

GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 17

5:30 – 7 pm
Supper with
the candidates

7:00 – 9:00 pm
Endorsement Meeting

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

All Democrats Welcome

Please buy tickets in
advance, so we have an
idea of how many to plan
for

TICKETS for Supper:
\$7 in advance,
buy on-line at our website
or \$10 at the door

June 2010
Vol 6, Issue 6
info@whatcomdemocrats.com
www.whatcomdemocrats.com
360-647-7661

Gearing up to Eat and Endorse

The membership of the Whatcom Democrats, paid and PCOs, will gather on June 17th to vote on endorsement of candidates for the up-coming election. All candidates who will appear on the August 17 Primary Election ballot will be known, as they must file their candidacy by June 11. Democrats whose membership was up to date as of June 2nd, and attend the meeting, are eligible to vote.

We will vote first by paper ballot on races where there is more than Democrat running. Voters will have the choice of voting for one, more than one, or vote to not endorse at this time.

A two-thirds majority is required, of all votes cast, including “no endorsement”, to gain the Whatcom Democrats’ endorsement. This may result in no candidate receiving enough votes to earn the endorsement, and the assembled body will decide at the beginning of the meeting if they want to consider re-voting on any race after the results are announced. It is common that if no one candidate earns the endorsement on the initial ballot, the members re-vote and do a dual endorsement, but it is not required. Because all “certified” Democratic candidates already have access to party resources on an equal basis, not endorsing at this time does not hinder their campaigns. After the Primary, the membership may re-visit endorsement in any races they

Notice about Paid Membership

The Endorsement Policy was amended on April 15 to require two-week advanced membership in order to be eligible to vote in an endorsement decision. This policy change goes into effect for the June 17, 2010 meeting when we consider endorsing candidates for Legislature, Congress, Senate, and County Council.

If your membership was up to date as of June 3, 2010, you will be eligible to vote in the June 17 endorsement meeting.

haven’t made a choice on.

After the balloting on competitive races is done, we will hear from the other candidates and decide on a simple voice vote.

Questions for all candidates need to be submitted in writing at the meeting and will be moderated by I&R Chair Dave Willingham. Look for cards to write questions on.

See page 5 for more on the endorsement policy, and a complete list of races and candidates.

Inside you’ll find statements from the candidates who have competitive races.

Finally, please join us for supper before the meeting, to talk about candidates and to candidates, share a meal, and help make a bit of money for the party.

Whatcom Democrats Endorse, Organize for I-1098 and I-1068

At our last membership meeting, we endorsed two initiatives. We endorsed I-1098, which is a revenue initiative pushed by Bill Gates Sr. that would provide a middle class tax cut, fund education and health care in our state and impose a small income tax on those making more than \$250,000 a year. We also endorsed I-1068, which would remove the criminal penalties associated with adult possession and cultivation of Marijuana.

If you are interested in signing either of these initiatives or better yet, gathering signatures and getting involved, come on down to the Dems office on Holly Street, and we will connect you with the proper materials and people. Both initiatives have until the end of June to collect enough signatures for the ballot, so get involved today. You can find more information about I-1098 at yeson1098.com and about I-1068 at sensiblewashington.org.

Democrats Compete for Quall's Old Seat

Kris Lytton



Washington State has more resources, innovative spirit and potential to build a better life for its residents. When I think about what government should or should

not be doing, I believe that government when well run, benefits its citizens. Where all citizens have equal rights, equal treatment and that no one shall be denied these rights because of gender, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religion. I support a progressive policy where the most vulnerable are helped and protected. Where the environment is a trust we share and preserve for the future. Where there is a strong public education system in which every child has the opportunity for a quality education. And it is the right of every Washingtonian to have a job that pays a living wage.

I have spent my adult life as an advocate for children and education. If our state is going to compete in the global society, one in which jobs are kept here at home, we must prepare the next generation to be skilled, creative and have the entrepreneurial spirit to once again ensure that we are a leader in innovation and prosperity.

We must become better stewards of our natural resources and limit our impact on the environment. The Puget Sound is Washington's most vital resource and we must expand efforts to address pollution impacts. Federal, state, local and tribal governments must work together to address the causes of the Sounds declining water quality and implement projects to counter these threats.

We have a choice to make. We must switch to much more efficient transportation, manufacturing, and buildings, and to solar, wind, tide, and biomass energy to build a clean-energy future.

