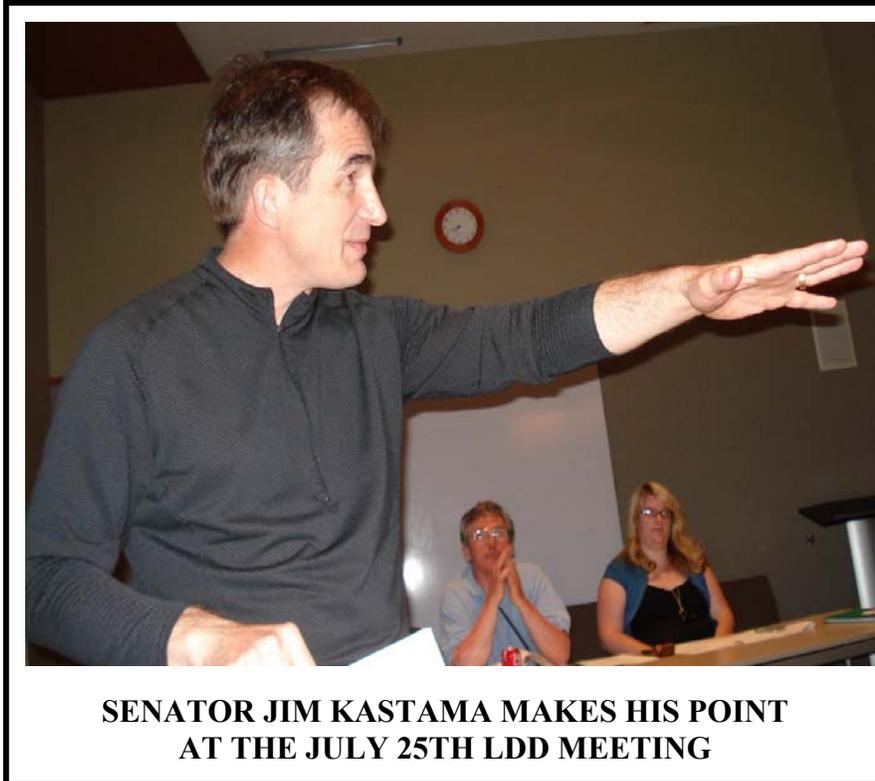




# 25th Legislative District



## Democratic Focus



**SENATOR JIM KASTAMA MAKES HIS POINT  
AT THE JULY 25TH LDD MEETING**



READ ALL ABOUT IT: A NEW SUGGESTION 25TH LDD ENDORSEMENT PROCESS, HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHO TO VOTE FOR?, MINUTES SUMMARY, CALENDAR AND MORE.



**Check out our web site, <http://25thdemocrats.org> built and hosted by Lauren Adler. You will find news and meetings and pictures. For newsletter send all articles, pictures, committee report to Editor Joan Cronk 845-5389 or email: [JoanCronk@comcast.net](mailto:JoanCronk@comcast.net)**

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

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**Secretary: Charley Stokes**

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**Sgt-At-Arms:**

**John Ernest Berry III**

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**Board Representatives:**

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**Immediate past chair:**

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ELECTED  
OFFICIALS**



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(253) 840-4701

email:  
kastama.jim@leg.wa.gov



Representative  
Dawn Morrell  
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email:  
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For all other elected officials:  
Legislative Hotline:  
1-800-562-6000

**DEMOCRATS  
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WA State Dem Party  
www.wa-democrats.org  
Pierce Co. Dem Party  
www.piercecounty-  
dems.org

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**.30 Jul Mon** E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66, 9813 128th St. E., Puyallup.

**2 Aug Thu** 25th LDD Meeting in Puyallup Library, 324 Meridian at 6:30 for social time and 7 PM official meeting.

**18 Aug Sat** DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

**3 Sep Mon** E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66.

**6 Sep Thu** 25th LDD meets at Puyallup Library at 7PM. **In September Darcy Burner will be our guest speaker. Also the PCO's will vote for a Chairperson.**

**15 Sep Sat** DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

**1 Oct Mon** E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66.

**4 Oct Thu** 25th LDD meets at Puyallup Library at 7PM.

**13 Oct Sat** DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

You are invited to submit your meetings/events to be included in the Upcoming Events.

