

26th District Democrats of Washington  
NEWSLETTER  
March 1, 2006

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1. Next General Meeting of the 26th District  
26LD Members, Democrats, Progressives and Free Thinkers are invited to attend:

March 7, 2006  
Dinner at 6 p.m.  
Meeting at 7 p.m.

South Kitsap High  
425 Mitchell Ave  
Port Orchard WA 98366

Headline Speakers:

- Mark Wilson: Democratic Senatorial Candidate
- Ron Runyon: Resolution on Real Campaign Reform

Please bring food donations for the South Kitsap Helpline collection. And, bring plenty of cash for the auction. A Roosevelt/Cox Campaign button will be up for bid.

The general public is always welcome.

Dinner is provided by Joanna Gormly and her volunteers.

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2. IMPORTANT CAUCUS INFORMATION

Dear Fellow Democrats,

We 26 LD Democrats are proud to announce the 2006 Caucus March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

You can find the location where your precinct caucus is being held at the following sites:  
<http://www.kitsapdemocrats.com/> OR <http://www.wa-democrats.org/caucus/>

If you don't know your precinct number; please connect me at [almarbro@wavecable.com](mailto:almarbro@wavecable.com). I will be happy to locate which precinct that you are in and where your caucus is being held.

Caucus information and a calendar provided by the State Party are included below. See you at the Caucus!

Mark Brown  
Chair of the 26<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats

## **2006 Caucus Information**

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### **THE CAUCUS**

#### **What is a "Precinct Caucus?"**

In a Precinct Caucus, members of a Political Party that live in a geographic area, or "precinct," gather to discuss Party business. It is a sub-meeting of the larger county Party as a whole. In many areas of Washington State, it would be impractical to have all people in any one county, who consider themselves Democrats, meet together at the same time.

#### **When are our Precinct Caucuses in 2006, and what business do they do?**

We will meet in all our individual precincts across the state on March 4th, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. In each meeting, we will allocate and elect delegates and alternates to the County Conventions proportionate to that precinct's support for John Kerry and Christine Gregoire in 2004. These delegates and alternates will also serve as delegates and alternates to Legislative District Caucuses. Precinct committee officers (PCOs) serving prior to January 31, 2006, will be automatic delegates to their County Convention and Legislative District Caucus in addition to the allocated delegates. In such cases, an additional alternate may be elected.

Even more important, we will discuss the political issues of the day and pass resolutions indicating the meeting's official position on those issues. Finally, we will re-establish relationships with Democrats in each community and begin building and strengthening the organization for next year's campaigns. This meeting forms the ideological and organizational base for the Party for the next two years. Election of delegates shall not begin until at least 2:30 p.m., and the caucus cannot be closed until at least 3:00 p.m.

#### **What happens with the results of these Precinct Caucuses?**

Delegates and alternates are elected go on to represent that precinct at County Conventions and Legislative District Caucuses, where delegates are elected to the State Convention (proportionate to the 2004 John Kerry/Chris Gregoire support), and County and District Platforms are adopted. Counties and Districts collect and review the resolutions from Precincts, and use them to craft the proposed language of those Platforms. Delegates from the Precincts then vote on the individual Platform items (planks). County Conventions will occur on April 8, 2006. Legislative District Caucuses will occur on April 22, 2006.

Delegates elected at this County and Legislative District level go on to consider and vote on a statewide Party Platform, re-establishing our Party's ideological basis for the next two years. Those State Delegates and Alternates will attend the Congressional District Caucuses and State Convention in Yakima on June 3, 2006. In addition to the elected delegates, the following individuals are automatic delegates to the State Convention: all State Committee members, County Chairs, Congressional District Chairs, Legislative District Chairs, Democratic Members of Congress from Washington State, Democratic Statewide Elected Officials and Democratic State Senators and Representatives.

#### **What exactly happens at a Precinct Caucus? How does it work?**

Each Precinct Caucus is individually convened (by a PCO if one holds office in that precinct or by someone designated by the County or District chair if not) at exactly 2:00 p.m. All eligible attendees (registered voters in the precinct willing to declare that they are Democrats) sign in. Official rules of the meeting are read aloud for all to hear, a chair of the meeting is elected by those attending, and a recording secretary is appointed. Often, letters of greeting from Senior Party or Elected Officials are read to the group and questionnaires, intended to get attendees opinions about major issues, are distributed and tallied.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., the preliminary number of the Precinct's eligible delegates, determined by the proportionate support for John Kerry and Christine Gregoire in 2004, is announced. The Precinct then elects its delegates.

