



25th Legislative District  
Democratic Focus



Gov. Jay Inslee rallied a group of volunteers the day before the November election at the Firefighters Hall in Puyallup.

## **The 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District 2016 Reorganization Meeting is Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Our December meeting will be Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm at the Puyallup Library. This meeting is our reorganization meeting at which we elect officers for the two years ending November 30, 2018

At the reorganization meeting Precinct Committee Officers elected during the primary election on August 2, 2016 (including any PCOs who were the only candidate to file in their precinct, and were elected without appearing on a ballot) will vote for the Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeewoman, State Committeeman, and the three representatives to the Pierce County Democratic Central Committee Executive Board.

Precinct Committee Officers and General Members of the 25th Legislative District Democrats who have been a member for at least 30 days (members since November 6th for the December 6th, 2016 meeting) will vote for the offices of Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Officer, and Sergeant at Arms.

Proxies are not permitted at Organizational meetings.

Officers appointed by the newly elected Chair are: Parliamentarian, Assistant Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Webster.

The procedures for our reorganization are specified in the 25th LDD By-Laws, Rev 02/2012. To view the By-Laws or read a brief summary of the reorganization meeting process go to [\*\*25dems.org\*\*](http://25dems.org)

**25th LD Democrats Annual January Dinner is Friday  
January 6th**

**When** - Friday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Doors open at 6:00 pm for social hour. Dinner at 7:00 followed by the dessert auction and program

**Where** - Puyallup Elks Club at 314 27th Street NE, Puyallup

**Cost** - \$20.00 per person if purchased by December 31st.  
\$25.00 per person starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our speaker for the evening will be Pierce County Councilman Rick Talbert.

Tickets can be purchased at [25dems.org](http://25dems.org) or by mailing your payment to: 25th LD Democrats, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373

\*If purchasing on the website look for the [Annual Dinner](#) button in the right hand column.

Come enjoy an evening with friends and help raise funds for the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats' outreach to inform the community on issues and Democratic values.

## **Minutes of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization Member Meeting, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Held at Puyallup Public Library**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ed Herde at 7:10 who led the flag salute.

Roll was called - Officers present: Ed Herde, Chairman; Bill Havens, Treasurer; Cliff Allo, Parliamentarian & Webster; Eric Herde, PCO Chair; Joan Cronk, Focus Editor; Ellen Zulauf, State Committeewoman; Jeremy Kamel, State Committeeman; Karl Mecklenburg, PC Rep. Pos. 1

Approximate Attendance – 30

Candidates and campaign representatives for upcoming elections were introduced and gave updates:

- Karl Mecklenburg – WA State Senate
- Jamie Smith – WA State House, Seat 1
- Michelle Chatterton – WA State House, Seat 2
- Dallas Roberts with the Congressman Denny Heck campaign

A motion from the Executive Board was presented by chair Ed Herde. Seconded by Mark Goodwin. The motion was to allocate \$3,000 from the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats to be split evenly to the three 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democratic legislative candidates. The motion passed with 22 voting Yes, 0 voting No, and 2 Abstentions.

A motion from the Executive Board was made to endorse Hillary Clinton for president and Tim Kaine for vice-president. Seconded by Nancy Pease Hogan. The motion passed with 27 voting yes, 0 voting No, and 0 Abstentions.

Chair Herde urged members to help with the get-out-the-vote effort in the last week of the campaign.

An announcement was made about the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats Re-organization that will take place at the Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Puyallup Library at 7:00 pm.

An announcement was made for the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats annual fundraiser dinner set for Friday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 pm. The dinner will be held at the Puyallup Elks Lodge. There will be a desert auction and a 50/50 raffle. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$20 if purchased by December 31<sup>st</sup> and \$25 after December 31<sup>st</sup>. Purchase tickets at [25dems.org](http://25dems.org)

Members that volunteered to help with the auction are: Gina Bua - Coordination of Dessert Auction, Bill Havens & Joan Cronk - Check-in table, Michelle Chatterton & Ashley Whitzen - Decorations, Jeremy Kamel - 50/50 Raffle

An announcement was made for members and new members to please pay their 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats dues for 2017 so we will have the funds to start our outreach program to inform the community on issues and Democratic values.

Good of the Order

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm

## Chairs Comment

Ed Herde

It is always my hope that after an election I will be able to write an inspiring message. Obviously this is a challenge this year. I could say that the outcome could not have been worse, and at the national level that is very close to true. In Washington State luckily we are far from the worst case scenario. Democrats did not gain control of the State Senate, but we did not lose control of the House. We did retain all of our Democratic seats in Congress and Patty Murray will return to the Senate. Democrats won every state wide office except the Secretary of State because it is very hard to unseat an incumbent, and the State Treasurer where no Democrat advanced to the general election. With Jay Inslee's win we retain a Democrat's Democrat at the head of government. We will have a Lands Commissioner that will protect the public lands, an ethical Auditor, a Superintendent of Public Instruction with a vision of public education for all students, a Lt. Governor who will fight for the 99%, and an Attorney General and Insurance Commissioner who will stand for fairness for all.

