neighborhood planning, transportation and public transit, containing sprawl, and rural preservation.

The Washington Conservation Voters and the local firefighters offered me their sole endorsements; I would love the endorsement of the Whatcom Democrats as well. I believe I am ready for the job, and I ask for your support.

### Catherine Chambers



As a 30 year resident of Whatcom County I have seen many changes. Yet Bellingham remains a place I love. I am a parent of three chil-

**OVER**

## Catherine Chambers

continued from previous page

dren, two adults and a 17 year old son. Growing up here has been a rewarding and enriching experience for them. I have worked in local service organizations to advocate on behalf of people facing many challenges.

As a Democrat I am an elected pco, a state committee woman, President of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women and Whatcom County Democratic Women. I am a hard worker and work to help build the party and raise money.

My priorities are consistent with our Democratic values. To protect and improve the quality of our drinking water, listening to neighborhood concerns, developing sustainable living wage jobs and making tough financial choices. I am asking for your support in this race and for the Democratic endorsement.

## Eyman Initiative Would Cap State Spending

I-1033 is professional initiative sponsor Tim Eyman's latest anti-tax proposal. It is based on a Colorado initiative voters passed and later shelved after education, health care and transportation funding reached a breaking point.

It would place a cap on spending by state and local government based on the previous year's budget. Spending would be allowed to increase by a small percentage based on inflation and population growth, but wouldn't account for costs that outpace inflation—like health care costs, one-time capital investments, veterans returning from war needing additional government services, and a growing older population that pays less into a system they rely on for greater levels of service. Any request for higher tax increases would need voter approval.

After a decade of similar budget constraints, Colorado voters suspended the law with the support of business leaders and a former Republican Governor.

Washington State businesses, teachers, health care providers, fire fighters, environmental organizations and others have already united against I-1033 because of its stringent spending caps - which would lock in the nearly \$4 billion in cuts made by legislators this year.

## Bellingham School Board Director, Position 5

### Michael Jay



Education is a vehicle by which we can improve our future, today. While the economy is taking its toll on our schools, this is an opportunity for setting Belling-

ham Schools on a path toward greater collaboration with the City and County to better address the needs of every child. The challenge is to be lean but not mean! We need to get the most from our investment ensuring that every child is supported in excelling where they show aptitude and provided assistance in areas where they are challenged. Our focus must turn from the institution to the individual. Historically, institutions have focused on top down administration, managing and allocating local, state, and federal funds to programs and services based on the needs of populations of students. The shift in focus to the individual supports educators, administrators, and parents in our goal of reaching each student.

Community plays an essential role in addressing the needs of each child as learning extends beyond the classroom. I stated in a 2007 Herald interview that, "schools should represent the interest of the community" and indicated that they are at the center of our neighborhoods. This relationship enriches our schools, families, city, and county making Bellingham a place where our children can flourish. I am committed to supporting and establishing policy that addresses the needs of each learner and the community on which they rely.

I started my career as an educator and for over 25 years have continued to serve K-12 in private industry. As a 16 year Bellingham resident, I am prepared to bring my experience to bear in service of our children and community. I look forward to receiving your vote of endorsement on July 20th ensuring every child is helped ahead.

You can find my blog at [www.jay4education.org](http://www.jay4education.org)

### Scott Stockburger



**Current Occupation / Employer:** Family Doctor, Stockburger Family Medicine

**Significant Career Experience:** Physician licensed to practice

medicine in the State of Washington, and a member of the Medical Staff of St. Joseph Hospital since 2000.

- Stockburger Family Medicine, 2005-present
- Sea Mar Community Health Center, Bellingham, 2000-2004
- Area Health Education Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1998-2000
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, 1997-1998

**Education:**

- M.D. 1997 University of Arkansas College of Medicine
- B.A. 1989 Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts

**Family:** Married to the Rev. Andrea McMillin, 1993. Daughters Clara, grade 2, Happy Valley Elementary; and Sophia, grade 6, Fairhaven Middle School.

**Statement:** Dr. Stockburger is committed to our schools and our community. He will support full-day kindergarten, neighborhood schools, arts and music, math and science. He will work to ensure that our schools continue to reflect our community's values and our city's plans for growth. "Strong schools make for strong families, a strong community, and a strong economy. As a School Board Director, and a parent of young children, I pledge to support our teachers and administration, advocate for full-day kindergarten, and always put our students first." See more of Dr. Stockburger and his ideas about our schools at [stockburgerforschoolboard.org](http://stockburgerforschoolboard.org).

**Members of the Whatcom Democrats are urged to attend the August 20th meeting to vote on endorsements**

## Referendum 71 Puts Domestic Partnership Law to a Vote of the People

At press time the effort to get Referendum 71 on the ballot was too close to call. Sec. of State Sam Reed predicts it to take up to a month to verify the required signatures.

Washington's new Domestic Partnership law is under attack by Larry Stickney, president of the Washington Values Alliance. His group filed Referendum 71 with the state in hopes that votes would repeal it.

They needed to collect 120,577 valid signatures by July 25 to put the measure on the November ballot. Proponents turned in 137,689 signatures - 14 percent more than the minimum needed to be placed on the November ballot. The average historic signature error rate for citizen referendums and initiatives is 18 percent.