I have tremendous passion and energy to be a good legislator serving my communities in the 40th Legislative District.

Thank you, Kris.

Thomas Boucher



My name is Thomas Boucher and I am running for State Representative.

I have grown up here locally and lived in Northwest Washington for

over 25 years. I am a product of our local schools and Western Washington University. My wife Lesha and I chose to raise our family here locally. Lesha is a registered nurse and my daughters both attend Mount Vernon High School.

My first legislative experience came as an aide to State Representative Jeff Morris and later a senior aide on Congressman Rick Larsen's staff. I learned how to listen carefully, work hard and get things done.

I bring "real world experience" as a small business owner, a father of two teenage girls and as an active member of the community serving on the Board of Youthnet and as Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Wine Association.

I have worked in the local Democratic Party and managed local, legislative and congressional campaigns over the last 15 years in this area. I know what it takes to ensure we keep this seat in Democratic hands come November 2nd, because the Republicans and the tea party believe they can take this seat. I won't let that happen.

As your voice in Olympia, I will continue to do what I have done throughout my career – listen carefully to all sides, respect all perspectives, find consensus and then get things done!

I will work to ensure that our public schools, at every level, are preparing our students for tomorrow's challenges, continue to close tax loopholes that no longer make sense and fight to ensure our region receives the funding we need to improve our infrastructure and get our fair share of the gas tax dollars.

I hope you will support and endorse me as a long-time Northwest Democrat.

Tom Pasma



I am seeking the endorsement of the Whatcom County Democrats for 40th District House of Representatives, Position 1. On May 8, I was honored to receive the

nomination of the 40th LD with 76% of the vote. This overwhelming majority vote demonstrates that I have the confidence and support of the PCO's.

I have served as chair of the 40th LD Democratic Party and am currently the State Committeeman. I have worked hard to elect Democrats to state and local positions. I have stepped up to raise thousands of dollars for party organizations. I am well known throughout the district for my community activism. Now I am asking for your endorsement in my race to fill the seat long held by Representative Dave Quall.

Growing up, I learned the old fashioned values of hard work, respect for others, and dedication to family and community. These values are the guiding principles of my life that I will use in my service in the State Legislature.

I want you to know who I am and what I believe:

- I believe that our future depends on successful small businesses and a sustainable agricultural economy in the 40th District.
- I will be a strong voice for small town and rural communities in a legislature often dominated by big city issues. There are no other elected Democrats with a working background in agriculture in the state legislature.
- I have shown that I am an independent thinker with the ability to put aside political games and work together to find solutions to the problems we face.
- I will focus on job creation, education that makes the most of every child's potential, responsible budgets, and preservation of our environment and agricultural economy.

I hope I can count on your support and your vote.

Democrats in the crowded 42nd race

Richard May



Hello Democrats. I'm Richard May, Democratic Party nominee for State Rep position 1.

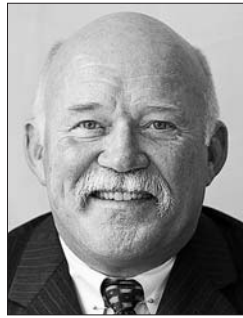
Democratic precinct officers nominated me with 68% because

I am a hard working activist with the strongest campaign from day 1, and I actually embrace our platform and values. I am endorsed by county councilman Ken Mann, and I campaign like he did. I have talked to almost 4000 voters throughout the county and have raised almost \$20,000. Bellingham Herald calls my campaign a Formula 1 race car. I am a party officer and 2 time national DNC delegate. I chaired the winning Whatcom Library levy, and I campaigned for Kerry, Cantwell, Gregoire, and all over WA and 4 states for Obama (Google "Obama Iowa victory" to see me on CNN behind Barack).

The 42nd district is 60% non-Democrat, but I'm a county business owner with crossover respect from folks who vote differently than we do. I have a business partnership with a childhood friend who is a total Tea-protest Republican, but even he agrees with me to condemn the bank bailouts and Bush's deficit blank checks to Haliburton. I painstakingly convinced him and other non-Dems to support the library levy, Ken Mann, and Dan McShane. Win some, Lose some.

I am the only candidate for this seat supporting the whole platform and both initiatives that Whatcom Democrats unanimously endorsed last meeting, only candidate supporting the growth management act that we fought for in last summer's county council election. I've been endorsed by environmental and labor groups, the Lummi tribe, and electeds all over the county. I have a record of action and results for working families, resource protection, and social justice. If the state income tax passes, I will still want to lower and cap our state's regressive sales tax that hurts working families most.