The members of the Precinct then consider issues and party philosophy, voting on and passing resolutions, as they want, to reflect the group's views.

Notice is sent to the County and State Party of the meeting outcome, noting delegates and alternates elected and issue and philosophy positions taken. Delegates and alternates are then officially notified of dates and times of the County and Legislative District Caucuses.

**Who can go? Who can vote? Who can be elected a delegate or alternate?**

Anyone can attend a Caucus. Those who are registered voters in that Precinct (or who live in the Precinct and will be old enough to register to vote in the November election), who sign a statement indicating they consider themselves Democrats, and who are willing to be publicly known as such, may speak and vote. Those that attend, but who do not meet these requirements, may be allowed to speak with the permission of the group. Those who can vote, as noted above, may be elected as delegates or alternates from that Precinct.

A person may be elected who is not in attendance, if they are a registered voter in the Precinct, indicate they consider themselves to be Democrats and are willing to be known as such, and provide a signed letter seeking election as a delegate or alternate.

The Caucus system is truly a grassroots system. It is extremely important that citizens become involved in this step of the process so that their voices are heard. To become a PCO and assist in running a Precinct Caucus, please contact your local Democratic Party. You can find the contact information for your local Democratic Party by visiting the State Democratic Party web site at <http://www.wa-democrats.org>.

If you have any further questions, please contact State Party Executive Director Jaxon Ravens at (206) 583-0664 or [jaxon@wa-democrats.org](mailto:jaxon@wa-democrats.org).

**2006 Democratic Election Calendar**

- 1/9/06 Regular Legislative session begins
- 3/4/06 Precinct Caucuses**
- 3/8/06 First day to file Initiatives to the Legislature
- 4/8/06 County Conventions (Except King County which will hold its convention after April 8, 2006, but not later than that first Saturday in May on May 6, 2006. Date to be announced.) Delegates to Congressional Caucuses elected
- 4/9/06 Regular Legislative Session ends
- 6/3/06 State Party Convention/Congressional District Caucuses, Yakima**
- 7/7/06 Last day to file signatures for Initiatives to the People
- 7/28/06 Last day for all candidates to file for office
- 9/19/06 State Primary
- 10/7/06 Last day to register to vote in General Election (except in person w/ auditor)
- 11/7/06 State General Election

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3. Chair's January Report – Mark Brown

Hello follower 26ers. We had lots of action this month in our Legislative District. We had a rousing General Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> Larry Seaquist announced his campaign for the State House. It was received with a rousing ovation at a record setting meeting of 75 individuals. Larry will be an outstanding candidate for the 26<sup>th</sup> His credentials, work ethic, and personality

make him a natural for victory in November.

I have been working hard getting ready for the upcoming March 4<sup>th</sup> Caucus at 2 p.m. I have lots of details and paperwork to put together before next Saturday. (Please see Item 2 above for information on how to find the location of your caucus.) If you don't know your precinct, look at your voter registration card or go to the Washington State Democrats website and look up their precinct caucus locator section linked off the first page.

The central issues for the caucus will be electing delegates to the County Conventions of Kitsap and Pierce, plus writing resolutions for the county platform and the 26<sup>th</sup> district. All resolutions written will be forwarded to the county party and to our platform representative to the State Convention, George Robison.

The Pierce County Democrats are reorganizing to get their financial ship in better order.

The Kitsap County Democrats recently had their Jefferson/Jackson Dinner which was a huge success clearing over \$10,000. Their coffers are now approaching \$30,000.

Speaking at the JJ Dinner was Congressman Jay Inslee. His speech was inspirational and informative. He said the Democrats in the Senate and the House would come together and sign a contract with America very much like the Republicans did in 1994 when they took control of the House. The issues of unity would be a time table for the removal of troops from Iraq, protection of returning military and their benefits, a balanced budget (no more welfare for the rich), protection of the environment, improved environment for working people, healthcare for all citizens, and protection of America against terrorists. I hope this happens. It will be the difference between victory and defeat in November.

