



25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS



Jamie Smith held her kickoff event at Puyallup High School. She is running for State Representative, Position 1

Next meeting of the 25th LDD will be held on
TUESDAY, July 5 due to July 4 holiday. This will be our
second endorsement meeting.

Minutes of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization
Member Meeting, June 6, 2016
Held at Puyallup Public Library

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Herde at 7:00pm

Fife City Councilman Bryan Yambe led the flag salute

Roll was called: Officers present: Ed Herde, Chair; Karen Edwards, Vice-Chair; Bill Havens, Treasurer; Kareen Shanks, Secretary; Cliff Allo, Parliamentarian & Webster; Bryan Yambe, Sgt. At Arms; Blaine Pearman, Membership Chair; Eric Herde, PCO Chair; Joan Cronk, Focus Editor; Ellen Zulauf, State Committeewoman; Karl Mecklenburg, PC Rep, Pos. 1; Laura Groves, Pos. 2; Merv Swanson, PC Representative, Pos. 3

Candidates seeking endorsement were introduced and gave a short statement and took questions from members:

John Adams speaking for Jamie Smith, State House, 25th LD, Position 1

Michelle Chatterton, State House, 25th LD, Position 2

Karl Mecklenburg, State Senate, 25th LD

Pat Jenkins, PC Council, District 2

Carolyn Edmonds, PC Council District 2

Mark Williams speaking for Rick Talbert, Pierce County Executive

Cyrus Habib, Lt. Governor

Dawn Morrell speaking for Jay Inslee, Governor

Johnathan Dodds, Governor

Alida Skold, Congress 8th CD

Meosha Ward speaking for Jennifer Gigi Ferguson, Congress 10th CD

Mohammad Said, U S Senate

Dawn Morrell and Bryan Yambe speaking for Patty Murray, U S Senate

Action Items:

Ratification vote on PCO's nominated at May 2nd meeting. All were elected:

25-207 Ashley Witzens

25-238 Shannon Brown

25-241 Shaun Williams

25-263 Kari Welch

25-268 Nora Campbell

25-282 Dylan Kessler

Nomination of PCO's to be voted on at July 5th meeting

25-205 Ginger Rivera

25-280 Asaph Gaspi

25-227 Jake Tozier

Motion made by Carolyn Merrival for endorsement and nomination of state legislative candidates to serve as the Democratic Party nominees for the 25th LD - Jamie Smith, Karl Mecklenburg, and Michelle Chatterton. Passed

Motions made to endorse the following candidates: Carolyn Edmonds, Rick Talbert, and Cyrus Habib. Passed

Motions to endorse Jay Inslee, Patrick O'Rourke, Alida Skold, Jennifer Ferguson, Denny Heck, and Patty Murray failed to receive the 2/3's majority required per 25th LD bylaws when endorsing in races that have more than one Democrat.

Motion made by Eric Herde and 2nd by Jeremy Kamel to donate \$3,000.00 each to the campaigns of Jamie Smith, Michelle Chatterton, and Karl Mecklenburg; and \$1,000.00 to the campaign of Rick Talbert. Passed

Motion made by Carolyn Merrival and 2nd by Chris Oliver to donate \$500.00 to the campaign of Carolyn Edmonds. Passed

Member Karen Herde spoke and presented a resolution in support of the upcoming Franklin Pierce School District replacement Bond. Motion made to support the Bond Passed.

Self-nomination of Jeremy Kamel to run for 25th LD State Committeeman to fill vacant seat. Jeremy was the only nomination. Motion made by Kareen Shanks and 2nd by Jerry Beckendorf for election of Jeremy Kamel. Passed

Non- Action Items:

A reminder that we will need volunteers for the Fair Committee.

Good of the Order: Jerry Beckendorf, Eric Herde, Dawn Morrell

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00pm

OUR NEXT MEETING IS **TUESDAY** JULY 5TH AT 7:00PM AT THE PUYALLUP PUBLIC LIBRARY. IT WILL BE OUR SECOND ENDORSEMENT MEETING FOR THE OFFICES THAT WERE NOT COVERED AT TONIGHT'S ENDORSEMENT MEETING.

