



GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 15

7:00 – 9:00 pm

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

All Democrats Welcome

AGENDA:

There is no program this month. Instead the PCOs and the membership will be voting on important updates and revisions of our governing rules:

- Updated Endorsement Policy
- Bylaws changes
- Election to fill vacancies: Vice Chair, Corresponding Secretary
- Standing rules on Resolutions

Full text of proposals will be posted on our website. The Endorsement Policy update is a total re-writing of the current policy, incorporating current practice and clarifying the process, but includes no substantive changes.

Proposed bylaw changes include eliminating the Corresponding Secretary position and creating a second Vice Chair position.

Voting will require a quorum of PCOs (20% of current PCOs) and a quorum of members (5% of membership, or about 35 currently).

April 2010
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Election 2010 Starts Now

Democrats to Set Goals at County Convention

April 10, Shuksan Middle School, 10 am

With so many major issues on the docket, from implementing and protecting health care reform, to reform of wall street regulation, to campaign finance reform, as well as state and local issues, the local Democratic Party needs grassroots input on where to prioritize it's time, energy and volunteers.

Local Democrats are gathering April 10 at Shuksan Middle School at 10am-3pm to ratify their platform, set the Party's direction for the next two years, and elect delegates to the state convention. It is also an opportunity for voters to hear from Demo-

cratic candidates for the state legislature, as well as other local races.

The County convention and Legislative District caucuses are open to all Democrats in Whatcom County. Democrats in the 42nd Legislative District and Whatcom County portion of the 40th district will caucus to elect delegates to the state convention June 25, held in Vancouver, WA.

The Whatcom Democrats platform committee has compiled all the suggestions from the Grassroots Strategy Sessions in early March and will be posting a revised version of the platform on our website on April 1 to be read and reviewed by anyone wishing to attend.

The County Convention will have a sandwich bar for \$5 and attendees are encouraged to donate to help defray costs.

Show Your Support for the WTA Levy

The Whatcom Democrats have endorsed the Whatcom Transit Authority Levy increase of .2% sales tax, which will be considered by all Whatcom County voters in April.

Ballots for the Special Election will be mailed out on April 7, 2010. The last day for new WA voter registrations is April 19, 2010. Ballots are due at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office on April 27, 2010.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Add your name to an endorsement ad, donate to help pay for endorsement ads and other campaign activities, and **print out an endorsement sheet** and get your friends and neighbors to endorse the levy.

Get-out-the-vote phone calling daytime and evening hours now through April 27th. **Doorbelling** every Saturday.

Get details at our website or call our office at 647-7661.

See page 3 for details on the WTA Levy Proposition 1.

Tentative Convention Schedule

10:00 am Welcome, and speeches by candidates for Congress, Legislature, and possibly other races.

11:00 am Platform: See the proposed Platform at our website. No new planks or resolutions will be considered at the Convention. Anyone who disagrees with a plank may "flag" it for separate voting after the balance of the Platform is adopted.

12:30 pm Lunch: \$5 will get you a great sandwich, fruit, drink.

1 pm LD Caucus: elect delegates to the state convention. Anyone interested in running for delegate should plan to sign up when they check in in the morning.

2 pm Platform reconvene to complete whatever is left.

Brunch Honors Retiring Dave Quall

The annual Women's Legislative Brunch, hosted by Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club, will honor long-time State Rep. Dave Quall.

The brunch is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th, from 10 am to noon, at Lairmont Manor, 405 Fieldstone Rd, in Bellingham.

Retired State Senator Harriet Spanel and other State Legislators will be honoring retiring 40th LD Representative Dave Quall, who served in the Legislature for eighteen years.

Also on the agenda will be celebration of Washington's Suffrage Centennial with a History Presentation by Louise Sager, Ferndale Heritage Society.

The meal includes crepes and fillings, ham, fruit, cake, and mimosas. Tickets only \$12.00 per person.