For the last three legislative elections where I have been involved in the 25<sup>th</sup> LD I have been impressed by the quality of people that have run for office, and this year was no different. Jamie Smith, Michelle Chatterton, and Karl Mecklenburg are outstanding community members and each one of them would be a great legislator. The only thing they lack is the name recognition needed to get elected, because for so many voters it is all about familiarity.

Several things contributed to low voter turnout all across the country, but it comes down to one thing. People who consider themselves adults couldn't set their emotions aside and move beyond the uninspiring Clinton campaign to vote anyway. It was known there was voter suppression taking place and it would require Democrats to vote at least at the same level they did in 2012 to overcome the Republican dirty tricks. We can't compel people to vote by force so we must change our methods. The first thing is that at the top of the ticket we must never nominate someone with such low likability ratings, even if they are, as Hillary Clinton was, the most qualified person ever to run for president. The uninspiring campaign that was run by the Clinton team nationally, but especially in the swing states, contributed greatly to about 10 million fewer voters participating than in 2008. This campaign drug down the numbers for every Democratic candidate in the nation. I believe that any Democrat that lost by less than 5 percent

would not have done so if Clinton's campaign would have highlighted her accomplishments instead of bashing her opponent.

What Democrats need to do from this point on is to increase the profile of our movement groups. Republicans are at work every day of the year between elections to spread their propaganda. Democrats need to work every day between the elections as well to spread the truth. We need a national campaign to encourage liberals to share their beliefs and the facts. We must stop being cowed by the organized bully right wing. We must stop being "proper" in social situations. When we hear someone fill the airspace around us with bullshit we must correct the erroneous information. Social Security is not broke. Medicare is efficient. Climate Science data is factual, not conspiracy. When someone complains about taxes ask them what services they want eliminated. When some unthinking sheep blurts out negatively about regulations ask them who's water should be mixed with chemicals, who's land they want contaminated, who's air should be filled with carcinogens, and what corporations should be allowed to poison their child. We must take a page from the Republicans and spread our message Load and Proud. Go Forth and Preach Liberals!

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# HOW WE RESIST TRUMP AND HIS EXTREME AGENDA

By Congressman Jerry Nadler

Since Election Day, many people have asked me what they might do to support those of us in Congress who are ready and willing to stand up and fight the Trump agenda.

My answer starts with a fundamental belief that the 240-year-old institutions of our government, in particular, our systems of checks and balances, were, in part, created with the precise goal of averting tyranny. These institutions can only function properly, however, when our country's leaders work vigorously to ensure that they do, and when citizens remain fully engaged in the process. Now more than ever, with a President-elect who threatens to undermine and even delegitimize those institutions—and in doing so, to damage the very soul of our liberal democracy—I implore everyone to help our country help itself.

We cannot wait four years to vote Mr. Trump out of office, as members of the GOP Senate and House Majorities have already stated that they will facilitate the Trump agenda, even if they weren't supporters of his during the campaign.

So we must do everything we can to stop Trump and his extreme agenda now. We do this by:

1. Holding him accountable for the tenor and tactics of his campaign, as well as his past and ongoing deplorable personal, professional and political conduct;
2. Waging fierce battles against every regressive action he takes—from personnel appointments to his legislative program—in order to thwart or at least slow them down;
3. Exposing his Republican enablers in Congress, and voting them out of office in 2018, with the goal of taking back either the House or the Senate for Democratic control.

To achieve this, we must keep our eyes on two important goals: depressing Trump's public support and dividing the Congressional GOP from him and from each other.

To understand how the public might help those of us in Congress achieve this, it is first necessary to explain what procedural tools we have at our disposal to resist him legislatively.

The House of Representatives is set up to facilitate majority rule. This can't be sugarcoated: we have very few parliamentary tools available to us if the GOP Majority seeks to minimize the Minority's influence – and they will. We have a few minor floor procedures like “discharge petitions,” and, usually, one floor amendment (the “Motion to Recommit”), but even these require some Republican support, which will be very hard to cultivate in this environment. We will, of course, make the most of these and any other possible procedural avenues we can identify. For example, many of the agenda items that Trump promised during his campaign will have to come under the tough and aggressive scrutiny of the House Judiciary Committee if they, in any way, violate the constitutional rights of citizens or overstep Presidential authority. As a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I will do everything I can to protect our civil rights and civil liberties. But people should not be under any illusion that this is an easy road or that it will materially slow down Trump's proposals.

