



## 26th LD Democrats Minutes for 7/2/2020

### 1. **Land Acknowledgement:**

Delivered by Jill Neumeister, LD 26 Democrats Executive Board member, who is also Citizen of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma: The Land which we are standing on is the original homelands of the Puyallup, Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Suquamish, and Skokomish Tribes. They have persevered and remain the stewards of this land and waterways. In an ongoing effort to reconcile many wrongs faced by the original inhabitants of these lands, we give recognition that this is and forever will be their homelands. We thank the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the people below for providing this land acknowledgement statement specifically for the area that is the 26 Legislative District of Washington State. Prepared by Jennifer Keating, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Brandon Reynon, Assistant Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

### 2. **State House Race Update: Carrie Hesch, Position #1**

This week has been focused on sign placement; still seeking placement for large signs; fund-raising and endorsements have been going very well. Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce Forums for the House races went very well, all should review them online. Carrie's work at the prison continues, 9 hours a day. Please email her if you have any questions.

### 3. **State House Race Update: Joy Stanford, Position #2**

Joy thanked everyone for asking great questions at the forum this morning and for providing encouraging feedback about her performance. Fundraising is going very well as she has considerable traction right now. Another fundraiser for Women of Color is upcoming, and people are reaching out throughout the area and the state. The campaign has been putting out signs; a number of people came and got signs, so start looking for them. The elderly woman who had been living in her car is finally housed.

### 4. **Candidate for Lieutenant Governor: Congressman Denny Heck**

Kelty Pierce of Heck's campaign spoke for him as he was flying back from DC. He is working on racial equity legislation. Over 280 elected and former elected officials believe that Denny Heck has the abilities to step up in case Governor Inslee is unable to serve and want to bring Denny Heck back to Olympia permanently!

### 5. **Candidates for Kitsap Superior Court Judge, Position 1: Lynn Fleishbein**

Lynn Fleishbein delineated the details of her education and experience, ending with the fact that she has been pro tem in the Superior Court position already. Leslie Daugs and Barb Turecky provided supportive information. Joy Stanford asked what Fleishbein's position was on mass incarceration; her answer was that it is not good, and she hoped we could do something about that.



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### 6. Candidate for Supreme Court, Position 6: Justice Helen Whitener

Justice Whitener's experience has been extremely extensive. As the first Black and first LGBTQ justice, she is accustomed to breaking barriers. She believes that she is the best-qualified candidate; her opponent was just being sworn in as an attorney on the day she was appointed to the Supreme Court. Judge Frank Dacca spoke up to heartily endorse Justice Whitener. Tarra Simmons has worked with her on the WA Gender and Justice Commission for several years. Leslie Daugs provided additional supportive commentary, and Johanna Baxter (Chair, Kitsap County Democrats) reminded us that 26th LD Democrats had endorsed her previously.

### 7. Candidates for Kitsap County Commissioner, District 2: Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, PCO Stacey Smith, Paul Nuchims

**Charlotte Garrido:** When she first moved here, Charlotte volunteered, which was a great way to get to know the community. As a Commissioner, community and neighborhood are important. COVID makes it hard to talk to people right now, as Zoom differs from face-to-face communication. She is focused on dealing with the pandemic and its impact on Kitsap County in terms of public health and the economy. Larry Seaquist commented that he supports Garrido because he believes she works actively in the community and is a leading player. Tarra Simmons spoke on behalf of Garrido as someone who has been standing up for racial justice for at least 15 years. Garrido has actively helped to find jobs and housing for the formerly incarcerated, people in recovery, immigrants, and otherwise working for the most vulnerable among us.

**Smith:** Stacey is a twenty-year county employee and works with the aging and disabled population to help them stay in their homes. She has also worked hard to help mentally ill and mentally impaired residents. Her priorities as Commissioner would be housing and COVID recovery -- health, economic stability, and opportunities for all to thrive. She is endorsed by National Women's Caucus and by all local Democratic organizations.

**Nuchims:** Paul's main interest is the future of the human race. He has had a long career as a college professor, largely in West Virginia. He would like to see better representation of people of color in elected positions. At 86, he is still ready to go to work and restore truthfulness to the County.

Lori Wheat asked about Sheriff Simpson stating he will not enforce the directive for everyone to wear masks in public and wanted to know how each candidate would respond. Garrido says she would approach the Chamber of Commerce to launch a campaign encouraging people to wear masks. Smith says she distributes free masks to anyone who needs them though some with disabilities may need alternatives; she said perhaps we should equip sheriffs with masks to distribute. Nuchims says it's a great idea to distribute free masks. "The coronavirus is a godsend in that it lessens the use of fossil fuel," he said.

### 8. Candidate for 23rd LD State Representative: Leslie Daugs



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Leslie Daus spoke of her commitment to community. She mentioned that she is a person of color. She also serves on the Bremerton City Council. She spoke of the work she has done in her union, SEIU, and with the homeless. She sits on boards of Kitsap Transit, KCR, ERACE, and other community groups. "It's so important to elect people of color." She recently promoted setting up a Race Equity Advisory Committee to the Bremerton City Council.

### 9. Treasurer's Report

Our current balance is **\$3,851.71**, and we added at least three new members this month. Constance would like to do a membership notice to increase membership and emphasize recurring donations. Our current expenses are only for storage and Zoom, about \$100 per month.

### 10. Report on State Convention

One of the State's Electors selected at the State Convention is LD 26 member Payton Swinford, which is a big honor for him and for the LD. According to Don Bartley, the Convention went smoothly for being the first virtual convention.

### 11. Status of Postcard Writing Campaign

We will be having packets ready for people to address and write within the next two weeks.

### 12. PCO Training and Fundraiser

The PCO training included an introduction to a fundraiser. We are now asking PCOs to call Strong Democrats within each precinct to urge them to contribute money to the LD and to volunteer for phone banks, postcard writing, and other election events. You don't have to be a PCO to make the calls. Many call recipients have pledged and offered to write postcards. Joy offered to help those making these calls and are inexperienced by having them attend Zoom meetings where they can watch her make calls to potential supporters.

### 13. T-Shirt: Pick up; Order

The t-shirts ordered are at Lynn Jabs' home; she has called people to let them know that their T-shirt orders are ready. People should arrange to pick up their t-shirts.

### 14. Approvals and Endorsements:

a. **US President (Joe Biden):** Endorsement was unanimously approved.

b. **Lieutenant Governor (Marko Liias, Denny Heck):** The Executive Board recommended that we approve both candidates. A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to endorse Denny Heck. However, the vote fell short of the 2/3 required for endorsement. The membership then voted on the original motion to approve both candidates until after the primary and the motion was unanimously approved.



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c. **Kitsap Superior Court Judge Lynn Fleishbein:** Endorsement of Fleishbein was unanimously approved.

d. **Supreme Court Justice Helen Whitener:** Endorsement of Whitener was unanimously approved.

e. **Kitsap County Commissioner, District 2:** The Executive Board moved to approve Garrido and Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

f. **23rd LD State Representative:** Executive Board moved to approve both candidates (Tarra Simmons, Leslie Daus). A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to endorse Tarra Simmons, but the motion failed to win a 2/3 majority vote. The original motion to approve both candidates was unanimously approved.

### **15. Next Meeting August 6, 6:30: Results of August Primary; Redistricting**

#### **16. Good of the Order**

Lori Wheat stated that last night the Bremerton City Council voted 5-2 to form a Race Equity Advisory Committee, which Council member Daus had been promoting since January. Many members of the community spoke in support. Opposition was provided by the two council members who voted against and by one former council member.

17. **Adjournment** was approved at 8:40.