



## GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the  
Whatcom County  
Democratic  
Central Committee

### Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 19

7:00 – 9:00 pm

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

All Democrats Welcome

### PROGRAM: Countdown to the April 15 Precinct Caucuses

Come to the January membership meeting for a primer on how the caucuses work, and the work we need to do to make them successful. While the Democratic nominee for President is obvious – Barack Obama – we have other critical races where the Democratic candidate is not yet clear. The caucuses will be a perfect time for the candidates running in the (presumed) new 1st Congressional District to show their strength among the Democratic base.

In addition, the caucuses will be a critical recruiting and organizing venue for the campaigns for President, Governor, Senate, and Legislature. See the articles at the right for details on our volunteer needs and about the major changes in the Congressional landscape in Whatcom County.

**The E-Board will also present a proposal for paying our Chair a stipend.**

January 2012  
Vol 8, Issue 1  
info@whatcomdemocrats.com  
www.whatcomdemocrats.com  
360-647-7661

## The Redistricting Committee Has Maps, and They Are Weird

By Riley Sweeney

Our bipartisan committee to redraw the political boundaries of Washington State has cranked out some draft maps in the last couple of weeks that have big changes in store for Whatcom County. Let's take a look at what is probably in store.

**Congressional Maps:** By far the more thrilling news, Whatcom County will have two representatives next year. All of Bellingham remains in the 2nd with Rick Larsen as our congressman, however the new 1st district stretches in a spindly crescent moon from East King County up to include all the county portions of Whatcom. This means that we will be in the district of a couple good hopefuls. Declared Democratic candidates for the 1st Congressional District open seat being vacated by Jay Insee are:

- 44th LD State Sen. Steve Hobbs, Lake Stevens
- Former 45th LD State Rep. Laura Ruderman, Kirkland

- Two-time Congressional candidate Darcy Burner, Redmond
- Darshan Rauniyar, businessman, from Bothell
- 45th LD State Rep. Roger Goodman, Kirkland

On the Republican side of the map, John Koster is in the 1st district now, and is Lake Whatcom-area resident Greg Anders, who has raised twice as much money as Koster so far. Either way it will be an interesting cycle.

**Legislative Maps:** The committee decided to trade away part of the 42nd for a better bargain on other districts. As a result, the new boundary takes six precincts from the 42nd (York and southern Bellingham) and moves them into the 40th. The good news is that it puts Kevin Ranker, Jeff Morris and Kris Lytton into mostly guaranteed safe seats. The bad news is that the 42nd LD becomes a safer seat for such hyper-partisan extremists like Jason Overstreet and Vincent Buys.

## Help Needed NOW to Plan for Successful Precinct Caucuses, April 15

One of the most important roles of the local party organizations is to conduct the bi-annual precinct caucuses and Democratic Party conventions. This is a big undertaking that involves Democrats in every precinct in the county, and the quality of the experience for rank-and-file voters reflects on us as an organization. It's important that voters feel welcome to participate, feel the process allows for their ideas and opinions to be heard and respected, and that it was a valuable use of their time. Our ultimate goal is to create momentum from the caucuses to move forward with effective grassroots organizing that helps win elections. So here's where you come in: we need volunteers!

**Logistics:** Each caucus site will need

to be arranged for and people recruited to help with the details of set-up, materials, recruiting volunteers to help the day-of. We could use a person from each "region" of the county to work in their area and make the work easier for all. Contact Natalie McClendon to volunteer, 671-6851.

**Platform:** Every two years we take a deliberate and thoughtful look at what our values are, and what our immediate goals should be, and set them out in the Platform. Because of the unusually short time between the Caucuses and the County Convention, we will need to start our Platform work now, months before the Caucuses on April 15. (continued on page 3)

## Winning Single Payer Health Care in Washington State

On Thursday, January 26, United for National Healthcare will present Chuck Richards, President of Health Care for All Washington

Mr. Richards will explain how the federal health care law will still leave at least 23 million Americans without access to health care. He advocates replacing the federal health care law with a Washington State publicly funded single payer health care system. He will explain what concerned citizens can do to advocate for a single payer bill in the State legislature—the Washington Health Security Trust—that would provide secure, affordable, and comprehensive health care for all.

Thursday, January 26, 2012, 7:00 pm  
 Laborer's Hall  
 (downstairs on left side of building)  
 1700 N State, Bellingham WA

Sponsored by  
 United for National Healthcare  
 (360) 398-2295  
[supporter@unitedforhealthcare.org](mailto:supporter@unitedforhealthcare.org)  
<http://www.ufhc.org>

## Washington State Legislature

Session begin January 9, 2012

### State Legislators

<b>40<sup>th</sup> District</b>	<b>42<sup>nd</sup> District</b>
Sen. Kevin Ranker	Sen. Doug Ericksen
Rep. Kristine Lytton	Rep. Vince Buys
Rep. Jeff Morris	Rep. Jason Overstreet

Leave message for your legislator at the in-state toll-free Hotline number:  
 800-562-6000

To email your legislator, go to their webpage at  
[www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx)

Lots of information on bills, hearings, committee schedules, etc, at  
[www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx)

## Track Legislative Action

**State Senate Democratic Caucus**

<http://blog.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/>

**State House Democratic Caucus**

<http://hdcadvance.blogspot.com/>

# Gov. Gregoire to Support Gay Marriage Bill

Gov. Chris Gregoire has announced her support for legalizing same-sex marriage in Washington state, saying that she came to the decision after several years of battling her own uncertainty on the issue.