Contact Judy Anderson at 319-7539 or Sheila McCandlish at 647-3351 for more information and to purchase tickets. Tickets also available at [BrownPaperTickets](#).

Set the course for the next two years – attend the County Convention April 10

Platform Committee Transforms Your Values into our Mission

On March 6th, Whatcom Democrats met all over the county to discuss our shared values. After those Grassroots Strategy Sessions, all the notes were compiled by the Platform Committee. Our main goal was to see what is most important to Democrats and streamline it into broad values statements and a handful of specific policy priorities.

In the past, the party platform has been a large, clunky document that encompassed every policy position imaginable on a variety of issues. This year, the platform committee took an axe, and then a scalpel to make sure that there are just clear statements about our values and our top priorities about each issue. You can view the platform at [whatcomdemocrats.com](#). We will be ratifying the platform at our county convention April 10th. Don't miss out!

Brandland Retirement Sets off a Chain of Candidate Announcements

State Senator Dale Brandland (R-42) announced his retirement on the floor of the Senate last month, setting in motion a number of announcements from other legislators and candidates scrambling to claim first dibs on the open seat. Rep. Doug Erickson (R-42) immediately announced he would give up his seat in the House and run for the Senate seat in the 42nd District. This leaves Erickson's House seat open.

Democrat Pat Jerns of Birch Bay had previously announced he would challenge Brandland for the State Senate. Democrat Richard May of Blaine has been campaign-

ing for that seat for some months now, and has decided to switch to the open House race instead. He joins Democrat Al Jensen of Ferndale, who announced he was running for the House as soon as Erickson moved to the senate race. Are you keeping up with this?

One Republican has announced for this open House seat so far – Jason Overstreet, Blaine City Council member.

Rep. Kelli Linville (D-42), who holds the other House seat from the 42nd Legislative District, is expected to run for reelection. Republican Vincent Buys has filed to run against Linville.

Down in the 40th, Dave Quall (D-40) announced his retirement, triggering another open seat which has drawn Democrats Thomas Boucher, Tom Pasma and Kris Lytton into the race against Republican Mike Newman.

Meet the 42nd LD Candidates

There are two opportunities in April to size up the Democrats running for legislature in the 42nd District.

Saturday, April 10, at the County Convention, all Democratic candidates will address the body beginning at 10 am.

Wednesday, April 21, from 7 to 10 pm, the candidates will have an extended time to present their issues and answer questions. This forum, sponsored by the 42nd LD Democrats, will be at the Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

This forum is especially for 42nd LD PCOs, since they will be choosing the official Party nominee in May, but the forum is open to all Democrats.

Rock the Bus April 1st

Come Rock the Bus at the Fairhaven Pub and Martini Bar, 1114 Harris Ave, Bellingham, for a FREE concert being held in support of local transit. Donations are accepted, and will go toward the effort to preserve our public transit system.

So come see DJ Yogoman, The Walrus, and Redux play on April 1st at 8:30. Relax, have a drink or two, listen to some great music, and show your support for Whatcom's great local transit.

Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

email: add@whatcomdemocrats.com

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Young Democrats	Andrew Lamb	(425) 374-9686	
40 th LD Representative	Bob Burr	671-8862	
42 nd LD Representative	Steve Lydolph	384-5414	

YES WE DID! Health Insurance Reform Passed

The House and the Senate passed the Health Insurance reform bill and it and the senate fix have been signed into law. Because of this bill, over 30 million uninsured Americans will not have to face the threat of going bankrupt trying to maintain their health. We, at the Whatcom Democrats office, could come up with some deeply moving statement but I think I will let the President speak for himself on this one. This is his speech in Iowa after passing the bill.

“The road to this victory, Iowa, has been long, it has been difficult. It’s a struggle that a lot of brave Americans have waged for years. For others, like our friend Ted Kennedy, it’s a struggle that was waged for nearly a lifetime.

