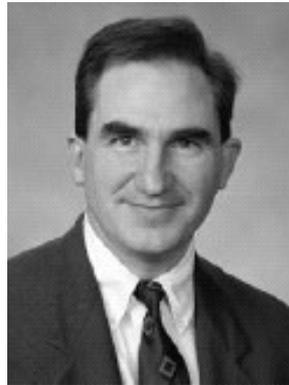




25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**We have confirmed that Senator Kastama will be at the April meeting to answer questions and talk about his actions, thoughts, and campaign at our next meeting. (He had tried to get space this Saturday for a room, but not available, so he knows that people want to hear from him why he made the decisions he did on the budget, etc.).
(Also see article on page 7.)**

**READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING , WHAT DID HAPPEN, MINUTES
PLUS UPCOMINGS ON PAGE 2
AND - - - - DUES CAN BE PAID NOW FOR 2012!**

**25TH LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC
(LDD) OFFICERS**

President/Chair: Louis Tibbs
Tel: (253) 848-5496
Email: LTibbs3@comcast.net

Vice Chair: Luanne Green
Tel: (253) 848-0289
Email: raygre@msn.com

Treasurer: Harold (Al) Gray
Tel: (253) 539-8352
Email:
halgray@rainierconnect.com

Asst't Treasurer
Luanne Green
Tel: (253) 848-0289
Email: raygre@msn.com

Secretary: Melissa Thompson
Tel: (253) 970-7339
email:
MelissaThompson@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian: Cliff Allo
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Email: cliffallo@blarg.com

Sergeant-At-Arm: Eric Renz
Tel: (253) 302-1698
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Membership Chair:
Ray Green
Tel: (253) 848-0289
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State Committeeman:
Cliff Allo
Tel: (253) 208-8167
Email: cliffallo@blarg.com

State Committeewoman:
Ellen Zulauf
Tel: (253) 845-9370
email: eazul@comcast.net

**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



**Senator
Jim Kastama**
(253) 840-4701

Email:
kastama.jim@leg.wa.gov

For all other elected officials:
Legislative Hotline:

**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

DNC: www.democrats.org
WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org

**25TH LDD E-BOARD
PIERCE COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVES**

POS 1: Eric Herde
Tel: (253) 441-5760
Email: epwh@earthlink.net

POS 2: Melissa Thompson
Tel: (253) 970-7339
Email: MelissaThompson@yahoo.com

POS 3: Mervin Swanson
Tel: (253) 845-0194
Email:
mswa658080@aol.com

FOR THE LATEST INFO
AND/OR COPIES OF THE
FOCUS CHECK OUT THE 25TH
LDD WEBSITE AT:
www.25dems.org

Calendar of events



26 Mar Mon E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66

2 Apr Mon 7PM 25th LDD meets at Puyally Library. The Speaker will be Sen Kastama

15 Apr Sun Precinct Caucuses 10AM, 3 Locations; Boilermakers Hall, Elks Club and Franklin Pierce High School (See page 6 for precinct listings.)

21 Apr Sat DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

28 Apr Sat 10:00a.m. Franklin Pierce High School 25th LD Caucus and Nominating Convention. Elected and Appointed Precinct Committee Officers to be in attendance.

30 Apr Mon E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66.

7 May Mon 7PM 25th LDD Monthly meeting at the Puyallup Library.

19 May Sat DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

28 May Mon E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66

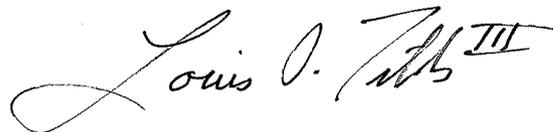
4 Jun Mon 7 PM 25th LDD meets at Puyallup Library.

