

# 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats General Meeting Minutes

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Road KPN,  
Vaughn, WA 98394 (Note one-time location change)

September 7, 2017, 7:00 p.m. (meal at 6:30 p.m.)

1. Call to order; pledge of allegiance

We began the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

2. Recognition of elected officials

Chair Kelly recognized Pierce County Council Member Derek Young, and Key Peninsula Parks Commissioners Ed Robison, and John Kelly.

3. Recognition of new members and guests

Nick and Randy are new people visiting this evening.

4. Minutes of previous meeting; Secretary Dan Ransom, PE

See <http://26d.org/wp/26th-legislative-district-democrats>

5. Member of the Month

Jo Rodman is the September Member of the Month. Jo's latest project is the Peninsula Town Hall. The kickoff is Sept. 21 with a film "Now is the Time," about health care. The fall/winter series is set, and she is applying for a grant to continue through next year.

6. Special Presentation—George Robison, Randy Spitzer

A few years ago, George Robison asked for someone to run for office. Randy Spitzer stepped forward. Randy ran a good campaign. After all was tallied there was money left from the campaign. As the Spitzer campaign treasurer, George announced that Randy has donated these funds to LD26 Democrats; the amount is \$2,474.69. We gave Randy a standing ovation.

7. Approval of agenda

8. SPEAKERS

Twila Swind spoke about CELDF (Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund) Democracy School, to protect communities against the onslaught of corporations' attacks on the rights of nature. She stated that, if corporations have the rights of "personhood," then nature has the rights to protection and advocacy. We cannot depend on government agencies to protect us. Twila announced an upcoming Democracy School, October 27 and October 28 at Subway on Borgen:

<https://celdf.org/2017/08/democracy-school-gig-harbor-wa/>

9. Endorsements—Johanna Baxter, Chair

Hannie passed a handout with the people whom we have endorsed (see Addendum).

## Ballot measures

Leslie Cushman spoke about Initiative I-940. This initiative is to mandate de-escalation training for police officers, and to change Washington State's deadly force law to make it easier to hold police accountable for fatal shootings. They have 70,000 signatures. We endorsed this initiative.

Mark Briggs, spoke about raising the Kitsap Regional Library assessment. Right now the tax assessment is capped. This proposed increase raises by the assessment by 8 cents / 100 k assessed value. This increase continues basic operations. If not passed they would have to close two of the nine libraries and close the remaining libraries one additional day (two total per week). Joy Vartanian moved to support the levy increase, seconded. We voted to endorse the Kitsap Regional Library Levy.

## Candidates

Jay Rosapepe—Jay is running for the city of Port Orchard council, at-large position. Jay stated that he wants to serve his community. He said that we need partnerships and working together to make a difference. He spoke about improving the Bethel corridor. He stated that we need to work more to incorporate the newly annexed land west of Hwy 16, in which Jay lives. With the seven council members Jay says that he will “play nicely with others” to build partnerships and get things done. Jay stated that he is an independent. He voted for Obama. Ed Robison asked about Jay’s relationship with Bek Ashby and Fred Chang, which Jay reported was good. Payton Swinford stated that Jay would bring needed organization and leadership to the council. He is for raising property-tax levy to support the second high school in Port Orchard.

Adam Brockus—Adam is running for Bremerton City Council, District 3. This district is half in LD23 and half in LD26. Adam was second in the primary, with votes going to another one of our members Deborah McDaniel. George Robison moved to endorse Adam. We endorsed Adam Brockus.

Jill Guernsey—did not attend

Jeni Woock—Gig Harbor City Council, Position 1. Payton Swinford stated that we cannot vote to approve, because we have already endorsed candidate Rick Offner for this position. Jeni declined to speak but participated with our discussions throughout the remainder of the meeting.

Kirsten Gregory—Kirsten is running for Pen Met Peninsula Parks District Commissioner, Position 5. Kirsten commented that she is a fired-up progressive. Advocating for environmental responsibility is what Kirsten has done in her law practice, and she will apply these skills to be a parks-district commissioner. Ed Robison had a question about the Pen Met district adding more responsibility, including PAA. Kirsten explained that the Pen Met salaried staff is reaching out to offer administration services to smaller efforts (and some see this as “empire building”). Kirsten stated that, as Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team Secretary, she has community service experience in managing budgets and building consensus.

