

7th Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

March 2008

www.7ld.newa-democrats.org

Vol. 2; No. 3

Caucus Success: At the 7th LD quarterly meeting yesterday the reports from Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens and part of Spokane County all talked about how successful the precinct caucuses were in their counties. The goal of having more people and making contact with local Democrats was reached. Everyone talked about how well organized the caucuses were and how interested the people attending were in the issues affecting our country. All of the rural counties in the 7th were very pleased with the caucus process with many new PCOs signed up and many more contacts made.

7th LD Quarterly Meeting: The quarterly meeting was held on March 8th in Cusick and was hosted by the Pend Oreille County Democrats. Following an excellent potluck, the meeting was called to order with 33 people in attendance representing all of the counties in the 7th except for Ferry County.

Bob Esvelt reported on the expected announcement of Mark Mays to run as a candidate for the 5th Congressional District. We are not sure at this time if there will be any other candidates announcing, but will let people know as soon as we know. However, at this time, there are no names being floated as potentially interested in running for the two 7th Legislative positions. Everyone was asked to pass along the names of potential candidates to either Bob Esvelt or Ellen Miller.

The major part of the meeting was spent on talking about what happens next after the precinct caucuses? Bob Esvelt and Jackie Bradley lead a discussion on the next steps in delegate selection, as well as approving of resolutions and platforms.

Do any of these statements apply to you?

- I am a delegate elected at the Precinct Caucuses
- I am an alternate elected at the Precinct Caucuses
- I want to be a delegate or alternate to the National Convention
- Caucus and Convention? What the heck is that?

If these apply to you, or if you have any other questions about the next step in the Caucus and Convention Cycle, visit <http://www.wa-democrats.org/delegate>. There is great information available there. If you have questions don't hesitate to contact me and if I can't answer it, I will find someone who can. These are exciting times and we have many people who are new to the process. Questions are good.

5th Congressional District Caucus: by Bob Esvelt

The 5th CD Caucus will be held Saturday, **May 17th** beginning at 10 a.m. at Trend Elementary Auditorium, 3303 N Pines, Spokane (at the Trent/Pines intersection).

We will need many volunteers to run the meeting since we are expecting 300 people to attend.

The primary order of business includes:

- Election of 5 delegates (3 male, 2 female); and 1 alternate (female). The presidential preferences of the Seated Delegates and Alternates seated as delegates at the caucus will determine the number of delegates elected to the National Convention for any given Presidential candidate.
- Election of an Elector and Alternate Elector
- Election of one member to the State Party Judicial Review Board. This board was formed many years ago to resolve disputes in the Democratic Party, but to my knowledge has never been called to action. This person can't be a State Committee Member or Chair of a Legislative District or County Party.
- Democratic Candidates for prominent positions will be invited to speak as well as prominent elected officials.

All those wishing to run for a Delegate or Alternate position must file a letter a Letter of Intent to Stand for Election as National Convention Delegate or Alternate before 5:00 PM on **May 2** to the State Party Office. The forms are available at the State Party office, or a copy of the form is included in the Washington State Delegate Selection Plan for 2008 at <http://www.wa-democrats.org/index.php?page=display&id=283> (click on Washington State Delegate Selection Plan).

Anyone that isn't elected as a National Convention Delegate or Alternate that still hopes to serve in this capacity has a chance to do so at the State Convention on Sunday June 15 at 5:00. Seventeen (17) at-large Delegates and four (4) Alternates will be elected by the Elections Committee made up of district level elected national Delegates and allocated by presidential preference as defined by division of preference of the Elections Committee. Anyone wishing to be considered as an at-large Delegate must provide a letter of intent to the State Party Office by 5:00 PM, **June 10**.

All those to be considered as National Delegates are subject to approval by the Presidential Candidate or that candidate's authorized representatives as long as they approve at least two names for each position for which the presidential candidate is entitled.

I hope all of this helps. On Apr. 23, I will begin arranging for the details of the CD Caucus, and lining up volunteers. I hope your LD Caucuses and County Conventions go well.

Thanks, Bob

Message from Washington Clean Elections:

Dear Friends,

We have a legislative VICTORY! - on the Local Option bill! The House approved E2SSB 5278 - which moves this bill toward signing into law by the Governor, likely within days. In 90 days, this bill will take effect as law in Washington State.

And now, after 16 years of a state ban, local towns and counties can create programs with modest use of public funds for campaigns for local office. The benefits:

- Public financing cuts the undue influence of money in politics - and restores governance of, by and for the people.
- Ordinary people with good ideas can run for office, without needing personal wealth.
- Candidates spend time with voters instead of courting big donors.

Watching the debate, it is obvious we still have a challenge - public awareness, correcting the myths and misinformation:

Opponents say public financing is "incumbent-protection." Others say it is "throw the bums out."

In fact, it is neither. Instead, public financing restores the voice of people, rather than money, in election campaigns. And as a result, local budget, land use and governance decisions are made in the interest of the community, rather than as payback for campaign contributions.

Public funding of campaigns is NOT a misuse of taxpayer money.. it is an essential step to RESTORE our democracy and curb the undue influence of money in politics. This is a fundamental reform that is essential for progress in many other areas of public policy!

How does it work? Visit our [website](#)

This law embodies the principle of local choice, local-decision-making, with trust in voters and local elected officials to make thoughtful decisions for the community, where the state does not need to micro-manage the process.

Next steps? We are *already* consulting with several cities and towns - Seattle, Spokane, King County, and others - to design and create programs of public financing for local races. Under the Local Option law enacted today, these programs must be submitted to local voters in a referendum, for voter approval or rejection, to ensure local voter and taxpayer support.

Friends, thank you! It has been grassroots support - informed, mobilized and focused - that brought us this far. It is humbling, and wonderful to behold. And roll up your sleeves - there is more to come!

- Craig

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Washington State Ranked at the Top:

It was reported this week that Utah, Virginia and Washington State have the most effective state governments in the country according to a report issued on March 3rd by the Pew Center on the States. The description of the rating specified that it was "based on how well they manage their budgets, staffs, infrastructure and information."

The states with the highest scores have made accountability and innovation a priority, the report said.

An example that was included in the report identified Washington State as holding “public meetings led by the governor to monitor how its programs are working...” For a complete copy of the article

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080303/ap_on_go_ot/grading_the_states;_ylt=AsQkK3c4gNvzwSjbiYFaSGOyFz4D

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. Building from this success, we can make this challenge easy! Let’s start identifying our voters!! Remember if you need training on the use of the on-line voter database (VoteBuilder) – the tool that will help us to meet this challenge – contact me. Training can be arranged!

The Challenge from the State for the 7th 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.newdemocrats.org and select the Calendar option, then select the date of the event.

April 12th: Pend Oreille County Convention; Cusick High School

April 12th: Spokane County Democratic Central Committee meeting; 127 E Augusta, Spokane; 9 a.m.

April 12th: Legacy Dinner, Red Lion Inn at the Park, Spokane, 6 p.m.

April 19th: Spokane County Convention; University High School, Spokane Valley; 8 a.m.

April 19th: Stevens County Convention; Pizza Factory Conference Room, 662 S Main, Colville

May 2nd: Last day to file letter of intent with the State to be a candidate for Delegate or Alternate to the National Convention

May 17th: 5th CD Caucus; 3303 N Pines, Trent Elementary School, Spokane Valley; 10 a.m.

June 10th: Last day to file letter of intent with the State to be a candidate for Delegate at-large to the National Convention

June 14th: State Convention; Spokane, Convention Center; 9 a.m.

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