

Minutes of the Progressive Caucus meeting in Ellensburg 6-29-2013

The meeting was chaired by Judith Shattuck. Also attending were David Spring, Mary (?), Martin Chaney, Becky Chaney, Brian Gunn, Jean Thomas, Mirta Spencer, Paul Spencer.

Issues

Three issues for emphasis:

- Clean elections/campaign finance
- Gun responsibility
- Coal/climate change

Initiative 594(?) would require background checks on gun sales. We should participate in signature gathering. The website also needs content for pull-down menus. Jean volunteered to review the writing style.

Do we need to change our process to allow the eboard to act by email on time critical issues? Should this be in the bylaws or in the endorsement process? Are Skype meetings a possibility? (Martha pointed out that there is serious quality degradation if there are too many people participating.) Jean will look into this and write a proposal.

Summary of Camp Wellstone

Martin, Becky, Brian, Patty, Jean and Judith attended. Sound Alliance has worked on a King county law change in how immigrants are dealt with. Issue organizing, candidate and campaign tracks were available. We should consider buying extra workbooks for other progressive organizers in the state. Jean is working on a workshop for caucus members. We should put a link to Wellstone site on our webpage. Marcus Ricelli has been one of the trainers.

Endorsements

Any proposed endorsement should include copies of LD or county questionnaires if they have already filled out. We strongly recommend that candidates seeking our endorsement do this.

Getting rid of Rodney Tom and Andy Hill, both of whom have been approached to run against Susan DelBene, should be a top priority.

We need to hear from the task force on endorsements proposed at the Chelan meeting in April.

Chapter formation

This should be put on the September meeting agenda. Martin and Becky are starting a PDA chapter in East King County to be used as an organizing tool.

Outreach and fundraising

Brian wrote an outreach letter that Judith sent to former members. Martin and Becky will work on a fundraising letter. Also write letters or emails inviting PCOs to join.

The Chained CPI

The King County Democrats and the 30th Legislative District Democrats passed a resolution stating that there will be no endorsement of candidates that vote in favor of the chained CPI or other Social

Security cuts. We should try to get this passed in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish and Spokane counties.

Other items and good of the order

The DNC western meeting is in Phoenix this August.

Paul—there is a very bad situation in national forests with pine bark beetle infestation.

Let's send a letter of support to Wendy Davis for standing up to Texas Republicans.

We need to have a list of newspapers and blogs to advertise our endorsements.

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Martha Koester
Secretary
September 7, 2013