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Looks  
Forward to a  
New Endorse-  
ment  
Procedure for '08**  
*By Carolyn  
Merrival*



The endorsement procedure used by the 25<sup>th</sup> is lacking in many respects. Currently, the candidates must contact us with a letter, which is then supposed to be published in the newsletter. The candidate may then address the membership, after which we typically vote to endorse or not to endorse. This has gotten us into trouble in the past. There are two problems with this procedure. First, it requires the candidate to know our endorsement procedures. Candidates are normally inundated with invitations to speak or questionnaires to fill out. We are often lost in the shuffle. Only the most savvy campaigner finds their way to us. Second, since we don't generally wait to hear from opposition candidates, we aren't really looking at the full slate before choosing who we want to support.

An endorsement committee met and came up with an alternate endorsement plan, which we hope to get in place for the 2008 election cycle. It consists of contacting all non-partisan and all Democratic candidates and inviting them to a candidate

forum after filling out a questionnaire. The completed questionnaires will be available to the membership. There are several LDs and other organizations that use this procedure. The benefits of the candidate forum are that the membership gets a chance to hear from all candidates. It's a great party building event. It has the potential to draw people in who wouldn't normally just come to the local Democratic meeting. At a meeting following the event, the membership can then vote on endorsements with more first-hand information about the entire slate of candidates.

We also considered two other scenarios. The first is the procedure used by the County Dems. They send out questionnaires and then, an elections panel interviews each candidate and makes a recommendation to the body. This is a grueling procedure involving several days of interviews. The membership misses the chance of seeing the candidates for themselves. The second procedure we considered is simply to have a candidate forum with no questionnaire. The questionnaire allows us to get to know a candidate a little better than we can in the limited amount of time that will be available in a forum.

We will be looking at this subject more closely in the coming months. We do not have

time to change the procedure for this year, but we are hoping to have a better endorsement procedure for next year. Any input is welcome. You can contact Carolyn Merrival at [lako-talegends@comcast.net](mailto:lako-talegends@comcast.net) with comments or suggestions.

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**IT**

*By Frank Blair*

It's really very simple. The truth usually is. The Bush administration has been engaging in surveillance on American citizens without warrants for years in secret with no paper trail or accountability. We don't know who they have been spying on or why. They started spying on us before 9/11 and continue to this day. Every time the president orders people to do this spying, he is committing a felony. Period. It is illegal, period. No matter how they try to parse words or make grandiose excuses, they broke the law they swore an oath to uphold. See? I told you it was simple.

During the last presidential election the RNC at the direction of Karl Rove, Tim Griffin sent out caging lists in order to challenge about three million voters based on their race, gender or their political leanings. They actually caged soldiers and sailors deployed in Iraq because they were African American or Hispanic. They actually succeeded in preventing about a million votes being counted, flipping the election their way. The problem with caging is that it is a felony. The RNC at the direction of Karl Rove committed about three million felonies. Once again, it's very simple. It's easy to explain to your friends and family.

(Continued on page 4)

## WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

By Joan Cronk



So tell me, I mean I'm really curious. It will just be between you and me, we won't share this information, but I just wonder..how do you pick who to vote for?

There is so much to think about when we listen to candidates and read their literature and I was just wondering, what criteria is most important?

We are Democrats, so that has to be an issue. For me, I like a candidate who best represents those values...labor issues are important to me, a woman's right to make choices, the environment..but sometimes it is hard to tell where a candidate stands. There are a lot of them who can straddle that invisible line and we are left wondering..

We all have our pet projects too, things we hold near and dear to our heart. I have a three year old grandson born with Down syndrome, so issues that affect children and adults with special needs is right up there for me.

Some candidates have a handshake that could cripple, while others are limp and im-

personal. Does that say something about them?

Do you limit your vote to just Democrats, or are there times when you'll consider a Republican for office and what would make you do just that? Does religion matter... can a Democrat be a Christian? Ha..that was a biggie last time wasn't it?

