



25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS



The 25th LDD Democratic dinner was a great opportunity for folks to gather and get reacquainted. Photo one: Paul Berendt spoke on behalf of Hillary Clinton. Photo two: Mario Brown spoke on behalf of Bernie Sanders. Photo three: Allen and Ellen Zulauf visit with Thelma Sacklin. Photo Four: Ray and Luanne Green visit with Bill Havens.

Our February meeting will be held February 1 at 7 pm at the Summit Library at 5107 St E, Tacoma (Just east of Canyon Road on 112th Street).

We will be electing new officers to fill the vacancies of Treasurer, Secretary, State Committeeman, and Pierce County Executive Board Rep. position #1. We will also be having a presentation on the precinct breakdown of the November election.

PREAMBLE TO THE PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

As Democrats we place the well-being of the people as our highest priority. We believe in the values of community, empathy, equality, tolerance, opportunity and the common good of the interdependent world we share. These values provide the basis for our ideals and are supported by our state and federal Constitutions.

Our actions define our society, our freedoms, and our responsibilities. To fulfill the potential of our values and ideals, we encourage every citizen to participate in civic activities, including continuously raising awareness of the issues contained within this Platform. The people have a right to expect their elected representatives to govern in a manner that will protect and promote their civil liberties, human rights and quality of life.

We invite everyone to join with us in advocating for legislation that ensures peace, prosperity, liberty and justice for all.

We expect elected Democrats to publicly, actively work to bring the principles of the 2014 Platform to fruition using all available legal and parliamentary procedures.

To see the complete platform of the Washington State Democrats go to:

<http://www.wa-democrats.org/sites/wadems/files/documents/Washington%20State%20Democrats%20-%202014%20Platform.pdf>

The Purpose of the 25th Legislative District Democrats as stated in its By-Laws

The purpose of the 25th LDD is to support the election of Democratic Candidates and to further the policies and principles of the Democratic Party.

To see the complete By-Laws of the 25th Legislative District Democrats go to <http://25dems.org/> and look for the By-Laws in the left hand column.

Minutes of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization
Member Meeting, December 7th, 2015
Held at the Puyallup Library

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called.

Officers Present: Ed Herde, Karen Edwards, Bill Havens, Cliff Allo, Blaine Pearman, Eric Herde, Joan Cronk, Merv Swanson, Ellen Zulauf

Motion to pass Resolution supporting Sounder improvements (made by Jerry Beckendorf) passed unanimously

Motion to pass Resolution supporting the Keep It in the Ground Act (made by Jerry Beckendorf) passed unanimously

Guest Speaker: Rick Talbert, Pierce County Councilmember, District 5, and candidate for Pierce County Executive

Ed Herde spoke on precinct caucuses and the January fundraiser dinner

Jerry Beckendorf spoke on Labor-related holiday donations

Kareen Shanks volunteered to serve on the Fundraising Committee

Good of the Order: Eric Herde, Ed Herde, Bob Koreis, Jerry Beckendorf

Adjourned: 8:53

[Who's Calling the Shots in State Politics?](#)

Conservative national groups battle in the states over Constitution redo

Just 7 more states needed to convene meeting for new amendments

By [Ashley Balcerzak](#) The Center for Public Integrity January 25, 2016

It's only a short phrase buried in the U.S. Constitution, but it enables an unprecedented avenue to change the law of the land: If two-thirds of the states demand it, Congress "[shall call a convention](#)" for proposing constitutional amendments.

A hopeless pipe dream? Actually, no; the issue is front and center right now. Some 27 states have active calls for a convention on a balanced budget amendment, which would force the federal government to pass budgets that do not enlarge the national debt. This means that theoretically [just seven more have to act](#) for a constitutional convention to be called, at least on that subject.

In just the first few weeks of this year's state legislative sessions, at least 10 states have bills pending that call for a convention. So suddenly such a meeting, not held since the earliest days of this country, is becoming a real possibility.