Locally our Democratic Representatives to the Legislature have been doing an outstanding job. Derek Kilmer has passed several bills benefiting our local area and the state as a whole. Pat Lantz looks like she finally has her tort reform bill ready to be put into law. We in the 26<sup>th</sup> are lucky to have two such fine and qualified individuals representing us here in the 26<sup>th</sup> LD.

The teachers union WEA has targeted our district as a high priority area for the election of our candidates in the 2006 elections. They will be training local teachers to work as volunteers for our candidates in the upcoming election. I would like to tip my hat to Ann Randall and the fine people at WEA for their support, time, and vision.

At the caucus this week we will be asking for candidate volunteers. If you haven't already signed up, it is imperative that you do so for victory in November. The Republicans are running extremely right wing candidates like Ron Boehme and Lois McMahan. Their election would do great harm to our area and the state's political landscape. Your volunteering means the difference between victory and defeat in November.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Brown  
Chair 26th LD Democrats.

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4. February General Meeting Minutes

**26<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS**  
GENERAL MEETING, February 7, 2006  
SOUTH KITSAP HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 2 AUDITORIUM

**Call to Order, 7 p.m.**  
**Welcome – Mark Brown**  
**Flag Salute – State Committeeman George Robison**

**Minutes approved.**

**Auction – George Robison. \$150**

**Agenda change; new business #6 has been changed.**

Last meeting's minutes were accepted

**Attendance -- 75**

**Resolution by George Robison:** RESOLUTION ON THE RESTORATION OF ORDER IN RESTRICTING VOTER RIGHTS FOR INCARCERATED FELONS.

WHEREAS Washington State's system for determining which the eligibility of ex-felons is too complicated to ensure that the intent of the law is carried out, and

WHEREAS Washington State's system for allowing ex-felons to reacquire their voting rights is the most restrictive in the nation, and

WHEREAS restoring the right to vote to ex-felons is one of the most important things we can do to encourage a return to society and its obligations, and

WHEREAS in the Washington State Senate SB and its companion House Bill have been introduced when passed will simplify the record keeping in the State and County offices responsible for maintaining accurate voter files, and

WHEREAS, these bills would make the restoration of voting rights automatic once a felon is released from imprisonment, now then

BE IT RESOLVED that the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization supports the passage of SB6651 or HB2873, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Organization urges State Representatives Patricia Lantz and Derek Kilmer and State Senator Bob Oke to join in the sponsorship and passage of this legislation.

Passed Unanimously.

**Presentations:**

**1. Rich Dannison:** If you are a Peninsula Light Co. (PenLight) customer, please sign petitions for our labor-friendly candidates for board.

**2. Rebecca Saldana:** SEIU-Pierce County Justice for Janitors + problems of janitors in County Building. Most are contract, non-union laborers; most are employees of West Coast Industries. They are paid under \$10 and have no benefits. Ms. Saldana requests that we sign the union's postcards in support of the janitors.

**3. Mara Lewis:** Peninsula High Young Democrats, President. One of only two high school groups to be registered with state YD group. They are requesting financial support of \$40 for six people. Mark moved that we provide the \$150 in our budget that is earmarked for YD. Anita moved for a friendly amendment to give them the entire \$240. It was requested that they report back to us. Motion passed.

**4. Ray Sherjvan:** Delegates need to be selected for county caucus. Precinct caucuses will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

**5. Mark Brown:** Explained caucus duties to PCOs. A packet was given to each one.

**6. Wayne Senter:** SKF&R Levy (May 16, 2006) and SK Fire Chief. Population has increased 30% in last 10 years and call rate has increased at a slightly greater rate. Last three levies have failed. 75% of calls are for emergency medical services. Response time has increased by 40 seconds a year for the last five years with total response time edging up to ten minutes. It is, of course, an all-mail ballot. \$900,000 matching grant has been given and will be awarded if our levy has passed – this was given because the response time was deemed unacceptable. MOTION: River Curtis-Stanley moved that the 26<sup>th</sup> District Democrats officially support the levy. Motion passed unanimously. Mark moved to contribute \$150 to the levy. Ray will determine if it is legal for us to do so per the PDC. Motion passed with one no vote.

