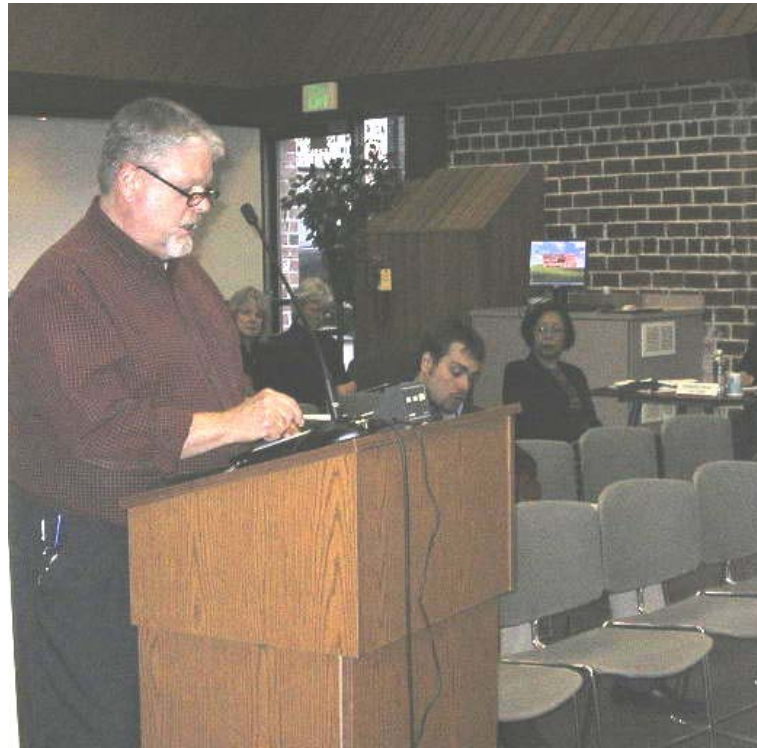




25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**CHARLEY STOKES SPEAKING
TO PUYALLUP COUNCIL**

MEETINGS

NOTICE: New E-Board Meeting Place -
1 May Mon E-Board meets the Monday before the regular meeting at 6:30PM at **Fire Station 66, 9813 128th St. E., Puyallup.**

4 May Thu 7PM 25th LDOC will meet at Puyallup Library, 324 S. Meridian.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We have been receiving returned newsletters and emails. We are trying to deliver to everyone all the information from the 25th LDD - but we can't . Please let us know if you change your home address, phone number or email address so we can send you the latest news from the 25th LDD. Send change of home address/phone numbers to Carolyn Merrival, Membership Chair, (253) 845-3195 or lakotalegends@comcast.net. Send Email changes to Ken Peach, FOCUS Publisher (253) 537-4591 or kmpeach@aol.com



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: cjejoan30@msn.com**

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For all other elected officials:
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Frank Blair, Columnist



**Note: E-Board Meeting
Place Changed!!!!!!!**

1 May Mon E-Board meets at
6:30 PM at Firestation 66,
9813 128th St E., Puyallup

4 May Thu 7 PM 25th LDD
meets in Puyallup Library.

13 May Sat DEADLINE for
FOCUS Items, articles and
pictures.

20 May Cemetery Cleanup -
Signup now to help.

29 May Mon E-Board meets
at 6:30 PM at Fire Station 66,
9813 128th St. E., Puyallup.

1 Jun Thu 7 PM 25th LDD
meets in Puyallup Library.

**CHANGES IN
UPCOMINGS!**

6 July meeting of 25th LDD
will meet in the Summit
Library, 5107 112th St. E.,
Puyallup.

3 Aug meeting of 25th LDD
will meet in the Korum
YMCA, 302 43rd Ave., SE,
Puyallup

28 Sep Homestyle Chili
Cookoff. For Info ask Ken.

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

**LOCAL CITIZENS
OPPOSE CHANGE**

By Joan R. Cronk

The City Council meeting called to discuss a proposition to convert three City Council seats to at-large positions held a few surprises. Apparently citizens in Puyallup still feel that the purest form of democracy is one in which they have a close relationship with their representatives, and this new proposition would change all that. City Attorney Gary McLean said that many cities have all at-large positions and this encourages participation in the election process.

All of the citizens who spoke to this issue disagreed with him. Some vehemently! Comments ranged from City Council members were elected to serve districts and that was the way it should stay to if the Council wanted to change things, they should put it up to a vote by the citizens. Some even called the move unethical.

The 25th District's Charley Stokes spoke to the group and urged the council to rethink this proposal. "Clearly it would work in favor of incumbents," he said, "and would discourage citizen participation in public office." Stokes recommended six smaller districts of roughly equal population and feels that this would encourage broader

participation and more grass roots campaigning. He said the proposed change would work in favor of current incumbents.

