



THE DEMOCRAT

Clark County Democratic Party Newsletter

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Serving Democrats with News and Opinion

November 2009

State Dems to meet in Vancouver in 2010

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee's executive board decided last month to hold the 2010 state convention in Vancouver on June 25 and 26.

That decision, fostered by a plea from Vancouver's representative on the Democratic National Committee, Ed Cote, followed by several weeks the announcement that the Washington State Republicans will hold their convention in Vancouver June 10 through June 12. The Republicans have already lined up one of their bidders to challenge President Barack Obama in 2012. Democratic leaders are considering possible stars on our side of the political divide to top the appearance of a Republican who once served as governor of a state in New England after managing a winter sports show in Utah.

Oh, very well. The star Republican coming to town is Willard Mitt Romney. His stop in Vancouver is among dozens of visits he's scheduled to make over the next couple of years.

The state Democrats' decision to follow the Republican show in Vancouver surprised some local Democratic leaders who had been gearing up to bid for the much more visible and important 2012 state convention. Even though

a convention in a presidential year is likely to draw far more interest and participation, the 2010 Democratic convention here bids fair to be about the largest event held so far at the Vancouver Convention Center and Hilton Hotel. Indeed, party leaders suppose the major meetings of the event on Saturday, June 26, will be held at the Clark County Events Center at the Fairgrounds.

Party members and leaders have much to accomplish over the coming months including organization of legislative district caucuses and the Clark County Democratic Convention. The state Democrats established a common date and time for all meetings. The legislative district caucuses will be at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 14. All county conventions are to be held on Saturday, April 10, starting at 10 a.m.

In other years, delegates to the legislative district caucus have been selected at precinct caucuses. In 2010, however, the state central committee decided to skip the February meetings. The legislative district caucuses thus will appoint some of the 1,600 delegates to the state convention. Some delegates also will be selected at county conventions. Many delegates will be elected officials.

General election ballot has a pair of nasties

Tim Eyman and the Meanie Right have planted a couple of nasties on the ballot now being considered by all registered voters in the state.

Democrats in particular and progressives in general are trying to shut them down.

They are Initiative 1033 and Referendum 71.

The Clark County Democratic Central Committee on Sept. 14 voted without contrary vote to oppose Initiative 1033 and to sustain the Legislature by supporting an affirmative vote on Referendum 71.

I-1033 is a devious effort to anchor governments at all levels on the grim bottom of the economic cycles by limiting growth of government at every level to a combination of inflation and population growth. The effect is to rob the poor to help the rich get richer. Public services from schools to police to parks would be cut back so that people rich in property could further pad their portfolios.

Heather Melton-Stuart is the Southwest Washington coordinator for "No on I-1033." Contact her at heather@no1033.com.

While Eyman attempts to stifle public service, the smug defenders of cultural repression are attempting to strip away newly approved decency for domestic partnerships outside the bounds of traditional marriage. The self-righteous traditionalists managed to put Ref. 71 on the ballot with a minimum of signatures in hopes that voters will renege on the decent protections for domestic partnerships afforded by the Legislature. An "Approve" vote is recommended by most progressive organizations and thoughtful individuals.

Meetings scheduled for November 2009 by the Clark County Democratic Central Committee and other Democratic organizations. (Check for updates at the county party's website: www.bluedonkeys.com).

Monday, November 2	Executive board of Clark County Democratic Central Committee, 7 p.m. meeting at the Carpenters' Hall, 610 E. McLoughlin Boulevard.
Tuesday, November 3	Election day; 8 p.m. deadline for ballots to be returned to Elections Department for counting.
Saturday, November 7	18th Legislative District Democrats meet at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse at Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield.
Monday, November 12	Clark County Democratic Central Committee meets at 7 p.m. at the Longshore Hall on Ingalls Street a block west of the Clark County Jail.
Saturday, November 14	49th Legislative District Democrats meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Wood Fire Restaurant, 4400 E. Fourth Plain Boulevard.
Tuesday, November 17	Clark County section of 15th Legislative District Democrats meets at 6:30 p.m. upstairs at the Parker House in Camas.
Monday, November 24	17th District Democrats will not meet on their regular schedule. Instead will be a Dec. 7 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Friends of the Carpenter. Details to come.