But what this struggle has taught us — about ourselves and about this country — is so much bigger than any one issue, because it’s reminded us what so many of us learned all those months ago on a cold January night here in Iowa, and that’s that change is never easy, but it’s

always possible. It comes not from the halls of power, but from the hearts of our people. Amid setbacks, it requires perseverance. Amid calls for delay, it requires the fierce urgency of now. In the face of unrelenting cynicism, it requires unyielding hope.

And when I came here three years ago, I told the story of when Lyndon Johnson stood with Harry Truman and signed Medicare into law. That wasn’t perfect either. I’m sure there was somebody who was dissatisfied with it at the time. And as he looked out over the crowd in Independence, Missouri, that day, he said, “History shapes men, but it is a necessary faith of leadership that men can shape history.”

What this generation has proven today is that we still have the power to shape history. In the United States of America, it is still a necessary faith that our destiny is written by us, not for us. Our future is what we make it.”

Thank you to all who helped make this bill possible.

Nelson Appointment Process Goes to Ethics Commission

Regular readers of our newsletter will be familiar with the controversies that surrounded Ward Nelson’s appointment to a vacant seat on the County Council last December. Two separate lines of action will unfold in April that will attempt to “resolve” the controversy: adopting clear and specific nomination rules for the future, and a public hearing on an ethics complaint dealing with past actions.

Council members Ken Mann and Sam Crawford have started work on a proposal that would clarify the rules surrounding appointments. Unfortunately, Crawford’s proposal would codify everything that was done wrong in the last process, specifically, sitting Council members nominated for an appointment would be allowed to vote on other nominees as long as they don’t vote for themselves.

It is precisely this issue that will be considered by the Whatcom County Ethics Commission. A public hearing on an ethics complaint will be held April 12th at 4pm in the 2nd floor conference room of the Whatcom County Civic Center, 322 N. Commercial St.

The ethics complaint, filed by Shane Roth of Bellingham (and a member of the

Whatcom Democrats Executive Board) states:

The moment any council member accepts a nomination...that nominated council member acquires a direct financial interest in the outcome of the nomination process. From that point on, that council member is no longer voting on 24 nominees; that council member is now voting on 24 opponents who are competing with that council member for that financial interest. A such nominated council member who votes on the matter clearly secures an inherently unfair advantage over the other 24 competitors for the vacant position.

Regardless of the findings of the Ethics Commission, the County Council has the power to set rules for future nominations, and is expected to consider rules this month. Issues of process go beyond political lines. A functioning and ethical government should not depend on which party is in power; it should depend on good, codified guidelines that keep this sort of mess from happening. We, as an engaged public, must make sure they have the guidelines and laws to keep the process open, transparent, and legal.

Know the Issues on the WTA Levy

Whatcom Transit Authority provides thousands of people access to work, school, medical appointments and other activities. It also provides access to new opportunities by creating communities where people can drive less and walk more, have greater access to community events, and meet the needs of all citizens, particularly those who do not drive or own a car.

WTA ridership is on the rise. In 2008, the Federal Transit Administration recognized WTA as the agency with the largest ridership increase in the nation (32%). Since 2000, ridership has increased by nearly 100%, with total trips reaching almost 5 million in 2009. Transit riders each save an average of \$9,215 annually, based on the March 3, 2010 national average gas price and the national unreserved monthly parking rate.

Like all Washington State transit agencies, WTA’s primary source of funding is local sales tax, at .6%. The recession has crippled Whatcom Transit Authority’s ability to provide current levels of service. In 2009, WTA implemented \$2 million dollars in cuts and will be forced to cut another \$4 million over the next year, due to decreased sales tax revenue. This levy is about fighting for our values as Democrats. Whether it is more jobs, a cleaner environment, energy independence, or a better quality of life, public transportation takes us there.