Chair's Message

Ed Herde

Happy Independence Day to all. Celebrate our independence on Monday and celebrate our democracy on Tuesday July 5th by coming and taking part in our second endorsement meeting for this primary season. We will be hearing from candidates and their representatives for the offices of Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Public lands, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, State Supreme Court, and contested races for Pierce County Superior Court. Precinct Committee Officers and anyone who has been a dues paying member for at least one month (since at least June 5th) is eligible to vote on endorsements.

Each candidate or candidate representative will have two minutes to address our members and two minutes for questions. Because of time restrictions members are asked to make their questions concise.

To speak at the 25th LD Candidate Forum and Endorsement Meeting a candidate must complete the 25th LD Democrats endorsement questionnaire. As these questionnaires are completed and returned to the 25th LD Democrats they will be posted on the 25dems.org website where they can be viewed prior to the Candidate Forum and Endorsement Meeting.

I want to give a firsthand report from the WSD State Convention held at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center on June 18th. Some of the local media decided to represent the event as being a majority divisive event. It is true there were Sanders delegates that were vocal in their expressions of distrust for, and their opposition to the issue positions of candidate Clinton, but the number was roughly the same as the number of Clinton delegates that were expressive of their disapproval of Sanders' continuing campaign. The numbers were small, but out of the over 900 seated delegates I witnessed a handful of agitated Sanders delegates, and a case in which a Clinton delegate physically held a 25th LD Sanders delegate and would not release her arm until the lobbying for Secretary Clinton was complete.

The scheduled business of the convention was not completed mainly because of a very unusual amount of procedural stalling. The number of times the chair was asked a point of information or asked to clarify previously discussed information was I estimate 10 to 15 times more than previous conventions or state committee meetings. This and the excruciating dissection of the convention rules prior to their passing caused the platform not to be passed, and many resolutions not to be addressed. Upon talking with delegates from both camps after the convention I heard accusations from each side toward of the other side of coordinating the stalling tactic. The convention adjourned at 7:00 pm when the contracted room rental period expired.

Reconciliation within the party has not been reached, and this was apparent when keynote speaker U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon received a chorus of boos from about 15% of the Sanders and Clinton delegates when he said what is needed to unite the party is for Clinton to embrace some of the issue positions of Bernie Sanders.

7-16

Democratic Party Platform Committee Undermines Clinton On TPP

Dave Johnson, Campaign for America. Future

June 27, 2016

The Democratic party's elites must not think that trade and jobs will be big issues in the coming election. Apparently, they've never listened to a Donald Trump speech, and didn't notice that working-class people in the United Kingdom just voted to "brexit" from the European Union (EU) over these issues.

The Democratic platform writing committee has voted not to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with the pro-TPP majority saying that doing so would undercut President Obama's efforts to pass the agreement.

The problem is, this hands Trump, as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, powerful ammunition as he says Democratic challenger Hillary Clinton is only "pretending" to oppose the agreement.

Platform Committee Won't Oppose TPP

The Hill explains, in "Sanders: 'We lost some very important fights' in Democratic platform":

[T]he panel did block several proposals favored by Sanders and his supporters. It refused to adopt a proposed amendment by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) that would have opposed President Obama on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — both Sanders and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton have spoken against the trade deal. Instead, the panel backed a measure that acknowledged "a diversity of views in the party" on the TPP.

More from AP: "Democrats reject platform proposal opposing trade deal":

Democrats on Friday voted down an amendment to the party's platform that would have opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, avoiding an awkward scenario that would have put its statement of values at odds with President Barack Obama.

Members of a Democratic National Convention drafting committee defeated a proposal led by Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., that would have added language rejecting the Pacific Rim trade pact, which has been opposed by presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

The panel, which is developing the party's platform ahead of next month's Philadelphia convention, instead backed a measure that said "there are a diversity of views in the party" on the TPP and reaffirmed that Democrats contend any trade deal "must protect workers and the environment."

Trump, Republicans Attacking Clinton Over TPP

TPP and past "trade" deals are incredibly unpopular with working-class voters, and Republicans are preparing a full-scale attack on Clinton's credibility over the unpopular TPP. They are making the case that Clinton actually supports TPP but is pretending she does not in order to get votes. They say the president's efforts to pass TPP in the post-election "lame duck" session back up their claims. This pro-TPP vote by Clinton supporters on the platform committee will likely bolster the Republican argument.