From the Chair

In 2007 I started attending the 25th Legislative District Democrat meetings. At that time John Thompson was chair and Lauren Adler was vice chair. I was very involved personally in Obama's campaign to become president. I was serving on the Pierce County Steering Committee for his campaign and was leading his campaign efforts in the Greater Puyallup area. I was not involved however in politics at the local LD level, county level or state level. During the fall of 2007 the 25th LD chair resigned and the vice chair took the gavel. On December 6, 2007 our LD had a Reorganization election. Lauren Adler became chair and I became vice chair. I remained in the role as vice chair until the summer of 2009. On June 4, 2009 Lauren resigned as chair and I became acting chair. On August 6, 2009 I was elected chair of the 25th LD.

There have been many changes since becoming chair. Each month when we meet we hear exciting speakers that keep us informed about issues, legislation, and other topics of interest. Our monthly Focus Newsletter has become primarily electronic. The hard work from Joan and Ken has brought rave reviews from other LDs regarding the Focus Newsletter. We have now an extensive online presence with our 25th LD Website. Charley has expanded the website to be a center for news beyond our LD. Our Bylaws by which we operate have been made stronger from the diligent work by Cliff. Our membership and fundraising are being taken to broader horizons by Ray and Luanne. We have been kept informed about the latest in Olympia from Jerry and Ellen. I could go on and on sharing all the areas that I'm excited about for our 25th LD.

As many of you know, I was redistricted out of the 25th LD. During the recent redistricting. Edgewood, where I live, is now part of the 31st. Also many of you know that my wife and I have two grown children who live on the east side of King County. We also have two grandchildren—a four year old grandson and a month old granddaughter. My wife and I have been talking about selling our home in Edgewood and moving closer to our children and grandchildren. I plan to retire in one more year from the Puyallup School District, since this is my 39th year teaching. My wife and I feel that this is the best time to buy a home in King County with the current market. After moving to King County, I plan to do a reverse commute back to Puyallup for my final year of teaching! With all this in motion I know that my summer will be extremely busy. The 25th LD deserves to have a chair who is able to be 100% focused on reclaiming our two state legislative seats for the Democrats! Because of this I submitted my resignation as chair to our Executive Board on February 27th to be effective on May 7th. I want to thank you for giving me the privilege of being your chair for these three years.



Louis Tibbs
Chair of the 25th Legislative District Democrats

25th LD Minutes March 5th 2012

By Melissa Thompson

We called the meeting to Order at 7:05 p.m. and had the Flag Salute. We then had the roll call of officers and Sgt. At-Arms Eric Renz & State Committeeman David Henry were both absent. We adopted the Consent Agenda.

Our Guest Speaker was Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy. She is running for re-election. She gave us an update of what has happened during her term of office. She said it has been tough, but rewarding. She told us that the County has had to live within our means in order to have a stable budget. The office did have to reduce the number of employees from 3,500 to 3,000 employees. The county got out of the Mental Health business. Some issues that she has worked on are regional solutions like flood zoning and bringing together a more enhanced communication system between 911 operations throughout Pierce County. She wants to bring more better, high wage jobs to Pierce County and retain the numerous aerospace companies throughout our county, and continue working with organic farmers. She became Chair of Sound Transit and Vice-chair of the Puget Sound Regional Transportation Commission. She announced her kickoff will be at the new LaMay Car Museum on April 26th at 5:30pm.

We had another guest speaker Michael Jones from the Washington Interior Systems, Local 41. He talked about Trade with China and gave us a handout of Economic Policy Institute Briefing paper about Trade issues. He encouraged us to Buy American Goods.

Then Cliff Allo came up and talked about the proposed changes in Endorsement Procedures. He was introducing the topic now, mention the changes more in depth in April's meeting and we will vote on it in May. The proposed changes are on our website if you want to review them.

Precinct Caucuses are Sunday April 15th starting at 1 pm. The 3 sites are The Elks Club, Boilermakers, and Franklin Pierce High School. You can look on the State Democrats website to find your exact caucus location. Cliff has enough people to cover precincts but will need 6 to 8 people to help volunteer with the District Caucus which will be Saturday, April 28th at Franklin Pierce High School, which starts at 10am.

Update on Legislative races Dawn Morrell is running for Position 1 against Shelley Schlumpf, and Bill Hilton is running for Position 2 against Hans Zeiger. They will have a kickoff party together but date is still to be determined.