## 10. Executive Board reports

- a. Chair, John Kelly
- b. Vice Chair Kitsap, Johanna Baxter
- c. Vice Chair Pierce, RoxAnne Simon
- d. Treasurer, Kathleen Tei

\$5,720.47 is our balance (with the recent Spitzer campaign contribution). We received the following funds at our meeting this evening:

Raffle	\$30
Dinner	\$51
Room collection	\$71

- e. State Committeewoman, Joy Vartanian
- f. State Committeeman, Drew Williams

The state Democratic Party is putting effort toward the LD45 race. We could take back control of the Washington Legislature with the election of candidate Manka Dhingra.

- g. Membership, Don Bartley

Don reported that we gained some new members from the August 20 picnic. For the remainder of this year only there is a special rate of \$12.50 for a single, \$20 for couples, and \$10 for special circumstances. If you join the WA Dems, these dues are separate. We have 95 paid members, with more than 190 on our mailing list.

## 11. Committee reports

- a. Bylaws
- b. Budget, Kathleen Tei, Chair
- c. Candidate Recruitment and Development, Larry Seaquist, Chair
- d. Community Involvement, Joy Vartanian, Chair
- e. Fundraising and Event Planning, RoxAnne Simon, Chair

### Blackberry Festival booth

Hannie reported that there were lots of volunteers. Candidates in our booth were Adam Brockus, Michael Goodenough, and Greg Wheeler. We got to register voters, and we got \$15 in donations. Kitsap County Democrats gave money and helpers.

- f. Legislative Action, Drew Williams, Chair
- g. Membership, Don Bartley, Chair
- h. New-Member Recruitment, Curt and Patricia Scott, Co-Chairs

- i. Veterans' Activities, Don Bartley, Chair

## 12. Old business (if not previously discussed)

- a. August 20 community picnic/BBQ event—Horseshoe Lake—Noon

John reported that we raised some money and we got some new members. He asked which was better, Horseshoe Lake or the Peninsula Civic Center. The consensus was that Horseshoe Lake is a better spot. He stated that we need to have our banner on the fence, so people can see our presence in the community. School-board candidate David Olson came to the picnic, stating that he had been endorsed four years ago. However, LD 26 Democrats rescinded the endorsement shortly after that, which Olson did not say.

- b. PCO training / Summer of Canvass

Joy and Drew are going to the state meeting this weekend. One of the things that they will discuss is the Summer of Canvass. Jo Rodman said that she watched the webinar after attending Representative Derek Kilmer's community-outreach event a few weeks ago. Karlene Rytkonen, a political organizer with Representative Kilmer's office, is looking for hosts across LD26, which the state party has targeted because it is rural and has lots of independent voters. Karlene explained that these are for building conversations with our neighbors. There is a new program called 10 Knocks. Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. is an LD45 canvassing event to get the Democratic candidate Manka Dhingra elected (to turn the state senate Democratic).

- c. 26 LD office
- d. Townhall meetings
- e. Adopt a Highway...September date

Jo Rodman is not able to continue the Gig Harbor Dems commitment, she needs someone to organize and drive the effort. Joy Vartanian added that she wants to get someone to do the same for the LD26 portion of Peacock Hill Road. We are looking for one or two volunteers to fill this organization role.

## 13. New business

- a. Review of August 1 WA Primary results

Port of Tacoma Commissioner Position 1 had John McCarthy as the winner over Eric Holderman and Jim Jensen. The voter turnout was 19 percent in Pierce County and it was 26 percent in Kitsap County. The SKFR passed the levy with 63 percent, and the three stations that had been closed are now open and staffed. Don B. reported that there are 7 new tenders and 5 new fire trucks; South Kitsap F&R is moving up. Greg Wheeler beat the incumbent, 2-term mayor. Rick Offner reported that Jim Franich won the Gig Harbor Council Position 1 seat over Peter Norman and Dave Christian.

## 12. Announcements

- a. Pierce County Democrats, Thursday, September 14, 7:00 p.m., IBEW

Local 76, 3049 South 36th, Tacoma

- b. Key Peninsula Democrats Social, Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m., Key Peninsula Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay

School Board President Rand Wilson will be speaking at the Key Peninsula Democrats meeting.