Even GOP presidential candidates are seizing on the burgeoning movement, with Florida Sen. [Marco Rubio](#), [former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee](#) and [Ohio Gov. John Kasich](#) endorsing this unconventional process and rallying their supporters as legislative sessions start up again.

While the legislation [appears to be a grassroots effort](#) bubbling up from the states, in reality it's [quite the opposite](#). National groups have been holding workshops, publishing tips and even crafting model legislation for years to persuade legislators to use their states to circumvent the logjam in Congress.

The push is led by [American Legislative Exchange Council](#), the Virginia-headquartered conservative think tank known as ALEC made up of state lawmakers and corporations that advocate free-market policies in the states. It has a cadre of other like-minded national allies working on the controversial strategy to revise the country's supreme laws.

But in a fight reflecting the broader schism within the Republican Party, other national groups on the right such as the [John Birch Society](#) and Phyllis Schlafly's [Eagle Forum](#) are combating these efforts with their own legislative push to rescind those calls for what is called an Article V convention. Working alongside unlikely liberal allies, they say the country runs the risk of a runaway convention where delegates could change the complete makeup of the Constitution.

"Once you open up the Constitution to change at a convention, then you can change anything in the Constitution," said [Michael Leachman](#) at the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank that has written about the [dangers of a balanced budget amendment](#). "It's theoretically possible."

Find this article online at: <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2016/01/25/19168/conservative-national-groups-battle-states-over-constitution-redo>

Message

Ed Herde

The end of the year holidays are over and I hope you all were able to get some rest and relaxation mixed in with the activities of the season. As usual we did not have a January meeting and instead had our annual fundraiser dinner at the Puyallup Elks on January 8th. There were 49 guests from the 25th LD and around Pierce County. Many of our members attended, some who haven't been able to make it to the monthly meetings recently so it was good to see them and visit. Even with good attendance at the event, as I looked around the room I realized how many more true blue Democrats we have in the 25th, as I thought of several members who could not attend. Although sometimes at our monthly meetings it seems like a small group, we do have a lot of loyal Democrats in the 25th. This is inspiring coming up on a presidential election year and presidential caucus. We will need our people power to organize and carry out successful Democratic Caucuses in the 25th LD, and work to get Democrats elected this year.

Thank you to those who helped with the planning and carrying out of the evening's events. Thank you Karen Edwards, Bill Havens, Joan Cronk, Cliff Allo, Eric Herde, Laura Groves, Bryan Yambe, and Julie Door. Thank you to all who brought deserts for our desert auction. Also thank you to our speakers for the evening, Paul Berendt who spoke on behalf of Hillary Clinton for president, and Mario Brown who spoke in support of Bernie Sanders for president. We raised enough money from the event to make a good dent in the costs of running the caucuses on March 26th. We do need to raise additional funds to help elect our Democratic candidates this year.

The Washington State Democratic Presidential Caucuses will be held on Saturday March 26th. In the 25th LD the caucuses will be in seven locations spread throughout the 25th Legislative District from Midland to South Hill, Fife to Collins, and of course in Puyallup. The local party organization (that's us) is responsible for running the caucuses and covering the costs of the venues. It will take several of our members to run the caucuses. You will soon be called on to join your comrades to train for the event, and help run the event on March 26th. Mark your calendars and plan on doing your democratic duty from 9:00am to 2:00pm on March 26th, and a couple training sessions before March 26th. In addition to those who will run the caucuses we need to have all the Precinct Committee Officers present to run their individual precincts caucus. Several precincts will meet in each of the seven caucus locations, but the PCO from each precinct will run the individual precinct's caucus. In precincts where there is currently no PCO we will need someone to run that precinct's caucus. It will be an all-hands-on-deck event fellow twenty-fivers!

2-16

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**Website for latest
information or copies of
Focus:**
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PARTY:**
www.wa-democrats.org

**PIERCE COUNTY
DEMS:**
piercecountydems.org

**25TH. LEG. DISTRICT
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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?
DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2016**
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: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by credit card on
<http://25dems.org/Anedot/Dues.php>

(Can be paid in installments)