"I have been on my own journey, I'll admit that," Gregoire said at a news conference announcing her support of a legalization bill that will be introduced next week.

In November, a coalition called Washington United for Marriage announced it would lobby the Legislature to approve gay marriage this year.

Democratic Sen. Ed Murray of Seattle, a gay lawmaker who has spearheaded past gay rights and domestic partnership laws in the state, said the underlying domestic partnership law has helped lay the ground-

work for full marriage. Murray and Rep. Jamie Pederson, D-Seattle, introduced the bill.

They said that they would not attach a referendum clause to the bill, which would require the public to ultimately approve the measure if passed by the Legislature.

"We need to take this vote, we need to take it this year, and we need to take it in the Legislature," Murray said. "It's time for the Legislature to catch up with the public."

Murray acknowledged that it would be a tough battle in the Senate, where Democrats hold a 27-22 majority, but where some conservative Democrats have voted with Republicans in opposition to the state's domestic partnership law. Democrats hold a 56-42 majority in the House, making smooth passage of the bill more likely.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS LOBBY DAY

Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice Washington are hosting our annual Reproductive Health and Rights Lobby Day Monday, January 30th, 2012

Join neighbors and citizen activists from across Washington State to ensure funding and access to basic reproductive health care services and information. No experience necessary — we provide training, transportation, and hospitality.

To RSVP, please contact [advocate@mbpp.org](mailto:advocate@mbpp.org) or call 360-603-7705.

## Marijuana Initiative Moving Forward

The YES! on I-502 campaign to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana filed signatures on December 29, 2011 to qualify I-502 to go before the legislature in 2012. The legislature will have the opportunity to adopt the initiative directly. If they do not, it will go to the November 2012 ballot for consideration by the voters. More information is available at [newapproachwa.org](http://newapproachwa.org)

## Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

		email: add @whatcomdemocrats.com
Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851 demchair
1st Vice Chair	Mark Lowry	223-3986 demvchair
2nd Vice Chair	Mike Estes	220-1100
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State Committeewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340 statewoman
State Committeeman	Richard May	332-5425 stateman
Affirmative Action Campaign	Riley Sweeney	360-649-1801
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Technology	Shane Roth	922-0442
WCD Women's Club	Catherine L. Chambers	647-3888
Young Democrats	Mary Bell	733-4059
40 <sup>th</sup> LD Representative	David Narsico	441-2293
42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Representative	Sherry Zeilstra	380-1438

## 2011 Volunteer Awards

As with all volunteer organizations, it's the people that make the difference. Each year we are blessed with a great crew of volunteers. A few really stand out and we want to acknowledge them.

**PCO of the year** – Alyce Werkema – for providing Democratic leadership in Lynden

**Rising Star of 2011** – Jeremy Mohn – for not only not shrinking from a challenge but also doing such a great job at whatever he tackled, from the NW WA Fair to campaign management to Young Dems leadership, to representing LGBT issues.

**Volunteer of the year** – Artemis – for committing her considerable talent and experience to the behind-the-scenes campaign organizing work that must be done in order to win elections

**Office Volunteer of the year** – Emma Conlee – for her steadfast volunteer support over the last five years, on occasion of her 90th birthday

**Leadership Award** – Roni Lenore – for her tenacious commitment to the success of the Whatcom Democrats, as a Board member and Chair of the Finance Committee

## Caucuses April 15

*(continued from page 1)*

We will need to develop a plan and procedures for gathering platform proposals, and provide leadership at caucus sites to involve attendees in this process and follow through to the County Convention. Contact Mike Estes to volunteer, 220-1100.

**Caucus Leaders (PCOs):** Each precinct will convene separately, even if they are in the room with other precincts. Not all precincts have PCOs, or the PCO is not able to serve for some reason. Specific training will be provided to all volunteers leading caucuses. Contact Sherry Zeilstra to volunteer, 380-1438.

**Affirmative Action:** The party is committed to diversity, but it takes effort to make that happen. Unfortunately, the Whatcom Democrats does not currently have a functioning Affirmative Action Committee, so we need to recruit someone. The committee work involves networking through existing organizations and their natural leaders as well as making one-to-one contacts with voters. Contact Natalie McClendon to volunteer, 671-6851.