Al Jensen



My name is Al Jensen, and I'm running as your next State Representative of the 42nd District, Whatcom County. I've lived and worked in

Whatcom county since 1946 and am proud to have served our community for over 33 years as a Bellingham Police Officer and Detective. I know the importance of providing quality jobs and opportunities for individuals to achieve gainful employment and raise a family. As a proud father and grandfather, I know the importance of providing proper funding for education. Funding for our K-12 and higher education is among my top priorities.

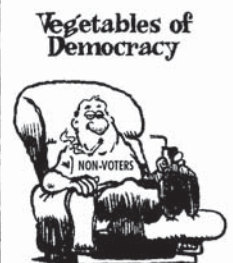
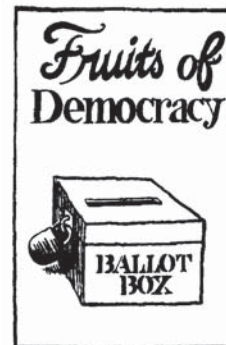
Our current economic situation has placed a great strain on our budgets. In order to provide the level of funding necessary to ensure safe streets and quality education, I am advocating progressive reform of our tax system. As your representative, I'd fight to do away with the regressive tax system currently in place. My goal is to help every family provide a better home environment and increase the quality of life by easing the strain of our regressive tax system.

I want you to know that as your representative, I'm not simply going to tout the party line. I am elected by the community, and that's who I'll speak for down in Olympia. If a decision needs to be made affecting Whatcom County, I want you to know that regardless of partisan divides, I'm going to choose what's right for the 42nd District.

If we don't see eye to eye on an issue, I want us walk away with an understanding of where we stand and why. I'm not going to make promises I can't keep, and I'm not going to spout rhetoric simply because that's what you want to hear. Your endorsement will be an endorsement for honesty and integrity.

Thank You, Al Jensen

See all the races and candidates on page 5



Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

email: add @whatcomdemocrats.com

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40 th LD Representative	Bob Burr	671-8862	
42 nd LD Representative	Steve Lydolph	384-5414	

Duking it out to go to DC – 2nd District Congress

Diana McGinness



There is a magnum shift in the mood of the people in the United States.

Big Business is running amok and, left unchecked, will continue to run our

government, exploit our financial system, destroy our environment, send our jobs overseas, demand ever increasing military budgets to enrich themselves – and still deny us basic needs, such as affordable education and health care.

We will no longer let huge corporations privatize their profits and socialize their liabilities.

We were aware that our government and its agencies were decimated, defunded and gutted during the last administration – now we have seen the extent to which they were literally taken over by multi-national corporations. We have seen the dubious results of bailouts, health care reform and financial reform – which do little to reform.

We will not continue to be blackmailed into “business as usual” by those who vote against reducing interest rates, vote against bank regulation, vote against net neutrality and who vote against allowing bankruptcy courts to help reduce foreclosures; and then vote for yet another estate tax exemption for the wealthiest among us.

By sending strong, dedicated and ethical people to Congress – who will work for us – we can put our country back on track for peace and prosperity. (And prosperity is spelled j-o-b-s!)

We have faced tough times before, but Americans always prevail. We will again.

I am a retired fraud investigator who lives by my ethics, who is dedicated to fighting fraud, waste and abuse in government and in those businesses who work for government. I understand that corporate personhood must be abolished, and that we must remove Big Money from our election campaigns or we will never solve our problems.

My name is Diana McGinness, and I’m asking for your vote for our state’s 2nd Congressional District.

Larry Kalb



I’m Larry Kalb. After campaigning in the 2nd Congressional District for four months, the most common thing I hear is that people feel betrayed by our

Congressman, who exported our jobs to Asia, pledged his allegiance to the insurance companies, approved over \$1 trillion in war funding, and bailed out the banks.

People want jobs to produce things ‘Made in America.’ ‘Made in China’ means unemployment in America. Unlike the incumbent, Rick Larsen, I will sign on to the TRADE Act which will renegotiate NAFTA, CAFTA and WTO, bringing jobs back to the U.S. Unlike Larsen, I will not approve any more funding for the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations except to bring our troops home. Unlike Larsen, will push single-payer as the true public option. And, unlike Larsen, will take down the “for sale” signs in the halls of Congress.