There was some discussion by the City Council to put off the vote on this issue until they have had time to distribute the city newsletter in mid-May and allow more discussion at public meetings.

Don Malloy, who represents District III, voiced a great deal of concern about rushing into a vote at this time and listened closely to everyone who spoke. He said there is no ethical issue as far as he is concerned and still supports the change, but requested that the vote be delayed.

Kathy Turner, District II, stated that all members already serve the entire city and said all the newer cities in Pierce County are at-large seats. "We always represent the entire city," she said.

Val Offenbecher, District I, stressed the council needs to keep in mind, "What is best for Puyallup?" Clearly all the citizens in attendance at the meeting felt that the change would not benefit them.

The City Attorney had the last word and said to the Council, "This is your policy decision to make. None of the council is acting in an unethical fashion. This is a policy, not an ethical issue."

Our own Charley Stokes summed it up by saying, "This may be legal, but it doesn't feel right."

Citizens are encouraged to attend future City Council meetings, to watch for the May Newsletter and then to attend the June 5 meeting when a second reading on the proposed ordinance will take place. In addition to that, you may contact your representatives at the numbers listed below. There will be a council meeting May 1 and May 15, in addition to the June 5 second reading on the proposed ordinance.

District I George Dill
(253) 770-0338

Val Offenbecker (253)
848 0235

District II Kathy Turner
(253) 848 2507 Marc
Brouillet (253) 841 2191

District III Don Malloy
(253) 841 3433 Mike
Deal (253) 845 2399

Or (253) 841 5584

At Large: Ken Martin
(253) 845 5022

25TH LDD MINUTES April 6, 2006

Call To Order 7:05 PM by Jim Morrell, Vice-Chair. Meeting location: Puyallup Library. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Officers and Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report followed.

Jerry Beckendorf, Legislative Chair, spoke re: Delay's resignation and that April 28th, "SEAFAIR BAR & GRILL", 3878 Center St, Tacoma will host an all you can eat crab and sea food event in support of a National Appreciation of OSHA Law. Tickets: \$15 payable at the door.

In the absence of our Membership Chair, Jim asked several newcomers to introduce themselves.

Lauren Adler thanked the membership for their contributions that allowed her and Melissa Thompson and Ryan Agnew to attend the State Young Democrat Convention.

County Councilman Calvin Goings thanked the membership for supporting Betsy Stubbs and the South Hill Community Council from the attempted take-over by pro development interest and relayed his involvement in efforts to have road impact fees enacted. He extended an invitation to the membership for the 'first annual' Goings Barnyard BBQ on Saturday, July

22 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM at the Goings Farm, 5421 Vickery Ave E (phone 253 926-8800) Note: This will be a conflict with the 25th LDD Picnic. He also distributed a resource packet of information and contacts for Pierce county government. He then took several questions from the members.

Representative Dawn Morrell spoke on her efforts in getting the Veterans Innovation Program (VIP) Defender Bill passed, a matching funds program in which returning armed forces individuals can receive up to \$500. The program contains provisions for receiving contributions from the public. Frank Blair suggested using the 'High-Five Fund' as contribution to the Defender Bill funds. Rep Morrell had high praise for Governor Christine Gregoire for her support and leadership for health care, labor issues and the environmental issues. She also had high praise for Councilman Goings efforts to secure open space lands in Pierce County.

Allisa Haslam – Field Director for NARAL Pro-Choice Washington spoke to the membership about the current status of sex and reproduction education in the Puyallup School District, which is **NONE** and the need for the School Board to adopt

the guidelines published by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Health regarding effective Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention and discussed the Life Choices "Share Program"; a faith based 501 (3)(c) organization, which had been operating on campus at PHS. This program requires instructors to teach ***abstinence until marriage only***. Active testimony before the school board has removed this program from campus. Now active testimony is needed to stimulate the board to adopt comprehensive sex and health education standards. Lauren Adler offered that half the blood collected at Puyallup High School last year had to be discarded because it was contaminated with some form of sexually transmitted disease (STD)!

Jim reminded the membership of the Convention and Caucuses to be held at the IBEW Hall on Saturday. Jim also reminded the membership about the Volunteer Recognition/Mary Bryan award dinner coming up on April 21 and called for volunteers to help set-up and clean-up. Sign up sheets were on the door table. There will be a silent auction coordinated by Charley Stokes. Please

contact Charley at 848-8431 about your contributions for the auction. Call for volunteers to assist with the cemetery clean up on May 20th at the Orting Soldiers Home. Jim offered a reminder of the picnic on July 22nd (see conflict with the Calvin BBQ) and about the chili cook-off on September 28th. Jim made a call for ride sharing to help get people to the meetings.

