

# 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

February 2008

[www.7ld.newa-democrats.org](http://www.7ld.newa-democrats.org)

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**Our next meeting will be on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. at the Cusick Community Center, 107 First, Cusick**

**Caucus Success:** What an amazing turnout – even with roads closed due to snow. We Northeastern Washington Democrats are intrepid! Congratulations to all of you on a job well done.

Dwight Pelz, WSDCC Chair offers this -- I want to take this time to thank you for your participation in the 2008 caucuses. We witnessed record turnout and took the first step in taking our country back. **I got an e-mail from one activist in Spokane who saw 226% increase in attendees over 2004, even though county and state roads were closed due to snow.**

Dwight is quoting from a precinct in the 7<sup>th</sup>! We are a committed group. Now we just need to build on the volunteer base that the caucuses helped us to create. Lincoln County found new PCOs and from what I am hearing all of our counties made many more connections with eager, enthused Democrats. We can't say that we don't have any Democrats in our communities any more! Just think what our parades and events will look like this year.

**7<sup>th</sup> LD Quarterly Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. at the Cusick Community Center, 107 First, Cusick. We are being hosted by the Pend Oreille County Democrats and are invited to join them for a potluck at 12 noon.

Please plan on attending and sharing your stories about the phenomenally successful caucuses that you participated in and help plan for the next eight months of excitement! What can we do here in Northeastern Washington to help get more good Democrats elected?

This is a time to celebrate! And to plan for the future!

**State Convention Representatives:** Thank you to Susan Lehinger for volunteering to serve on the Credentials Committee representing the 7<sup>th</sup>; and to Bob Esvelt for volunteering to serve on the Platform Committee. Bob Schlein needed to withdraw from his position on the Rules Committee due to a family conflict. Thank you for your willingness to represent the 7<sup>th</sup> LD on these State committees.

**7<sup>th</sup> LD Caucus and County Conventions:** Because of the geographical size of the 7<sup>th</sup>, we will not be doing a separate 7<sup>th</sup> LD Caucus. The State rules allow for us to select our delegates at our respective county caucus/convention.

Bob Esvelt, Chair of Stevens County Democrats and long time Democratic activist in North Eastern Washington puts it this way, "Actually the only real purpose of LD Caucuses is the election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention and 5<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus. In the 7<sup>th</sup> we have always done that at the county conventions in the various counties in the 7<sup>th</sup>... Even if a 7<sup>th</sup> LD caucus were held, it would need to be scheduled at 10 AM on April 5. We haven't held a formal caucus for the 7<sup>th</sup> since I've been active, and election of delegates and alternates to the next levels has always been at the Co. conventions. The 9<sup>th</sup> LD works the same way. All of this is still OK by the State Rules."

I know this has been confusing for many of us who have not been involved in the actual inner workings of the political machine before, but thanks to those who have been through this before for providing guidance to we who are new. Don't hesitate to contact me or your local county chair if you have any questions.

### **Message from Washington Clean Elections:**

Hello WashClean Friends,

DON'T FORGET to contact YOUR senator - urging approval for the Local Option bill!  
<http://www.washclean.org/details1-29-08.htm>

We want WashClean supporters to be prepared with a 'WPC Caucus Tool Kit' - a WashClean resolution, as well as copies of an handout about WPC and voter-owned, publicly-funded campaigns, for your neighbors.

On our website, we have posted the following:

1. "Let's Have Voter-Owned, Publicly-Funded Campaigns!" - a half-sheet, two per page!
2. "Resolution in Support of Public Financing of Political Campaigns" - a generic resolution, suitable for caucuses, or for any other organizations that caucus-goers are members of.
3. "WPC Update" - an insert for WPC Brochures, in case you have a supply of brochures.

These documents - along with more caucus information - are available at:  
<http://www.washclean.org/caucus-info.htm>

Thank you!

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### **Excerpts from Two Press Releases from Senator Maria Cantwell:**

#### **Response to the President's State of the Union Address –**

WASHINGTON, DC – Following President Bush's State of the Union address this evening, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) issued the following response:

**On the Economy:** “For months, the housing crisis, persistently high energy prices, and volatility in the stock market have left millions of Americans feeling uncertain about their own economic future and the economic future of our country. It is during these times that Congress and the President need to address both short-term challenges and long-term needs for our economy and job growth.

“I am pleased that we are setting aside partisanship and working together toward a plan that will immediately stimulate the economy, put money back in consumers’ pockets, and get people working and businesses back on track...

“Only by accelerating our investment in clean sources of energy and energy-saving technologies can we get people and businesses real relief from crushing energy costs. Now is the opportunity to include in the stimulus package incentives that both dramatically boost economic activity in 2008 and take an important step towards reducing energy costs. ...

**On Energy:** “Just a few weeks ago, Congress passed, and the President signed in to law, a landmark energy bill that promotes higher fuel efficiency standards and biofuels, and develops greener technologies. However, there is much much more that needs to be done.

“If we want to get beyond petroleum, we have to stop subsidizing it. It is time to get to the heart of the matter. We have to level the playing field by taking away embedded subsidies for mature and profitable industries and lending a hand to emerging new alternative technologies and provide competition in the marketplace...

“We have to increase our investment in renewable and energy efficiency, protect consumers from price gouging and market manipulation, and make real steps toward increasing our energy independence instead of enabling our dependence. I look forward to working with my colleagues and a new Administration on moving our country forward toward energy independence.”