I’m a 16-year resident of Bellingham. I’m 55 years old. For eight years I’ve worked in the Finance Department for Whatcom Transportation Authority. Prior to announcing my candidacy, was President of Health Care for All – Washington, a statewide nonprofit organization advocating single-payer health care.

My endorsements include three Bellingham City Councilmen, Chuck Robinson of Village Books, Nick Mele, former senior U.S. Diplomat., and John Geyman, Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine at UW School of Medicine.

I will bring to Congress a sound knowledge of federal procurement procedures, my 11-year, first-hand experience in international relations, and a long, untarnished stewardship of public funds. Most importantly, I have the courage to stand up to be the voice for the people in our district.

I humbly ask for your vote on June 17th.

For more information on my campaign, visit www.kalbforcongress.com or call me at 360-927-2729.

Rick Larsen



Congressman Rick Larsen – My Priorities

My number one priority is building an environment where businesses can create jobs and thrive. I want to

see the label “Made in America” again. I want the best aerospace workers in the world to build the next generation of Air Force Tankers here in Northwest Washington. I want to invest in our manufacturing base, to support a clean and renewable energy economy, and help small businesses gain access to credit so they can grow and thrive.

I want to hold Wall Street firms accountable for their irresponsible actions that have depleted middle class families’ retirement accounts and resulted in lost jobs. And I want to protect consumers and taxpayers on Main Street from extreme decisions made on Wall Street.

I will continue my support for military families, veterans and retirees. I helped bring health care closer to our veterans and will continue to do all I can to support the missions of Naval Station Everett and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

And our seniors can expect assistance to help them close the donut hole, the out of pocket costs associated with Medicare prescription medications.

Rick

PCOs are the Grassroots of the Party

It’s time once again for the grassroots of the Democratic Party to choose it’s representatives – Precinct Committee Officers – who will govern the Party for the next two years, including the 2012 Presidential caucus and campaign season.

To run for PCO in your precinct you will need to file with the County Auditor’s office during the week of June 7-11. See whatcomdemocrats.com or call 647-7661 for information on how to file.

PCOs will be elected by the democrats in each precinct, on the Primary Election ballot.

What Does the Party Endorsement Mean?

A political party endorsement is a statement of support of a candidate for public office. It is also an internal policy decision saying where the organization's resources will be spent. It is no different than a PTA, voter's league, or labor union picking which candidates they want to support and work for, as an organization. This is why we require membership in the Whatcom Democrats, as an organization, in order to vote on our endorsement decisions.

The many volunteers and members of the Whatcom Democrats have built our organization's capacity to significantly help candidates and turn out voters on election day for those candidates. Our endorsement means more to a candidate than just a line on a campaign brochure.

A party endorsement has no direct effect on which candidates may run for office. Endorsement does not decide which candidates qualify for the general election ballot, the way a party nomination normally would.

State election law governs the rules of the Primary Election, and currently in Washington State, primary elections are run like non-partisan primaries, advancing the top two vote-getters to the General

40th Dems Set Endorsement Meeting

The 40th Legislative District Democrats will hold their annual endorsement meeting on **Saturday, June 19th**, 2 pm, at the Elks Club, 710 Samish Way in Bellingham. Voting on endorsements is open to all Democrats of the 40th who are members by June 12. PCOs have automatic membership. Membership applications may be found at wa40dems.net.

AGENDA

1. Discussion and vote whether to endorse issues and candidates for the Primary. (40th policy says "may endorse", but shall and will we?)
2. Hear from candidates and issues affecting the 40th District.
3. Vote on endorsements to the extent that we have voted to do so.
4. Those who must leave early will be allowed to cast their ballots and leave, but will forgo the option to vote on subsequent ballots. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Election ballot, regardless of party affiliation. Primaries (in WA State) for partisan offices do not constitute a party nomination process.

Only voters casting a ballot in a Primary Election have the power to eliminate, or advance, a candidate to the general election ballot.

Since we do not hold public nominating primary elections in Washington as this time, the Washington State Democratic Party has adopted its own process and rules to designate who is the nominee of the "Democratic Party" in partisan races in Washington. These rules have no direct impact on the endorsement policy of the Whatcom Democrats.

