



## **26th District General Meeting Minutes (1/7/20)**

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Kara Aley.

### **Attendance:**

Attached page.

### **Derek Kilmer, House Representative, Congress**

Rep. Kilmer gave an overview of the Insurrection in WA DC by Trump supporters on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, and the emotions he felt when witnessing the seat of our US democracy desecrated. Rep. Kilmer spoke of the divisive words of the outgoing President, and that incoming President Biden has much work to do to bring healing and compromise between political parties and all citizens.

### **Tina Podlodowski, Chair, WA State Democratic Party**

Expressed her gratitude that Congress continued to count the Electoral College votes and not be cowed by rioters on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. Tina asked that we keep ourselves and others safe from right-wing extremism at this volatile time. Chair Podlodowski thanked the 26<sup>th</sup> for working to bring the Democrats to where they are now, with a Dem majority in WA State, especially when having to campaign during COVID. A greater number of racially-diverse and young people voted, and the legislature is now more diverse. She would like us to become the “anti-racism” party. Ms. Podlodowski asked that the 26<sup>th</sup> LD please endorse her to continue in her position as the Chair for the WA State Democratic Party. Meeting attendees asked questions about campaigning in the future, Tina’s answers were as follows:

1. Dems should go to other group’s meetings and listen, not just ask others to attend our forums.
2. Triage what are the most important political races to our LD and focus on those.
3. Engage PCOs and community leaders (unions, Indivisible, Councilmembers, Young Dems, etc).

### **Derek Young, Pierce County Council**

Derek gave update about the Pierce County Health Department issue--Republicans wanted to give governance of the Health District to the county. Over 7000 outraged people responded and when the vote came, Pam Roach voted with the Dems against it, so the bill died. Behavior Health tax passed. Councilmember Young has been voted in as current Chair of the Pierce County City Council.

### **Emily Randall, WA State Senator**

Spoke about how hard it was to watch the Insurrection in WA DC on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, and how it impacts people of color--It reminds legislators of the responsibility to work towards positive change. Due to COVID, bill introductions and voting during session will be limited, but the public will have more ability to be active because of online remote testimony options. Sen. Randall will be working on more equity in the tax code, health care access, and racial equity. When asked about Jesse Young running for her seat, the senator spoke about how she is starting immediately to reach out to the community and is asking groups outside of political forums to invite her to speak to their attendees. A question was asked about gun-carrying on the campus in Olympia, the senator agreed that gun rallies are intimidating to staff and is hoping that some resolution will happen this year to address the issue.

### **Payton Swinford, Electoral College Recap**

Payton expressed thanks that he was a part of the WA State Elector group, especially with the historic nature of Biden’s win, and is excited at Kamala Harris being the first woman of color to be elected Vice-President. He received a pen and certificate for participating.

### **Land Acknowledgement/New Attendees**

Jill Neumeister gave the Tribal Land Acknowledgement.

Gerry Austin introduced himself, he was a member of the 26<sup>th</sup> LD a long time ago, and is glad to be back, he is working on South Kitsap school levy issues.

### **Carl Olson, Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Olson reported that there is \$3279.61 in the bank, \$190 has been generated through Act Blue since the first of January. Carl is updating the 26<sup>th</sup> LD's C-1 document, also updating his software for reporting purposes. The storage unit and Zoom bills will be paid later this month, he will contact Givens Community Center about use as meeting venue.

### **Approval of December Meeting Minutes**

Rick Offner moved to approve, Frank Dacca seconded, minutes approved by acclamation.

### **Rick Offner, Overview of Initial Data of Election Results**

Mr. Offner provided demographics and overview of the 2020 election, with percentages of turnout in each county and precinct, and whether they leaned Democrat or Republican. The 26<sup>th</sup> LD can use this information to reach possibly swayable voters and help persuade them to vote as a majority for Democrats, especially when endeavoring to flip Rep. Jesse Young's seat blue. Rick found that outside of urban areas people often voted for Joe Biden and Derek Kilmer, but then some of those people voted Republican in the rest of the legislative races--The 26<sup>th</sup> LD needs to work on flipping those voters to check all Democrat candidates down the ballot.

### **Chair Aley, Overview of Initial Priorities-2021**

Chair Aley presented priorities page with work group information, she asked that all interested parties (for work groups) email her ([karaalevy@yahoo.com](mailto:karaalevy@yahoo.com)) or contact the 26<sup>th</sup> LD. Attendees suggested: Asking about candidate support beyond fundraising, finding out what constituent's issues are (rather than telling them to "contact their legislator," promoting skillsets PCOs can attain, how to present the position of PCO in a more "enticing" manner, easier access to data, and building an infrastructure that helps citizens have a voice.

### **Next General Meeting**

Thursday, Feb 4th, 2021

### **Good Of The Order**

Julian Wheeler informed the group that he received a note on his porch that said "MAGA Death to Electors," he followed up with law enforcement. Julian reported that Pierce County will need election observers for special elections in April, please contact him at [julianfwheeler@aol.com](mailto:julianfwheeler@aol.com). Attendee stated she needs help printing minutes, Chair Aley will follow-up. Carl Olson stated that after listening to newly-elected Georgia Sen. Warnock (D) speak, he has optimism for the future. Anna Mockler hopes the 26th LD changes the model on how we help candidates on campaigns, and gets PCOs on board (and addresses their needs). Gerry Austin made appeal for donations to the SK school levy at [voteskschools.com](http://voteskschools.com), due to COVID, their donors aren't contributing the usual amount of levy dollars.

### **Motions/Votes**

Carl Olson motioned to endorse Tina Podlodowski as WA State Democratic Party Chair, Rick Offner seconded, Tina won endorsement by acclamation.

Carl Olson motioned to endorse the SK School Levy, Hannie Baxter seconded, motion passed by acclamation.

Carl Olson motioned to donate \$200 to SK School Levy, Hannie Baxter seconded, motion passed by acclamation.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Chair Aley at 8:47 PM.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:** Melissa Lund, Secretary