**7. Josh Brown:** Candidate for Kitsap County Commissioner District 3, Patty Lent's position. Mr. Brown requests our support and our funds. Email = josh@electjoshbrown.com.

**8. Renee' Proctor-Brown:** Fifteen tickets remain for the wine tasting, at \$30 each.

**9. Anita Latch:** Stonewall Democrats. Eyman filed a resolution and an initiative to roll back the new gay rights legislation. She is urging us to keep petitioners engaged as long as possible to limit their efficiency. A Decline to Sign informal initiative will be put forth by the Stonewall Dems. George Robison commented that the resolutions committee voted to change the

marriage equality resolution to civil unions and the motion was tabled.

**10. Larry Seaquist:** Today he registered as a candidate for State Representative for the 26<sup>th</sup> District.

#### Unfinished Business

1. 2006 membership drive — we have 100 members as of tonight. It took until May 2005 to reach that level.
2. Volunteer for Candidates!
3. Resolution on Torture: Senator Murray responded, positively, and stated that she supports the McCain bill.

#### New Business

1. Beth Wilson: RESOLUTION OPPOSING PUBLIC FUNDING OF NASCAR RACING FACILITY IN THE 26<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, International Speedway Corporation (ISC) through its subsidiary company, Great Western Sports, Inc., has proposed creation of a Public Speedway Authority (PSA) to build a major motor sports racing facility in south Kitsap County, on property in or near the South Kitsap Industrial Area (SKIA) that is not zoned for motor sports; and

WHEREAS, the PSA would fund this \$345,000,000 facility with \$166,000,000 from ISC, \$166,000,000 from 25-year municipal bonds authorized by the Authority and funded by the revenue stream from a 0.0454% sales tax increase imposed on all taxable events in Kitsap, Pierce and Mason Counties, and \$13 million backed by a 5% admission tax; and

WHEREAS, this sales tax increase will be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid to the Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, this financing proposal is apparently structured so that additional sales tax revenue will match or exceed the bond repayment obligations with no net sales tax increase in the named counties, it offers no guarantee. When in-county spending in Kitsap, Pierce and Mason counties by out-of-county racing spectators falls below predicted levels, the PSA will not have a source of revenue to meet its obligations; and

WHEREAS, the sales taxes used to pay off the construction bonds would be obligated from three counties (Kitsap, Mason, Pierce) with projected regional related event spending of \$102.6 M, there is no similar obligation by King County, although its projected regional related event spending is \$53.8 M; and

WHEREAS, ISC has proposed building another motor sports facility in New York without any public financing involvement; and

WHEREAS, the environment and quality of life impacts, including ecosystem degradation, noise, air and light pollution, traffic congestion, and overuse of public services are inconsistent with the values and lifestyle of the citizens and residents of Kitsap County; and

WHEREAS, the SKIA land to be used for the motor sports facility was set aside by Kitsap County to provide 9350 full-time jobs (6.5 persons per developable acre), there will be less than 0.1% permanent full-time position per developable acre on the racetrack site; and

WHEREAS, the original benefit analysis presumed private ownership paying property taxes, this proposal projects public ownership exempt from property tax.

**THEREFORE, be it resolved that the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats strongly oppose the construction of and any public financing or use of public credit for a major motor sports facility in the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.**

Lary Coppola made a motion to table the resolution. Motion to table passed by 23-20.

**2. George Robison.** Reported on state Democrat meeting. His written report is available. A discussion of the vote for State Chair ensued. Barb Trotter stated that she went to the meeting without a decision to support any particular candidate, although she was impressed with Pelz after speaking to him twice in long conversations.

#### ***Good of the Order***

Movie night on the 14<sup>th</sup>—The Battle of Algiers.

Meeting adjourned.

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## 5. Membership Reminder

If you haven't already - it's time to renew your 26th LD Membership.

Please pay your membership dues as soon as possible. The cost is as follows:

\$25 for an individual membership  
\$40 for a couple membership  
\$5 for seniors, students, and hardship

Why join the 26<sup>th</sup>?