That said, our main job as the Minority in the House will be to develop the best arguments possible against a given terrible Trump proposal, most usefully if such arguments divide the Republicans, show Trump as a fraud or self-dealer, and/or create situations where individual Republican members fear for their own seats. These kinds of “wedge” issues prepare the ground for opposition in the Senate.

The Senate Minority has a far greater ability to stop things than we do in the House. The Senate is an institution designed to give each individual member more influence and efficacy. Senators of both

parties have great affection for this tradition. Senator Chuck Schumer, the incoming Minority Leader, has for the moment, the single strongest procedural tool to stymie Trump and the Republicans – the “filibuster.” The filibuster allows any Senator to block any vote, unless and until there is “cloture” – a vote of at least 60 Senators voting to end the filibuster. The filibuster has a long history in the Senate, although, there is always the possibility that the Republicans will limit its application or even eliminate it.

So, in sum, while we Democrats in Congress have a few tools, we don’t have a lot. To make matters even more disconcerting, Trump will be able to enact a good deal of his agenda through Executive Orders and through the filibuster-proof budget reconciliation process. That said, in this time of emergency, with the public’s help, we must do everything we can to fight back.

So, what can you, as a member of the concerned public, do to help strengthen the hand of Congressional Democrats resisting Trump?

### **The first order of business must be to refuse to allow the normalization of Trump.**

While respecting the results of the election and the Office of the President, we cannot allow for the normalization of the hatred and bigotry that Trump used to stir fear and resentment, or of his behavior that is completely unbecoming the office he is about to occupy, like his sexually predatory actions or his cozying up to world leaders who reject our democratic form of government. We must never lend these things or his expressed contempt for democratic principles any legitimacy.

Whether or not he himself feels these hateful things almost doesn’t matter, as he exploited them to come to power, and, in doing so empowered the most wicked tendencies in American society. Nor have we seen any evidence that this was all merely campaign strategy, or that he intends now to condemn these ideologies. His appointments of Steve Bannon as White House Chief Strategist, and of Ken Blackwell and Kris Kobach to his transition team, suggest the complete opposite.

Donald Trump doesn’t deserve the benefit of the doubt because he has not earned the benefit of the doubt. The burden is on Trump to change his stripes, though I, like many of you, am deeply doubtful that will ever happen. As such, there can be no normalization of him or his Administration.

Anti-normalization is the first key step to long-term eroding of Trump’s support.

Individual citizens and concerned organizations can do much to ensure that we don’t normalize. It is essential that the public speak loudly so that elected leaders—both Democrats and Republicans—as well as the media, do not get lulled into a false sense of business as usual. This is precisely what the Trump Administration is hoping for and will try to project daily. They will also accuse those of us in government who resist normalization as obstructers of the popular will of the people. So we must have sustained, loud voices at our backs.

The large-scale protests that have occurred across this country have been a critical first step in combatting normalization. They should certainly continue in the non-violent way they have been conducted thus far. They are already changing the tone of the media around the Steve Bannon appointment, for example.

The creative use of every basic organizing strategy to keep this up is what is now essential to fight normalization. Here are some ideas:

- Write letters to media editors every time you see an article or broadcast that utilizes a normalizing tone or doesn’t make note of the extreme nature of Trump, his behavior and rhetoric, or his Administration’s actions.
- Use the hashtag #NotNormal or #DontNormalize on your social media platforms.
- Contact your elected officials via petitions, letters, calls and social media to urge them to resist any action that would normalize the Administration and demand that they loudly condemn any Trump actions that are unbecoming our democracy.
- Reach out to your friends and family and encourage them to do the same.



- Support rhetorically and financially those organizations that are stepping up to fight normalization.

**Advocacy groups and everyday citizens must become a unified blocking force for Congressional Democrats who are fighting against Trump's extreme agenda.**

Congressional Democrats must, as discussed above, use all available means to resist and thwart Trump's agenda. But we need a tough and efficient fighting force standing behind us. Concerned national organizations and individuals must band together immediately, in unprecedented and streamlined ways, putting aside slight ideological differences and competitions, and become committed to sharing resources in the interest of building an all-in force. It may very well require unorthodox advocacy strategies, like the creation of broader-than-normal coalitions based on each of Trump's individual proposals, wherein single issue groups may find themselves working on issues outside their normal wheelhouse to the extent their memberships allow, for the greater good.

Congressional leaders will be talking directly to the national advocacy groups about this, and how to link directly to our emerging organizational structure within Congress to fight.

So how precisely will we need individual people in this effort?