**On Global Competitiveness:** “For decades, our country has been a leader in innovation, research and development, and technology. In order for us to reinforce our country’s place as a global leader, we have to invest in a skilled, trained workforce, and strengthen basics like math and science education. With the right investments and incentives for innovation, education programs, and entrepreneurship, we can create jobs throughout the country and help stimulate our economy.

“Job training should be a top priority, not an afterthought. In tough economic times, we should help workers learn new skills to transition into a new economy. Our nation’s economic recovery will be driven by our ability to compete in the global marketplace. We need to make a down payment on American workers and ensure they have the tools and skills they need to lift our economy.”

**On Health Care:** “Health care in this country must be reformed. Costs are rising and the strain being put on federal, state, and family budgets cannot be sustained much longer.

“Each year we spend more than \$2 trillion on health care without thinking about what we get in return. Consider that so much of our money is wasted on unnecessary treatments, or simply reading a report or test incorrectly. To ensure the long term health of critical programs like Medicare and Medicaid, I will be working in the coming year to advance responsible policies that reward providers for quality, efficient health care.

“While we work to enact long-term reform to reduce the cost of care, we must also work to get immediate relief for our nation’s uninsured. With nearly 47 million Americans living without health care coverage – 9 million of which are children – we cannot continue to sit by the side lines hoping the problem will go away.

**On Iraq:** “While security has improved in some parts of Iraq over the last few months, there still has not been sufficient political progress to resolve the disputes that must be overcome in order to bring stability to Iraq.

“There is no new Iraqi oil law, no amendments to the Iraqi Constitution, and provincial elections have been postponed indefinitely. By the end of 2007, Iraqis control only nine of Iraq’s 18 provinces.

“At the same time, the U.S. continues to spend \$10 billion a month in Iraq. U.S. troops continue to die or are wounded (nearly 4,000 deaths total and almost 30,000 wounded to date)...

“Even though President Bush is in the last year of his second term, Congress must still hold this Administration accountable for the war in Iraq and develop a strategy that implements a phased withdrawal of U.S. forces, ensures the Iraqi government takes responsibility for their country’s security, and does not leave a permanent U.S. presence such as military bases.”

### **Response to Economic Stimulus Package:**

WASHINGTON, DC – As the price of oil continues to hover at the \$100 a barrel mark, and consumers suffer from a slowing economy, today, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and her colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee not only responded to the country’s short-term economic challenges, but also looked to spur immediate investment by businesses, reduce energy costs for American families, and create jobs nationwide...

Cantwell spearheaded efforts to include the energy tax incentives in the economic stimulus package. The Finance Committee included Cantwell’s amendment to provide for a one-year extension of expiring clean energy and energy efficiency tax credits. ..

“The U.S. wind energy industry applauds Senator Maria Cantwell’s leadership and that of Senator Charles Grassley in strongly advocating an extension of the expiring tax credits for renewable electricity technologies like wind and solar power,” said Randall Swisher, Executive Director, American Wind Energy Association. “This extension would immediately protect tens of thousands of U.S. manufacturing and construction jobs and create tens of thousands more, and keep investment flowing into one of the fastest-growing and brightest sectors of our economy: renewable electricity.”

“Senator Cantwell demonstrated exceptional leadership by garnering support to extend solar tax credits in the economic stimulus package,” said Rhone Resch, president of the Solar Energy Industries Association. “She has made a significant step towards America’s carbon-free renewable energy future and has kept a growth sector on track that will create tens of thousands of jobs. It’s one thing to pass out checks. In addition most citizens would like to have a job, too.”

Extension of the credits will promote the creation of new “green-collar” jobs, lessen the country’s over-reliance on fossil fuels, and reduce the price of energy for American consumers. Failure to extend these crucial incentives could bring a halt promising business investment in 2008 and miss an opportunity to address high energy costs, a critical contributor to sinking consumer confidence and our nation’s long-term economic challenges.

Cantwell, a member of the Senate Finance and Energy Committees, has long-championed clean energy tax incentives to promote investment in innovative new technologies that move our country away from its overdependence on fossil fuels and help boost our economy and create high-wage “green collar” jobs.

**Challenge from the State:** What it will take to win in Northeastern Washington – and we have just taken our first stride with our very successful caucus attendance.

The Challenge from the State for the 7<sup>th</sup> LD is to get 500 new Gregoire votes in 2008. This breaks down for each of our counties to:

- **Ferry** needs 36
- **Lincoln** needs 37
- **Okanogan** needs 92
- **Pend Oreille** needs 51
- **Spokane** needs 121
- **Stevens** needs 162

**Dates to Remember:** for details, including a map, go to our web site [www.7ld.newa-democrats.org](http://www.7ld.newa-democrats.org) and select the Calendar option, then select the date of the event.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** Presidential Primary Election

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** 7<sup>th</sup> LD quarterly meeting; Cusick Community Center, 107 First, Cusick; potluck at 12 noon; meeting at 1 p.m.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>:** Pend Oreille County Convention; Cusick High School

**April 19<sup>th</sup>:** Stevens County Convention; Pizza Factory Conference Room, 662 S Main, Colville

**May 17<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus; Spokane TBA; 10 a.m.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** State Convention; Spokane, Convention Center; 9 a.m.

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