Trump gave a major speech June 22, attacking Clinton for "corruption." A major portion of the speech was dedicated to his opposition to TPP, and claims that Clinton actually supports the agreement, only claiming to oppose it to get votes. He said:

Hillary Clinton has also been the biggest promoter of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which will ship millions more of our jobs overseas — and give up Congressional power to an international foreign commission.

Now, because I have pointed out why it would be such a disastrous deal, she is pretending that she is against it.

Backing up Trump's arguments, Republicans and Republican outlets have started to go after Clinton again and again over TPP. The danger is that when conservative outlets begin a drumbeat "mainstream" outlets often pick it up and amplify it.

This is what right-leaning voters are hearing. This is from Fox News, headlined "Paperback version of Clinton's 'Hard Choices' omits her former TPP trade pact support":

The paperback version of Hillary Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices" fails to include her support of the international trade pact TPP that rivals Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump have opposed, raising criticism about Clinton "reinventing herself" for the general election race.

On Brietbart, one post is headlined, "Donald Trump: Clinton's TPP Would Sacrifice American Jobs and Economic Independence":

A Hillary Clinton Presidency would enact the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and lead to a massive jobs depression in the same pattern of Clinton's career according to Republican presumptive presidential nominee Donald Trump who laid out a litany of Clinton misconduct in a highly anticipated Wednesday morning address.

"If [Hillary Clinton] is elected President she will adopt the Trans-Pacific Partnership and we will lose millions of jobs and our economic independence for good," said Trump.

Just as she has betrayed the American worker and trade at every single stage of her career and it will be even worse than the Clinton's NAFTA deal. And I never thought it could get worse than that. We will lose jobs. We will lose employment. We will lose taxes. We will lost everything. We will lose our country.

"Mainstream" outlets are already amplifying Trump's theme:

- World Trade Online: "Trump Says Clinton Only 'Pretending' To Oppose TPP"
- Morning Consult: "Trump Says Clinton Would Implement Controversial Trade Deal"
- Time: "Donald Trump Accuses Hillary Clinton of Corruption as Secretary of State":

One of Trump's main lines of attack was on Clinton's position on the Trans Pacific Partnership, the massive trade deal that would link the U.S. and 11 Pacific Rim nations. "If she becomes president she will adopt the Trans Pacific Partnership," Trump argued.

Dem Platform Handing This Issue To Trump

The Brexit vote shows that people are sick and tired of elite schemes to drive down wages. TPP is one such scheme and voters get it.

Trump, Sanders and Clinton have all stated their opposition to TPP. President Obama apparently doesn't get what is happening out there in the world in reaction to the damage working people have suffered from trade agreements. He recently told voters in the UK they would have to go 'to the back of the line' on trade deals, not getting it that the promise of no more trade deals might have increased the "Leave" turnout by 10-20%.

John Nichols writes at The Nation, in "What the Democrats Must Learn About Free-Trade Deals From Brexit":

Plenty of Americans are unsettled about Britain's vote to exit the European Union. And a lot of what unsettles them is Donald Trump's claim that the Brexit vote sets the stage for a similar reaction against elite political and economic arrangements in the United States.

[. . .] The Leave campaigners in the UK succeeded because there are millions of working-class voters—many of them in the left-leaning "Labour heartlands" of northern England—who know that globalization has not worked for them. Well, there are millions of Americans in battleground states such as Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina who know that globalization has not worked for them.

... "It is hard for me to understand why Secretary Clinton's delegates won't stand behind Secretary Clinton's positions in the party's platform," says Sanders, who has said he will vote for Clinton in her race with Trump but argues that the platform must be strengthened in order to better position Clinton to beat the presumptive Republican nominee.

It is hard to understand why Clinton supporters are blocking efforts to fight the TPP agreement. This hands the issue to Trump and reinforces his position that Clinton is only "pretending" to oppose the agreement.

It appears that the party elite just don't understand the public's overwhelming opposition to TPP. The pro-TPP members of the platform committee say they must support a Democratic president. But what about the interests of the public, labor and working people, the environment, the economy and their own nominee?

Send Democratic party elites a message with this petition: "Don't undermine our presidential nominee. No lame-duck vote on the TPP!" The louder the noise is before the full platform committee, the more likely they are to relent and avoid a full convention floor fight.

Also see this must-watch video, Burning Issues: Explaining The 'Revolt' Against the TPP:

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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>