The giving spirit

By Dena Horton, Clark County Democratic Chair

In case you have not seen the new Clark County Democrats t-shirt, it has the tagline, "Putting People First" along with our logo.



The Democrats are working hard in numerous ways to help our community. I am incredibly impressed by the generosity and spirit exhibited by our long time volunteers and many of the new volunteers who were engaged during the Obama campaign and have continued to stay involved.

Jake Lawlor and Pete Aller have donated funds and countless hours to building a new Bluedonkeys website that is more interactive and user friendly. We have greatly benefited from their dedication to this project.

Jeremy Zegas stepped up to coordinate our team's effort in the first-ever Republicans vs. Democrats charity softball game. The Share House received \$2,700 as a result. We'll look forward to the game next year! Jeremy and Stephanie Liberman co-coordinated putting together the CCDCC fair booth at the Clark County Fair. Many thanks to all who volunteered with set up, staffing and clean up of the booth!

As many of you know, we welcome non-perishable food donations at our regular CCDCC meetings. Vicki Work has volunteered to collect the items and deliver them to various food bank programs in Clark County. In addition, Eric Withee and Vicki Work have been coordinating regular donations, food preparation, and food service at the Share House for numerous volunteers. Your continued support of that effort in providing food, time, and any funds you can is greatly appreciated. Please contact Eric Withee at eric.withee@gmail.com for more information. At a time when so much of what we see in the news is divisive and negative, I am very proud that our local party cares about our community and takes action to make a difference. Thank you for all you have done and I strongly encourage anyone interested in volunteering to consider giving your time, resources, and talents right here in Clark County.

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Clark County, Washington

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Party activists await Nov. 3 tally of votes

Five active Democrats are on the 215,558 ballots mailed on Oct. 15 to voters registered in Clark County. If historic patterns hold, more than 100,000 of those ballots will not be marked correctly and sent to the counting machines in time to be tallied on Nov. 3.

County Elections Supervisor Tim Likness predicts that turnout will be lower than 50 percent. Early ballot drops indicate the final tally might be even lower than that. As of Oct. 23, by which time the ballots had been in voters' hands for nine days, barely 11 percent of voters had marked their ballots and turned them in. Likness said any voter who hasn't received a ballot by now should call his office at 397-2345 to request a replacement.

Some 46 choices are posed on the ballots. Vancouver's 74,654 municipal voters have the most choices at 11 including whether to cast a vote for unopposed Vancouver Port Commissioner Nancy Baker. Others are the mayor, three council seats, four charter amendments plus the two statewide ballot propositions.

Three of the active Democrats are on the Vancouver City Council ballot. One is on the Battle Ground City Council ballot. The fifth is on the ballot for one of the seats on the Woodland City Council.

Incumbent Jeanne Harris, an active Democrat who ran for a legislative slot and challenged a Republican on the Board of Clark County Commissioners in 2008, prevailed in her three-way primary with a solid 57 percent tally. Her campaign website is www.jeanneharris.com. She is facing off against Anne McEnery-Ogle, who has sought and won some labor and Democratic support. Anne also has attended many meetings of Democratic groups. Her website is mcenery-ogle.com.

Former Vancouver councilman and sometime Democratic legislative candidate Jack Burkman led a four-way primary with 36 percent of the votes cast. His final contest is against Bill Turlay, listed as "leaning Republican" in a voter analysis. Burkman's website is found at www.burkmanforcouncil.com. It includes a list of more than 500 supporters.

David Michael Heywood, editor of The Democrat and chair of the 49th Legislative District Democrats, is seeking to unseat solid incumbent Councilwoman Jeanne E. Stewart, some of whose campaign materials have identified her as holding "Republican values." Heywood's website, mikeforvancouver.com, includes a list of many leading Democrats who have agreed to support him in some degree.