- c. Kitsap Democrats, Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m., the Eagles Nest at Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1195 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton
- d. Executive Board meeting, Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m., Wright Bliss Fire Station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd KPN, Gig Harbor,
- e. Gig Harbor Democrats Social, Tuesday, September 26, 6:00 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 5500 Olympic Drive, #H101, Gig Harbor
- f. LD26 General Meeting, October 5, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard

### 13. Good of the order

George Robison announced the upcoming Pierce County Democrats celebration: Keep Pierce Blue, on October 6. It is \$100 per couple to sit at George's table.

Joy Vartanian reported that the Port of Tacoma will have a meeting on chemicals in the flood plain. Candidate for Port of Tacoma Commissioner, Position 2, Noah Davis spoke about creating clean, green jobs at the port. Puget Sound Energy is supporting Noah's candidacy. The City of Tacoma wants to create a buffer area, a non-industrial zone around the port, where there would be no more heavy industry. Present heavy industry would be allowed to stay. Noah said that he is in favor of interim regulations. The port makes money, AND takes property taxes. It pays environmental cleanup companies, then pollutes the land. Also, the money goes to building infrastructure for corporations to make more profit.

Bob Anderson said that, even though we could not endorse her, Jeni Woock is a progressive and is a good person to have on our side. Bob spoke about suicide prevention and about an upcoming Sunday 5:00 p.m., a celebration of life.

John stated that he wants to get a presentation on the PDC compliance training.

The Gig Harbor Democrats will have the school board candidates on the 19

There is an event in Bremerton to Save Our Hospital. It is Friday, September 8, 2017, 9:30 a.m. The sponsor is UFCW21, which is opposing the closure of the Bremerton hospital by CHI (Catholic Health Initiatives).

Jill Neumeister of Gig Harbor Indivisible spoke about an upcoming training on Sunday, Sept 24. It is a grass-roots breakout session with topics such as how to track bills on websites and what does it mean to be a PCO.

### 14. RAFFLE

Cindy Robison and Judy Austin won the raffles.

15. Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel L. Ransom, PE  
Secretary  
LD26 Democrats  
(509) 330-6398

## 26th LD Democrats Endorsements 2017

**Greg Wheeler**  
**City of Bremerton Mayor**

**Adam Brockus \*Currently Approved for Primary Election**  
**Bremerton City Council position 3**

**Michael Goodnow**  
**City of Bremerton Council #5**

**James Docter**  
**City of Bremerton Municipal Court Judge**

**Fred Chang**  
**City of Port Orchard, Council #6**

**Kit Kuhn**  
**Mayor, City of Gig Harbor**

**Rick Offner**  
**City of Gig Harbor Council, #1**

**Deborah Krishnadasan**  
**Peninsula School District 401 Director #2**

**RoxAnne Simon**  
**Key Peninsula Metro Parks Commissioner #5**

**Noelle Balliett**  
**Peninsula School District 401 Director #5**

**John McCarthy**  
**Port of Tacoma, Commissioner #1**

**Noah Davis**  
**Port of Tacoma Commissioner #2**

**Kristin Ang**  
**Port of Tacoma, Commissioner #4**



26th Legislative District  
**Democrats**

**7 September 2017–Endorsements for 2017 General Election**

*(This schedule is subject to change.)*

Johanna Baxter—Endorsement Chair

**Levy/Initiative**

**Leslie Cushman**—De-Escalate Washington I-940

**Mark Biggs**—Kitsap Regional Library Levy

**Candidates**

**Jay Rosapepe**—City of Port Orchard, Council At Large (opponent-Clancy Donlin)

**Adam Brockus**—City of Bremerton, Council Position 3 (previous approval 2017)

**Jill Guernsey**—City of Gig Harbor, Mayor (We have endorsed Kit Kuhn for this position 2017)

**Jeni Woock**—City of Gig Harbor, Council Position 1 (We have endorsed Rick Offner for this position 2017)

**Kirsten Gregory**—Peninsula Metro Park District Commissioner 5 (we heard from this candidate in July, endorsement vote moved to September 2017 meeting)