First, you should join and financially support the national advocacy groups working on issues you care about. Anti-hate groups, civil liberties groups, reproductive rights groups are all good places to start. As members and supporters, you should be encouraging those group's leaders to work in as collaborative a manner as possible to defeat each Trump proposal. Also, join social media groups that are inclined to resist Trump efforts. These groups are very efficient channels for national advocacy leaders to quickly mobilize large groups for actions on each of these issue campaigns.

Second, we must have loud issue activism from constituents in "swing" or "marginal" Democratic districts, supporting Democratic House and Senate members who are up for re-election in 2018 to encourage them to legislatively oppose Trump. Without vocal support for these electorally vulnerable members, we cannot expect them to take the necessary risks we need as we put forth our anti-Trump arguments in Congress.

Practically speaking, I would encourage people residing in safe Democratic districts to consider adopting a couple of key marginal Democratic districts to help organize within. That means working with your local house of worship or progressive group, in, say, New York City or Los Angeles, and building relationships with local houses of worship and advocacy groups in suburban areas near them. Suburban districts are always a good bet to find swing districts, but formal lists will soon be available from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee or elsewhere on the web.

**Congressional Republicans who are up for re-election need to understand that when they embrace Trump and/or his policy approach, they will pay heavily at the ballot box. If we can separate Congressional Republicans from Trump, we can stop parts of his agenda.**

We watched a number of establishment Republicans reject Trump and his campaign because they did not want to be aligned with him, his behavior or his associations. That was important, but it obviously was not enough.

It matters what GOP members of Congress do now. They have to be made to understand if they embrace Trump, they will pay politically.

Just like the suggestion in the previous section to adopt a swing or marginal Democratic district, individuals and groups in safe Democratic districts should also consider adopting a district with a vulnerable Republican member and help local activists there pressure that member to separate from Trump.

**Become as invested in the Midterm Elections as you were in the Presidential, as if your life depended on it.**

Even as we together will do everything in our power to resist Trump's agenda in the next two years, there is nothing that will stop him like returning control of one of the chambers—either the House or the Senate—to Democratic control. The country was deeply involved in the Presidential election, and now concerned citizens must become equally invested in the outcome of Midterms.

Unfortunately, the electoral maps for both the House and Senate Democrats do not look encouraging. But we must upend the conventional wisdom and nay-saying predictions by becoming much more involved in these elections to ensure stronger-than-ever Democratic turnout.

A divided Republican party is the best recipe for ensuring victory in the Midterm Elections, but that can only happen with a united and sharply focused Democratic party from top to bottom. Obviously, the key game *writ large* is to have good candidates with sufficient resources to challenge the Republicans in 2018. It is not enough to just protect marginal Democrats—which of course we must also do—we need significant electoral gains to end single party control of Congress and, subsequently, to defeat Donald Trump.

The main organizational entities for the Democrats in Congress are the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC.org) and the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee (DSCC.org). Sign up for their list-serves and get involved with the campaigns of your choosing as soon as possible.

**There is much to do and no time to lose because the soul of our country is on the line. We must be brave and stand up.**

This is just the beginning. Just as the #DumpBannon campaign has emerged and appears to be growing and changing the narrative on this appointment, there will be any number of campaigns like it to join in the coming days and months. Many local efforts will soon materialize organically and national advocacy groups are planning now for how they will conduct their issue advocacy campaigns moving forward. Congressional campaigns will be launching in short order. Keep your eyes on social media to connect with all of these, and we will also do our best to direct you to the most effective of these efforts in the coming days and months.

There are also large, national efforts underway to strategize around, not only Presidential election of 2020, but also the complex process of redistricting, which will hopefully produce more winnable Democratic districts in the future. And of course, there are also other things we should be doing individually, locally to care for our neighbors and others who may come under attack by the Trump agenda.

There will be so many ways to be involved. But whatever you do, get involved in some way right now, as we have no time to lose.

We must act quickly if we hope to really slow the advancement of the Trump agenda.

None of this will be easy. I've personally fought Trump many times, and he was a ruthless and dangerous man without the Presidency. Now that he has the reins of government, it's going to take tremendous courage and tremendous effort to stand up to him.

This is an unprecedented moment, and it requires a kind of bravery, discipline and focus which historical moments of this import call for. We have no choice – people's lives and the soul of our country is at stake. For our children and grandchildren, we must now stiffen our spines for this fight, because there is no time to waste and this is a fight we must not lose.

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**PIERCE COUNTY DEMS:**  
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**Tune in or be tuned out!**

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DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2017  
Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you  
In helping our Democratic party**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, outside district, etc.) \$10 per member  
Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid  
In installments.)**

**Please send dues to: 25<sup>th</sup> LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by credit card on  
<http://25dems.org/Anedot/Dues.php>**