- 1 Voting rights at 26<sup>th</sup> LD meetings.
- 2 Run for office with the 26<sup>th</sup> LD Democratic Group.
- 3 Participate in County and State Democratic Party functions.
- 4 Shape policy and have a voice with the 26<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats.
- 5 Help support our LD and local candidates (95% of dues collected go to our candidates).
- 6 Pay for office supplies and equipment for the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 7 Pay for an operational website.
- 8 Help promote Democratic and Progressive causes.

Please mail your contributions with your name(s), email address, mailing address, and telephone number to the address below as soon as possible:

Mark Brown  
Chair 26LD Democrats  
1395 SE Vallair Ct.  
Port Orchard WA 98366

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## 6. We need Precinct Committee Officers

Help us win in 2006!

Do you want to be active in the Democratic Party?

Volunteer to be a PCO—Precinct Committee Officer.

We are looking for people who are interested in being appointed to open PCO positions until the election in 2006.

26<sup>th</sup> LD now has open PCO positions—8 in Pierce County and 14 in Kitsap County.

You can be a resident PCO—live in the precincts.

Or a non-resident—live outside your precinct.

The PCO serves as the political representative for each neighborhood precinct.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact:

- Chair Mark Brown MarkBrown@26dems.org 360-895-6033
- Vice Chair Grace Hawkins—PCO Coordinator (Kitsap County) GraceHawkins@26dems.org 360-871-1510
- Vice Chair Andrea Dahl—PCO Coordinator (Pierce County) AndreaDahl@26dems.org 253-265-2563

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## 7. Officers

- Chair: Mark Brown – 360.895.6033 [MarkBrown@26dems.org](mailto:MarkBrown@26dems.org)
  - Vice Chair: Grace Hawkins – 360.871.1510 [GraceHawkins@26dems.org](mailto:GraceHawkins@26dems.org)
  - Vice Chair: Andrea Dahl – 253.265.2563 [AndreaDahl@26dems.org](mailto:AndreaDahl@26dems.org)
  - Secretary: Susan Cruver - [SusanCruver@26dems.org](mailto:SusanCruver@26dems.org)
  - Co-Treasurer: Constance Maytum – [ConstanceMaytum@26dems.org](mailto:ConstanceMaytum@26dems.org)
  - Co-Treasurer: Charlotte Melluzzo – 360.895.2749  
[CharlotteMelluzzo@26dems.org](mailto:CharlotteMelluzzo@26dems.org)
  - State Committeewoman: Barb Trotter – 253.884.4703  
[BarbTrotter@26dems.org](mailto:BarbTrotter@26dems.org)
  - State Committeeman: George Robison – 253.853.2721  
[GeorgeRobison@26dems.org](mailto:GeorgeRobison@26dems.org)
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## 8. Committees

- Affected Group Relations (formerly Minority Relations) – Anita Latch - 253.858.6635 [AntiaLatch@26dems.org](mailto:AntiaLatch@26dems.org)
  - Candidate Search – George Robison – 253.853.2721  
[GeorgeRobison@26dems.org](mailto:GeorgeRobison@26dems.org)
  - Communications, Technology, Media, and Editorial: Steve Breaux – 253.265.3532  
[SteveBreaux@26dems.org](mailto:SteveBreaux@26dems.org)
  - Dinner: Joanna Gormly -
  - Fund Raising: Renee' Proctor-Brown – 360.895.6033  
[ReneeBrown@26dems.org](mailto:ReneeBrown@26dems.org)
  - PCO Development (Kitsap County): Grace Hawkins – 360.871.1510  
[GraceHawkins@26dems.org](mailto:GraceHawkins@26dems.org)
  - PCO Development (Pierce County): Andrea Dahl – 253.265.2563  
[AndreaDahl@26dems.org](mailto:AndreaDahl@26dems.org)
  - Progressive Activist Peace March: John Piety – 360.871.5857  
[JohnPiety@26dems.org](mailto:JohnPiety@26dems.org)
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## 9. Other Contacts

- Newsletter Editor: Teresa Sayers – 360.895.8769 [TeresaSayers@26dems.org](mailto:TeresaSayers@26dems.org)
- Website: Stephen Rowe -- [SteveRowe@26dems.org](mailto:SteveRowe@26dems.org)