Most of us are middle class, or thereabouts...and so matters that affect the economy are an issue. A lot of donations to Democratic campaigns come in the form of \$10 bills, and enough of those help build the coffers of good people. It seems that Republicans garner most of the big hitters in fund raising efforts.

We love to see the candidates we've gotten behind take that victory lap. We feel so invested in the win! Maybe it was our yard sign or our talk over the fence with the neighbor that pushed them into the winner's circle. Politics has become a blood sport and not for the faint of heart.

So let's just chat a little about this. You can come clean with me....I mean..it is just between the two of us.....



(It by Frank Blair continued)

Putting aside the hundreds of times the administration lied to Congress and the UN and US, how many other things are they doing to us and the world we DON'T know about? Democrats won a slim majority in the House and a one vote majority in the Senate. The one really important thing Dems have is the ability to conduct hearings because the voters gave them the chairmanships of the Congressional committees. We have learned a lot of stuff in the last few months we would have never known had the rats remained in power.

The people of the 25<sup>th</sup> district are represented by Congressmen Dicks, Smith and Reichart. I suggest we call them and give them our thoughts on the felonies committed by the administration. We should let them know that we are paying attention and would like them to move forward on criminal charges against the executive branch. They won't act if they think we don't care. A phone call to DC works best. The most effective call is short, calm and simple. Just like the truth, which is simple, short and calm.

*" To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public. But it is even more important to tell the truth, pleasant or unpleasant, about him than about anyone else."*

Teddy Roosevelt

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
OF MEETING 5 Jul 2007**  
*By Joan Cronk*



Call to order at 7:07 by Lauren Adler, Acting-Chair. Roll call of officers, adoption of agenda, adoption of minutes followed.

Lauren gave the membership a quick update of events since the resignation of John Thompson. Lauren will continue as Acting Chair and a Special Election will be held in Sept.

There was no vice chair report. Treasurer's report followed. Due to a rule interpretation from the PDC on the use of two checking accounts the Treasurer will close the Club Account and only maintain the Victory Fund account. Senator Kastama took the floor and spoke on a diverse range of topics. Details can be found by accessing his web site at <http://www.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/kastama.htm>. Ellen Zulauf gave a brief update of the State Committee issues. State caucuses are scheduled for Feb 9th, 2008. The Washington State presidential primary will take place on Feb 19th, 2008.

The membership held a brief discussion of the 25<sup>th</sup> LDD endorsement policy, which is under reconstruction.

There was a long discussion about the vacancy of the Chair position. There will be a Special Election in September. All PCO's and (dues paid) general members may serve and candidates are urged to make themselves known ASAP. Ballots for Chair will be cast by PCO's only, as determined By-Laws. The Vice Chair must be of a different gender than the Chair.

New Business: The E board recommended the donation of \$50 to the Prison Fellowship in memory of Norm Hayes. Moved, Seconded and PWO.

Candidates Dave Lovell (Port Commissioner), Cindy Poysnick (Puyallup School Board) and Kathy Turner (Puyallup City Council) running for the At-Large Council seat, addressed the group.

County Chair Nathe Lawver reminded the membership of a memorial service for Dave Minkel. He also encouraged all PCOs to attend the 7/12 PC Dems meeting. Volunteers are needed for both the Edgewood Picnic and the County Picnic on Aug 12 and also the Fair booth.

Members were reminded of the picnic at Cal Goings home on 7/21.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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***A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards.***

*Teddy Roosevelt*

**25th District Democratic (LDD) Membership Form -**

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **City/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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).

I've enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Club Dues, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Victory Fund. Please write dues checks to 25th LDD and Victory Fund Checks to 25th District Victory Fund (donations to both can be on same check).

**NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

**Mail to**

**25th LDD, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373**



IS ANYONE  
OUT THERE  
LISTENING?

**Well, you should be if you want the truth about politics  
by Audrey and Frank 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  
<http://www.liberaltopia.org>. There is a link on the right hand side of  
the screen that says: Frank and Audrey. Tune in or be tuned out.**

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