In Battle Ground, Democratic activist Michael Dalesandro is bidding to unseat incumbent Councilwoman

Lisa Walters. This is Dalesandro's first try for office although he was elected a Democratic precinct committee officer. County Democratic officers think Dalesandro would be a dandy candidate for the state Legislature in some future cycle. His campaign website is at www.mikeforbattleground.com.

The largest jurisdiction by number of voters is the Vancouver Port District. In the smallest jurisdiction, Mt. Pleasant School District, the nine voters have no choice to make apart from the state wide propositions.

Only 53 Clark County voters have been sent ballots for the Woodland City Council Position 2 contest in which longtime leading Democrat Al Swindell faces three other candidates in the general election. One person originally filed for that seat during filing week at the end of June but withdrew his name at the last minute. That opened up a special three-day filing window. Swindell filed for the office. So did Suzanne Taylor-Moore, Al Ryder and Darwin K. Rounds. The Cowlitz County Elections Department had already sent the primary ballot to press, so all four candidates were deemed eligible for the general election.

Swindell also is supporting a ballot measure to change city government to council/manager from council/mayor.

In the only partisan primary on any Clark County ballot Donicio Marichalar of Grandview faced off against John Gotts for the right to take on Republican Rep. David Taylor, who was appointed to the 15th Legislative District seat in the state House of Representatives when long-time incumbent Republican Rep. Dan Newhouse was appointed state agriculture director by Gov. Christine Gregoire last year.

Marichalar won in the five 15th LD Clark County precincts by a vote of 218 to 156, but Gotts prevailed district-wide by a vote of 2,364 to 2,038. Taylor got nearly 66 percent of the total tally, about the same margin by which Newhouse usually won the district every two years.

A few days before the primary, Gotts announced he really didn't want the seat and was moving to California. After the primary tally was reported, however, he told a reporter at the Tri-City Herald he was interested after all. That lasted a month. On Sept 15 Gotts emailed The Herald to say he had concluded he really had no chance against Taylor and was again moving to California. However, he added that he was planning to move back to Washington State in 2012 and might run for the 4th Congressional District seat now held by Republican Doc Hastings.

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Theresa Wagner advocates for Sen. Murray

This is the fifty-sixth in a series of introductions to some local Democrats. Send suggestions for subjects of future columns to mikewrit@hotmail.com.

Theresa Wagner, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray's director for Southwest Washington, aimed at a career in interior design after she was graduated from Clark College in 1984. However, her two years at Washington State University in Pullman focused on English studies with a strong emphasis on business, and she has since become one of the more experienced and adept political operatives in the state.

"My father was sure I would never end up with a dental plan with only an English degree," she told The Democrat. One business she got very close to as she earned her way through college was fishy. "I spent several summers at a cannery in King Cove, Alaska," Wagner said. "I worked harder than I ever believed possible, but I made enough money to pay my way through school and learned a lot about fish."

She was born in Moses Lake. The family moved to Vancouver when she was 10 years old. She attended Lake Shore Elementary, Jason Lee Middle School and Columbia River High School, from which she was graduated in 1982.

After WSU she returned to Vancouver and worked at Columbia Arts Center briefly before beginning her political ca-

reer managing Betty Sue Morris's campaign for re-election to the Legislature. After Morris won an 18th Legislative District House seat., Wagner spent several years in Olympia as her administrative assistant.

"Living and working in our state's capital was something I wouldn't have missed for the world," Wagner said, "but I soon found myself missing Southwest Washington." She worked as a consultant with Addison Jacobs and then worked for Chris Crowley on the 1995 light-rail campaign. After that failed she spent five years as an independent political consultant before hiring on as area representative for Gov. Gary Locke. She spent two years in that slot, then went to work as communications manager for the regional office of the state Department of Transportation. That had to end when she married the regional administrator, Don Wagner.

"Fortunately I was offered the position as district director for U.S. Rep. Brian Baird, a tremendous learning experience," she said. Two year later she left the Baird operation to care for her mother during her final days. After her mother died, Wagner said, she was inspired by Barack Obama to return to public service and was approached by Murray. "I consider myself very fortunate to be part of Team Murray," she said. "She is a truly awesome elected official."