Moved by Jerry Beckendorf to untable motion by Ray Green concerning the endorsement of Darcy Burner for Congress. Jim Morrell suggested holding the endorsement until after the filing date is passed. Motion was seconded, and passed without objection. There was a question about whether by-law revisions covered endorsements. Discussed and resolved that old endorsement standards still apply. John Thompson shared that a 2/3 vote in favor would allow an early endorsement. Discussed rules suspension to call the question. Moved and seconded, passed without objection to temporarily suspend the rules. Question called. Motion passed without objection, to endorse Darcy Burner campaign.

The July meeting location will change from the downtown library, to the Summit Library, 5107 112th

St E.

The August meeting location will be the Korum YMCA, 302 43rd Ave SE.

Motion was made by Frank Blair to use funds from the Club funds and not the Victory fund to pay for the Volunteer Awards dinner. Seconded, discussed and passed without objection.

Charley Stokes spoke on a proposal by the Puyallup City Council to change the election of council members from district to at-large seats and the impact this could have on city residents. He proposed a Resolution of Non Support for consideration by members living in the city. It was discussed and agreed that the resolution and accompanying background articles be included in the May newsletter and distributed to city members via email, with final vote on the resolution taking place at the May meeting. An invitation will be extended to the Mayor and Council members to attend the May meeting to present their arguments in favor of the proposal.

Remember to bring contributions for the food bank to all future meetings.

Bush-isms given.

It was moved, seconded and passed without objection to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Charley Stokes, Secretary



20 May Clean-up at the Old Soldier Cemetery in Orting. Volunteers are needed. Contact: Audrey (253) 531-2239



9 - 11 Meeker's Day, Puyallup. Volunteers are needed to cover the booth all three days. Contact: Audrey (253) 531-2239



22 Jul 25th LDD Picnic For Info Contact: Audrey (253) 531-2239



The following persons wish to join us at the meetings if they had transportation:

Jill Bertocchnini
4920 161st St E. Tacoma

Phone: 536-7383

James Cassidy
15708 58th Ave E., Tacoma
Phone: 531-4197



Dear Fellow 25th
Legislative District
Democrat,
Puyallup
Residents-

The Puyallup City Council has proposed a change to the Puyallup Municipal Code that describes how city council members are elected.

Please take a moment to read through the following information on this issue.

There are two back ground articles from the Puyallup Herald concerning the Council proposal for additional at-large seats, with web links to the Herald site that the articles came from. There was also a file which is a copy of the "Letter from the Editor, On the Hot Seat" from the April 6 Herald, titled "Voters Should Decide", calling for a public vote on any council election process change.

A 'Resolution of Non Support' of this Council proposal has been drafted for discussion and vote by the 25th LDD membership at the upcoming May meeting. Mayor Mike Deal has been extended an invitation, which includes all interested council members, to come to the May meeting and speak to the membership to present their reasoning for the redistribution of council representation.

Please make plans to attend.

Charley Stokes
253.848.8431
cwstokes@earthlink.net

**25th Legislative District Democrats
Resolution In Non Support of the Proposed Changes
To the Election Process For Members to**

The City Council, City of Puyallup

WHEREAS the City of Puyallup has historically designated two council member positions from each of three council member districts within the city, with a single council member at-large and

WHEREAS the council members within each council district are responsible to their constituents that live within the council district and

WHEREAS council members who are at-large are not typically held to the same scrutiny as district members and

WHEREAS the City of Puyallup City Council has proposed changing the allocation of council members from two members from each council district with one at-large member, to one council member from each of three council districts with four at-large council members and

WHEREAS Citizens of the City of Puyallup should have a voice in how their City Council members are elected,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the 25th Legislative District Democrats go on record opposing the proposal by the City of Puyallup City Council changing the process of electing city council members and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 25th Legislative District Democrats communicate this resolution to all Puyallup City Council members, District Legislators, the news media and all interested parties in support of this issue.

This resolution will be discussed and voted upon at the May 4th meeting of the 25th LDD to be held in the downtown Puyallup Library. The meeting will start at 7PM and everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and express your opinion.

PUYALLUP COUNCIL REPLY

In 2001, following a census year, the Puyallup City Council revised the council district boundaries to address the changes occurring in Puyallup. Although Councilmembers discussed the proposed changes in duly-noticed open public meetings, there was little or no public comment offered on the subject. The new lines changed some districts dramatically and did not affect others. Upon implementation, some people were in new districts voting for different council members; some no longer voted in the districts where they actively supported certain candidates; and most, so it seems, did not notice or quietly accepted the changes.