*Emma Conlee gets a good laugh about her volunteer award. Courtesy Sweeney Portraits*

**Whatcom Young Democrats  
2012 Officer Elections will take  
place at the meeting on Tuesday,  
January 17th.  
7pm at Chuckanut Brewery**

## Rep. Larsen Co-Sponsors Constitutional Amendment against "Citizen's United"

Our Congressman, Rick Larsen, wrote in December, "I am usually wary about amending the Constitution because it is such a strong document. However, when individual rights are being diluted, strengthening those rights is the only remedy. That is why I am cosponsoring the House version of Senator Bernie Sanders' amendment (H.J. Res. 90) to overturn the Citizen's United decision. Corporations are not individuals and should not have to political rights of individuals.

The Whatcom County Democratic Party Platform calls for support of a Constitutional Amendment to ban corporate personhood, as well as immediate legislation to stop the effects until the Amendment can be passed. We applaud Rep. Larsen for his co-sponsorship of this resolution.

## Volunteer and Donor Thank Yous

About a hundred Democrats gathered in December to celebrate another good year of campaigning at our Holiday Party. Thanks to the following people who helped make it a special evening: Catherine Chambers, Dale Whipple, Jean Brechan, Jeremy Mohn, Jo Pullen, Kent Heuer, Laurel Cook, Ronalee Kincaid, Laurie Heck, Mike Estes, Natalie McClendon, Peggy Borgens, Richard May, Riley Sweeney, Roni Lenore, Saliha Miller, Shane Roth, Sharon Alford, Stephanie Cash, Steve Schuck, Susan Moen, Suzanne Kite, Trudy Kelsoe, Vicky Hotson, Michele Kammerer, Bryna Hoffmeister.

Many local businesses and individuals contributed to our gift baskets that we raffled off at the Holiday Party in December. Please extend our thanks to them if you have an opportunity to patronize their business: Earth Mama's, McMurray Mountainside Farm, Avenue Bread, Chuckanut Brewery, Glacier Glass Works, Judy Mullenix, Turner Photographics, Mallard Ice Cream, Lettered Streets Coffeehouse, Bellingham Pasta Co, Jake's B.S. A Kick Ass Barbershop, Dorita Gray Design, 3 Oms Yoga, Upfront Theatre, Grace Harbor Farms, Blue Water Pottery, One Heron Pond Studio, Avellino, The Bagelry, Kettlecorn at the Market, The Breadfarm.

## Newsletter Submissions

Grassroots is a monthly publication of the Whatcom County Democrats. We are pleased to accept articles and announcements of interest to Democrats in Whatcom County. We will also be happy to include your event on our monthly calendar. Send your items to newsletter editor John Flancher at [john.flancher@gmail.com](mailto:john.flancher@gmail.com). Be sure to include the day, date, time and location of your event. In order to ensure that we can include your announcement in the newsletter, please submit it by the 25th of the month before your event.

## Darcy Burner to Speak

On January 14 at 10 am, 42nd LD Democrats will present Darcy Burner who will give us a presentation on "Power". The Republicans have done a good job over the years at grasping power. Darcy will show us how we can harness that power for the progressive side to move our agenda forward and have winning campaigns. Darcy is running for congress in the newly redrawn 1st Congressional District which now includes the majority of Whatcom County outside of Bellingham. We are excited to have such a great candidate running in our congressional district. Please come to our meeting to meet Darcy and take home a positive message for winning in 2012. The meeting will take place at the Machinists Hall in Ferndale.

## Poverty Action March

January 16 MLK Day

10:30am - 12:00pm

Whatcom County Courthouse

Show up. Be heard.

Bring something for a neighbor in need:  
canned food, diapers & toiletries.



## Whatcom County Democrats

215 W. Holly Street, Suite B-27

P.O. Box 3095

Bellingham, WA 98227

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# January 2012 Check [whatcomdemocrats.com](http://whatcomdemocrats.com) for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Women's Club 11:30-1 pm 4151 Meridian St., Suite 100  Louws-Linville Reception 4-6 pm Squalicum Boathouse,	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 42nd LD Dems 10:00am - 12:00pm 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale  MLK Human Rights Conference 9:30 am-3:45 pm Whatcom Community College
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Poverty Action March 10:30am - 12:00pm	<b>17</b> Great Decisions First Congregational Church Young Dems mtg 7-9 pm Chuckanut Brewery,	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> CEAC Meeting 10 am County Courthouse  Monthly Membership Meeting 7-9 pm Norway Hall	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> League of Women Voters 11:30 am-1:30 pm YWCA
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> City Club 11:50 am-1:30 pm 3240 Northwest Avenue,  E-Board Meeting	<b>26</b> United for Nat'l Healthcare 7-9 pm Laborers Hall	<b>27</b> Levy Election Ballots mailed Blue Drinks	<b>28</b> WA Dems Mtg Little Creek Casino, Shelton, WA
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Reproductive Health Lobby Day	<b>31</b>	<b>1 Feb.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>