If you want to help with the Letter Carriers Food Drive in May you can bring Jiff or Adams Peanut Butter to April's meeting. These are Union Brand made Peanut Butter and you should try and buy them at Union stores.

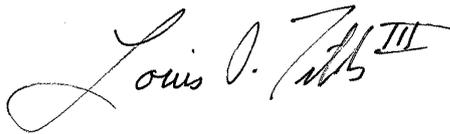
We adjourned at 8:35 p.m. **(Note: See Page 6 for your precinct meeting location)**

25th LD Nominating Convention

According to the “Rules for the Selection of Democratic Candidates and Nominees for Public Office” within the State Democrat Party, the 25th Legislative District must call a Nominating Convention to choose the Democrat nominees for Washington State Senate and Washington State House of Representatives. The candidate of the Democratic Party shall be the candidate who receives a majority vote of weighted ballots. **All voting is done by the elected and appointed Precinct Committee Officers of the 25th LD.**

As Chair of the 25th LD, I am announcing the official call for our 2012 Nominating Convention. We will hold our Nominating Convention at the same time as our 25th LD Caucus on **Saturday, April 28th**, at Franklin Pierce High School. Our LD Caucus will begin at **10:00 am**. I am requesting that all elected and appointed Precinct Committee Officers be in attendance. Our 25th LD Nominating Convention will be included in our agenda for that day.

If you have any specific questions regarding either our 25th LD Caucus or Nominating Convention, please contact me. Thanks.



Louis Tibbs
Chair of the 25th Legislative District Democrats

COLLECT PEANUT BUTTER FOR FOOD DRIVE

Patty Rose, Secretary-Treasurer of the Pierce County Labor Council, is on a mission.

She is collecting peanut butter to the Letter Carrier’s Food Drive and the Emergency Food Network, and she already has a whole bunch of peanut butter piled up at Central Labor Council’s office.

In conjunction with her efforts, Jerry Beckendorf is asking all of us to bring jars of peanut butter to the next 25th LDD meeting on April 2nd.

The two peanut butter brands that are union made are JIFF and Adams and they can be purchased at the following union stores: Albertsons, Fred Meyer, Metropolitan Market, QFC, Saar’s Market Place, Safeway, Stadium Thriftway, TOP Foods, Town and County Stores and SuperValu Cash and Carry at their 3729 So. Lawrence location.

Let’s all pitch in for this great effort!



25th LDD MEETING MAR 5th

By Joan Cronk

Here is the url for the state party's listing of our precinct caucuses:

http://www.wa-democrats.info/cjc120209b.php?cj=PI25#PI25_Boilers

AND HERE ARE THE MEETING PLACES BY PRECINCT:

Area Caucuses at Boilermakers Hall
16621 110th Ave E.
Puyallup, WA 98374
ACC Jerry Beckendorf will host precincts

Area Caucuses at Puyallup Elks Club
314 27th St N.E.
Puyallup, WA 98372
ACC Louis Tibbs will host Precincts

PRECINCT NAME-

02-059

02-060

25-153

25-163

25-166

25-167

25-168

25-169

25-170

25-171

25-172

25-173

25-174

25-179

PRECINCT NAME-

25-101

25-102

25-103

25-104

25-105

25-106

25-107

25-108

25-109

25-110

25-111

25-112

25-114

25-115

25-116

25-117

25-118

25-135

25-136

25-180

25-352

25-354

25-355

25-359

25-631

25-643

25-644

Area Caucuses at Franklin Pierce High School

11002- 18th Ave E.

Tacoma, WA 98445

ACC Eric Herde will host Precincts

PRECINCT NAME-

25-137

25-138

25-139

25-140

25-141

25-142

25-143

25-144

25-145

25-146

25-147

25-148

25-149

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Fixing state budget requires action in the state's best interest, not the special interest

By [Jim Kastama](#), [Rodney Tom](#) and [Tim Sheldon](#) Special to The Times 3/6/2-12

Our decision to pass a bipartisan budget along with our Republican colleagues has set off a firestorm in the state Capitol — and that's exactly what was needed.