The WTA has requested a modest increase in sales tax of 0.2 percent. (That’s just two cents on \$10 dollars.) Cuts in transit service hurt members of the community who can afford it least. The Whatcom Democrats support the passage of this levy to protect the most vulnerable members of our community and preserve routes, evening and Sunday service.

For more information on the Whatcom Democrats campaign for the WTA Levy, contact Elisabeth Britt at wta-levy-support@whatcomdemocrats.com or call 647-7661. For additional information please visit Transit Works website, preserveourpublictransit.org.

VOTE YES!
Proposition 1
WTA Levy
by APRIL 27th

2nd Annual
**Plant
Sale**



April 16 & 17
2414 C St, Bellingham

Time to Dig for Democrats

Help us reach our 2010 fundraising goal by potting up your extra plants. We'll even help you if you've got a lot to offer us.

DROP OFF locations:

Bellingham, 2920 Eldridge Ave (671-2612)
Ferndale, 5648 Orchard Dr (384-0861)

Please label plants as best you can, common name, botanical name, color, etc. We will accept potted or unpotted plants, and plastic pots.

To let us know you will have plants to donate, if you would like help digging, and to volunteer for this project, email office@whatcomdemocrats.com or call our office at 647-7661.



Whatcom County Democrats

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April 2010 Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29 7pm- Afghanistan Talk by Dana Visalli, 100 E. Maple St, Bham.	30 6:30pm- Richard May Meet and Greet, 2030 Main St., Ferndale.	31 7pm E-Board Mtg at Whatcom Dems Office.	1 5:30pm-"Livable Cities", 1320 Cornwall Av, Bham 6pm-Cesar Chavez Dinner, 3333 Squalicum Parkway. 7pm-Stand Against Racism, 1026 N. Forest, Bham 7:30pm-Ship of Fools Art Exhibit, Blue Horse Gallery. 8:30pm- Rock the Bus at 1114 Harris Ave, Bham.	2 6pm Recycled Art Show Opening, 1418 Cornwall Ave, Bham.	3 7pm- "Here's to the Women!", Deming Public Library
4 Easter	5	6 6pm-Young Democrats Social, Copper Hog, 1327 N State St , Bham	7 5pm- Green Drinks, Copper Hog, 1327 N State St , Bham	8	9 5pm-Larry Kalb Kick-Off, Blue Horse Gallery, Bham	10 9am- Great Unleashing, 2020 Cornwall Ave, Bham. 10am- County Convention, SEE PAGE 1 11am- Senior Rally for WTA Levy, 1224 Cornwall, Bham.
11 9am- Great Unleashing at 2020 Cornwall Ave, Bham.	12 11:30am- Women's Club Mtg, On Rice, 1224 Harris Ave.	13 5pm- Diana McGuinness Kickoff, Roeder Home, Bham 7pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café	14 12pm-BWCCI Transit Debate	15 7 pm- Monthly Membership Mtg. SEE PAGE 1	16 3pm – Plant Sale, SEE ABOVE	17 9am-Lynden Dems Mtg, 115 E Homestead Blvd, Lynden 9:45am-League of Women Voters, Bham Public Library 9am – Plant Sale, SEE ABOVE
18	19	20 5pm- Tom Pasma Kickoff, Blue Horse Gallery 6pm- Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	21 12pm- Healthcare Not Welfare Vigil 7pm- 42 nd LD Candidates Forum, SEE PAGE 2	22 Earth Day 7pm – United for National Healthcare, 1700 N. State St, Bham	23 5:30pm- Environmental Heroes Awards, 1 Bellweather Way, Bham.	24 10am- Women's Legislative Brunch, SEE PAGE 2 6:30pm- Richard May Meet and Greet, 107 E. Main St, Everson.
		27 WTA LEVY ELECTION DAY 7pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café	28 6:30pm-Smart Trips Report, 2309 Meridian St, Bham 7pm- E-Board Mtg, Whatcom Dems HQ	29	30	1