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."

A Referendum submits a law already

## Whatcom Library System asks for citizen support Levy Lid Lift on General Election ballot

Whatcom County Library System has placed a levy increase measure on the ballot because costs of materials and services have increased more than the one percent per year increase the library is allowed to levy. Current library funding is not sufficient to support services now provided by Whatcom County libraries and the increasing demand for more services.

Approximately 92.5% of the library's operating revenue comes from property taxes which is limited to 1% growth each year. The 1% increase does not allow the library to maintain current services.

If the measure is not approved, WCLS will have to reduce current services. Two budgets will be written for 2010; one with a levy lid lift and one without. If the proposed levy lid lift is not approved by voters, library services will be reduced on

adopted to a vote of the people, to either approve or reject. So if Ref. 71 makes it to the General Election ballot, a vote to approve would retain the SB 5688, the Domestic Partnership extension law of 2009.

## Resolution Considers Support of Non-Partisan Candidates

The Whatcom Democrats membership will consider at its August 20 meeting on final reading at resolution to treat non-partisan candidates equally with partisan candidates when granting State Democratic Party resources.

The current practice is to charge Democratic candidates for access to the party's voter database, if they are running for non-partisan office. Those running for partisan office as Democrats are granted this same resource as an in-kind donation from the State Democratic Party. The resolution asks that partisan and non-partisan Democratic candidates be treated the same, with in-kind access to the voter database.

The state party's voter database was developed as part of Howard Dean's 50 state strategy while he was Chair of the Democratic National Committee. It was put into use during the 2008 Presidential campaign, with great success.

January 1, 2010 to balance the library budget.

Library checkouts have increased 46% since 2001, and population increased 13%. Last year WCLS libraries checked out 1,441,375 books, issued 5,798 new library cards, made 1152+ visits to the homebound and 3,716 children, teens, and adults participated in Summer Reading.

The voters last approved increasing the library levy 29 years ago. The Library Board is asking for an increase in the current levy rate of \$0.338 to a level of \$0.44. Washington State Law allows for up to \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The measure on the November ballot would increase property taxes by 10 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, which will cost the owner of a \$250,000 home approximately \$25 per year.

## Farm Friends Topic of Lynden Dems Meeting

On Saturday, August 15, Lynden Dems will hold their monthly breakfast meeting at Homestead, in the bar room. Please arrive a few minutes before 9:00 so you can find a seat.

Our featured speaker, Henry Bierlink, from Whatcom Farm Friends, will inform us about some of the issues facing farmers in this county. As consumers of farm products these issues involve all of us, not just those who work in agriculture. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us.

We'll also talk about the health care plans that congress is working on and will consider after the August recess.

So that we can get an approximate head count please RSVP your intention to attend the meeting to Bill Jennings at: <wjajennings@comcast.net>

## Covert-Bowlds Elected State Committeewoman

Ferndale Democrat Debi Covert-Bowlds was elected in July by the 42nd LD Democrats to serve as their State Committeewoman. Debi previously served as Chair of the organization in 2005, and is a PCO.

Covert-Bowlds will represent the Legislative District at the State Democratic Party meetings, and plans to be involved in the Agriculture and Rural Caucus on the state level.

In early August, she is participating, along with her teenage daughter, in an interfaith peace delegation to Japan on the anniversaries of the US atomic bombings, where they will learn from survivor-witnesses about their experiences and their path of non-retaliation.

## Democrats at the Fair

Again this year we will have a booth at the NW WA Fair in Lynden, August 17-22. We have a great location, just opposite Gate 1 on Front Street. Come by and see us!

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth and be ambassadors for the Democratic Party. Please call the office at 647-7661 to sign up.

Volunteers receive a pass into the fair on the day they work. Shifts of 4 hours in length start at 10 am, 2 pm, and 6 pm.

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M-F, 10 am to 2 pm

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



## Whatcom County Democrats

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# AUGUST 2009

Check [whatcomdemocrats.com](http://whatcomdemocrats.com) for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>2</b> 6 pm – MoveOn meeting, 100 E. Maple, Bham	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm – Progressive Network, 13 Prospect St, Bham	<b>4</b> 8 pm –Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	<b>5</b> 3 pm –Election Observer Training, 311 Grand Ave, Bham 5 pm – Green Drinks	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10 am – 42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Dems, Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr. Ferndale
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7-9 pm – Finance Cmte mtg, office	<b>11</b> 7 pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9 am – Lynden Democrats, See page 5
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Primary</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
NW Washington Fair – Whatcom Dems Booth, see page 5						
		7:30 pm – Election Night Party, Copper Hog, 1327 N State St. Bellingham		7 pm – Whatcom Dems Member Mtg, SEE PAGE 1		
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7 pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	<b>26</b> 12n – City Club, Northwood Hall, Bham 7 pm – Whatcom Dems E-Board Mtg, Office.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 3 pm – Whatcom Co Democratic Picnic, See page 1	<b>31</b>	<b>Sept 1</b> 8 pm –Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	<b>2</b> 5 pm – Green Drinks	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>