Since December, we have listened intently to hours of impassioned public testimony on how to best address our state's budget shortfall. Advocates and concerned citizens delivered a message we have become very familiar with in recent years: continued cuts to critical public services will harm our economic future, particularly in K-12 and higher education.

For us, more heartbreaking than the effect of cuts this year is the sobering reality that without reforms the cycle will continue long into the future and touch even more lives. Without our action on the Senate floor we would have continued down that path yet again.

Prior to Friday, Democrats were banking on a "get-out-of-town" budget that would have left us with upward of \$2 billion in additional cuts to make next January. While their budget temporarily averted funding reductions to education and other services, it did so by unsustainably mortgaging our future and burdening the next Legislature with our debts.

A budget that does not manage our finances responsibly validates voter cynicism. Perception of waste and abuse fueled by budget trickery will further drive a wedge between our public-policy goals and voters' willingness to fund them.

Resetting government requires leaders willing to oppose entrenched party interests and act in the state's best interest. While there is a time to campaign for what you want, there is also a time to govern with what you have.

For the most part, people are not anti-government, but they do expect common-sense government. In the past we have sponsored legislation with the goal to improve citizen confidence through effective state-agency management, clear performance measures and honest budget accounting. Often, members of our own party have mocked these efforts, killed reforms in the House or broke promises by the means of the governor's veto pen.

We knew challenging our party by joining with Republicans was not going to be easy or make us popular, but it was a necessary move to shock the system into change.

We believe it is in the best interest of our state not to settle for a status quo kick-the-can budget. Bold leadership requires standing up to the party hierarchy and saying "No."

While the Senate bipartisan budget is not perfect, by cutting a fraction more this year, it will eliminate the eventual need for deeper cuts under the Democratic proposal. While adhering to important tenets of responsible budgeting, it is now the job of the Legislature to negotiate the most sensible use of the limited tax dollars we have.

It is our hope that the final budget reflects the input and values of both parties and does so from a standpoint of fiscal strength, balance and discipline. By being direct with voters about what we can realistically afford, we can build trust with the public and put Washington on a pathway to a sustainable future

**25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE EACH MONTH UPON REQUEST BY A MEMBER IN-
STEAD OF BEING ON THE WEBSITE.**

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ?

DUES CAN BE PAID NOW FOR 2012!

Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
in helping our Democratic party.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Zip: _____ City/ _____

Precinct: _____

Email: _____

Dues: Evergreen (includes Senior, outside district, etc) \$10 per member; Rainier \$25; Chair's Voice \$50; Senators Club \$100 (can be paid in installments.)

Please send dues to: 25th LDD, POBox 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373



IS ANYONE
OUT THERE
LISTENING?

**Well, you should be if you want the truth about politics
by Frank Blair and Traci Kelly on their radio show Fridays at 1200 to
1 PM on KLAY 1180 AM!**

**And if for some reason or other you miss it then go to
equalltimeradio.net.**

Tune in or be tuned out.

BE A DELEGATE TO THIS YEAR'S CAUCUSES

Precinct caucuses are scheduled for Sunday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m. Delegates selected there go on to attend the district caucus Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. and the county convention Sunday April 29 at 10:00 a.m. State convention delegates, chosen at the LD caucuses, will meet in Seattle, June 2 and 3.

Individuals who can't attend the precinct caucus, but want to be elected as a delegate to the next level may submit a letter stating their desire to be a delegate and that they are a democrat. The letter can be e-mailed to District Chair Tibbs at LTibbsIII@comcast.net.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE 25TH LD DEMS? JOIN TODAY!

SPECIAL INVITATION TO DENNY HECK RECEPTION

APRIL 12, 2012 6:00 PM

Please join Jo Anne and Marc Gaspard in support of Denny Heck a candidate for Congress at their home, 203 5th Ave NW, Puyallup. Please consider your support of this event: Friend—\$250; Supporter—\$100; Guest—\$50 or give what you can—We want you there.

Please RSVP to Jen Cash (206) 851-8074 or jen@dennyheckforcongress.com