Since 2001, nine separate annexations have occurred, causing council to devote attention to how such areas are to be assigned to particular districts and other appropriate changes in light of such annexations and changes in population.

As Puyallup continues to grow, district boundaries must, by Washington State law, be adjusted to accommodate newly annexed areas, increased population, and to remain balanced.

Some city staff members recommend that council districts should be drawn in a North/South orientation, rather than the East/West method used today. However, if re-districting occurred on a North/South basis, the City could end up with 5 incumbent members in the same district.

We found that in most neighboring cities, council seats *are elected at large*. Sumner, Fife, Lakewood, University Place, Edgewood, Auburn, Kent, Renton, Des Moines, Lacey and Olympia are a few examples. Tacoma has 5 districts, each with one representative and 4 at-large, including the Mayor. At our recent workshop, council member George Dill supported making all council positions at-large. Although his suggestion was publicly discussed, the majority of members felt that blending more at-large positions with district positions and seeing how it worked might be the best approach. That is the current proposal before the Council.

The Mayor's position, which is now a rotated position, also fits well with at-large elections, since the Mayor represents the entire city and currently is elected from within a single district. The Council then decided not to address re-districting until 2010, the next census, and to pursue at-large positions through a public hearing process.

Puyallup was incorporated in 1890 and districts, then known as wards, were created in the city in 1892. In the years that followed, the legislature changed district/ward representation statutes. In one very significant change showing the legislature's preference for city council elections by all city residents rather than district-only races, state law now provides that Councilmembers elected by Districts/wards created before 1994 may be elected by residents of the district only; however, for any new cities or cities creating council district positions after 1994, those district positions allow district residents to vote in primaries, but at the general election, the entire population of the city votes for the district candidates. That may be one reason why most council positions are elected as at large positions, because, for most cities, the old district method, where only district voters elect their district councilmembers, is no longer an option allowed by the legislature.

Decisions and discussions on the city council sometimes can be very difficult, but never do we take any decision lightly. It has been suggested that there is an appearance of impropriety with the issue of increasing the number of at-large positions.

Councilmember Turner's decision to purchase a condominium in Puyallup was never a condition nor is it a factor in the need for addressing districts and at large-positions. It is not illegal or unethical for council members to move out of their district in the future. If they choose to run again, incumbent council members can simply file for a different district or they can choose to run at-large. Consider what a vibrant downtown we can have if efforts are positively directed towards investment, instead of negatively questioning an individual's intent.

As the at-large position discussion has unfolded, a number of relevant considerations have come to light:

1. 5 council members currently live within less than a mile radius from each another;
2. 2 others live within the same general neighborhood. (Manorwood);
3. 3 district council members have run un-opposed for a total of 8 times in our recent elections;
4. The single at-large council position has been contested at every election, demonstrating that citizen participation is greater in the single at-large position race than in the district position races;
5. The majority of cities comparable to Puyallup already have at-large positions;
6. The Puyallup School District elects all of its board members at-large; and
7. At-large positions will increase the opportunity for more candidates to run against whomever they choose, rather than only the member(s) living within their district.

With the best interests of our entire city at the center of our thoughts, at large positions are being considered. Final council action will not come until June, to allow adequate time for public input and citizen comments. Information regarding this topic will be included in the May city news letter and, although one public hearing has already been held on the subject, the Council will conduct another public hearing on June 5th.

The proposed change gives our citizens the same voice that the voters in other cities now enjoy—the ability to vote for a majority of the city council. That gives our voters a greater opportunity to let their opinions be heard, not only at a public hearing, but also at the polls.

Michael W. Deal, Mayor
City of Puyallup

Kathy R. Turner, Council Member
City of Puyallup

25th District Democratic (LDD) Membership Form -

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

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

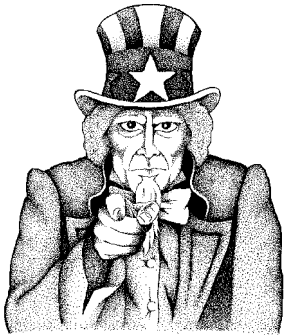
Phone: () _____ **City/Zip:** _____

Precinct: _____ **Email:** _____

New Dues now in effect: Evergreen (includes Senior, outside district, etc) \$10 per member; Rainier \$25; Chair's Voice \$50; Senators Club \$100 (can be paid in installments). If you already paid dues they are good for this year.

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

Mail to 25th LDD, PO Box 372, Puyallup, WA 98371



As of January 1st, membership dues are trickling in to the treasury. The 25th District desperately needs these funds to continue to operate and to support Democratic candidates.

PLEASE get your dues in as soon as possible!

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #569
TACOMA, WA

25th Legislative District
Democratic
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PO Box 372
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