40th LD Chili Cook-Off Set for August 1st

The 40th LD Chili Cook-off is set for Sunday, August 1 at the beautiful Double S Quarter Horse Ranch in Bow, hosted by Tom Pasma and his wife Sue Stulte This is the 4th year where candidates and chili collide in a "friendly" competition between 40th LD candidates, incumbents, and counties. Plus plan on surprise entries by the occasional precinct and other LDs. There will be auctions, barn tours, desserts and more.

Get tickets beginning July 1 at brownpapertickets.com or email roni.lenore@gmail.com. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids and \$25 for sponsors. We can only sell so many tickets, so don't delay. *This is a fundraiser for the 40th LD Democrats to help keep our Legislative District a deep true blue.*

Whatcom Dems Welcome Two New Committee Chairs

In preparation for the coming campaign season, Natalie McClendon has appointed (and the Executive Board has confirmed) two new committee chairs. Elisabeth Britt will be heading up the Campaign Committee, which as you can imagine, handles our campaign activities every election cycle. You might remember her from her tireless work managing the Whatcom Democrats efforts on the Transit Works campaign. She also manages the popular blog on local politics, Latte Republic. The previous chair, Jason Heck is departing to become Kevin Ranker's legislative assistant.

Candidates Announced or Filed by June 5

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.

U.S. Senate: Incumbent Patty Murray* is running for re-election. Republicans Dino Rossi, Clint Didier, Paul Akers, and others are challenging.

US House, District 2: Incumbent Rick Larsen* is running for re-election. Democrats Larry Kalb# and Diana McGinness#, and Republican John Koster are challenging.

42nd LD Senate : Incumbent Dale Brandland is retiring. Republican Doug Erickson and Democrat Pat Jerns# are running.

42nd LD Representative-1: Incumbent Doug Ericksen is running for state senate. Democrats Richard May# and Al Jenson#, and Craig Mayberry, Jason Overstreet, and Michael Smith are running.

42nd LD Representative-2: Incumbent Kelli Linville* is running for re-election. Republican Vincent Buys is challenging.

40th LD Representative-1: Incumbent Dave Quall* is retiring. Democrats Tom Pasma#, Thomas Boucher#, and Kris Lytton# are running, plus Republicans Dusty Gulleeson and Michael Newman.

40th LD Representative-2: Incumbent Jeff Morris* is running for re-election. John Swapp and Howard Pellet are challenging.

County Council District 1-Position B: Incumbent Ward Nelson is retiring, again. Jean Melious# and Theresa Sygitowicz are running.

Natalie has also appointed Dave Willingham to chair the Issues and Resolutions committee. The committee has been dormant for quite a while, and now has a broader scope, giving updates on legislation we are interested in, handling resolutions to be put before the body, and all manner of other tasks. Dave Willingham chaired the platform committee this year, and stewarded through one of the most efficient platforms our party has seen in a long while.

We are excited to have both on board and ready to go!

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

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June 2010 Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8 7pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, bham	9 7pm- The Town That Saved Food, Village Books, 1200 11 th st, Bham.	10	11	12 10am- 42 nd LD Dems Membership Mtg, 2064 Vista Dr, Ferndale. 12pm- No BP Bailout Rally, Depot Market Square, Bham
13	14 11:30am-Women's Club Mtg, On Rice, 1224 Harris Ave.	15 6pm- Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	16 12pm- Healthcare Not Welfare Vigil 5pm- Pat Jerns Campaign Kick-off, Blue Horse Gallery, 301 W Holly St, Bham.	17 5:30 pm – Supper with candidates 7 pm- Monthly Membership Mtg. SEE PAGE 1	18	19 9am-Lynden Dems Mtg, 115 E Homestead Blvd, Lynden 2pm- 40 th LD Endorsement Mtg, 710 Samish Way, Bham
20	21	22 7pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Café, bham	23 12pm Bellingham City Club, Northwood Hall, 3240 Northwest Ave, Bham.	24	25 Democratic State Convention	26 Democratic State Convention Sustainable Home Tour
27 Sustainable Home Tour	28	29	30 7pm- E Board Meeting, Dems HQ, Bham	1 JULY	2	3
4	5	6 6pm-Young Democrats Social	7 Bellingham Gay Pride 2010 1pm- Canoe Journey at Lummi, 2201 Lummi View Dr, Bham.	8	9	10 10am- 42 nd LD Dems Membership Mtg, 2064 Vista Dr, Ferndale.