



43RD DISTRICT ENDORSEMENTS

An energetic packed house of members, candidates, campaign workers and press spilled out the door at University Baptist Church on Tuesday, August 9, as the 43rd voted on its endorsements for the primary election.

Endorsed without opposition were **Ron Sims** for County Executive, **Larry Gossett** and **Larry Phillips** for County Council Districts 4 and 2, **Laurence Molloy** for Port Commission #1, **Nick Licata** for City Council #6, and **Tom Carr** for City Attorney. **Sue Rahr** was endorsed to continue as Sheriff.

For Mayor, incumbent Greg Nickels received only 37 votes out of 92, so the district made no endorsement. Frustration in the audience over the South Lake Union trolley line, the Monorail, Hizzoner's policies on Broadway and University District rejuvenation, and the loss of the Sound Transit light rail station on First Hill spilled over onto the ballot.

For City Council #2, after a vigorous campaign for the endorsement, incumbent **Richard Conlin** defeated Paige Miller and no-show Darlene Madenwald, pulling 74 votes from 94 ballots cast.

For City Council #4, incumbent **Jan Drago** barely survived. Drago received only 52 votes out of 94 ballots against Casey Corr and Angel Bolanos. Later on the reconsideration ballot, after about 50 members had left, she eked out 61.8% for the endorsement.

For City Council #8, **Dwight Pelz** led a tight 3-way fight with incumbent Richard McIver and Robert Rosencrantz 51-35-32. On reconsideration Pelz slipped over the line with a 62.7% vote and the endorsement.

For Port Commission #3, with no incumbent, a tight contest among waterfront union activist Rich Berkowitz, building trades leader Peter Coates and longtime Democrat and former City Treasurer Lloyd Hara split 28-33-45 on the first ballot, with the rest scattered. On reconsideration, **Peter Coates** and **Lloyd Hara** won a joint endorsement.

For Port Commission #4, Commission President Pat Davis, despite big-name endorsements, lost by 56-28 to 43rd member **Jack Jolley**.

Two incumbent elected Monorail Board members, Cindy Laws and Cleve Stockmeyer, argued that they were part of the solution to the Monorail mess, not part of the problem. The members gave them a tentative pass for now, with both receiving just over half the vote but not an endorsement. Their races, as well as others in which we do not have an endorsed candidate who survived the primary, will be taken up for General Election endorsements by the 43rd at our next meeting, Tuesday, September 27.

No on Initiative 912 was the strongest of all. Rep. Ed Murray argued against the gas tax repeal, pointing out that the transportation package crafted by his committee was the best combination yet of money for replacing worn-out roads and bridges and money for public transportation. 91% of the members agreed.

On the dualing initiatives on medical malpractice, 89% endorsed **No on I-330**, the insurance companies' proposal, but did not endorse the trial lawyers' alternative, I-336 (50-35-14). Some argued that the subject is too fraught with complexities to be decided by initiative.

The Tim Eyman performance audit initiative went down handily, with the members endorsing **No on I-900** by a 71-6-24 vote.

The members approved **Yes on I-901**, the ban on indoor smoking, by a strong 76-8-5.

The candidates and positions endorsed by the district will be featured on our sample ballot, which we will be distributing by mail and door-to-door beginning in about two weeks. If you would like to help, contact Chair Richard Kelley at richardkelley@w-link.net or 949-7717.



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

IS CHOICE A RIGHT IF IT CAN'T BE EXERCISED?

BY RICHARD KELLEY

The nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court has once again brought front-and-center the issue of a woman's right to choose an abortion. Bush clearly intends to shift the Court away from *Roe v. Wade*. Roberts, who opposes abortion, would replace Sandra Day O'Connor, one of the six justices who have voted to uphold the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, but who was never a strongly pro-choice vote. Her position was always nuanced and dependent on the specifics of the case presented. Roberts suffers no such ambiguity.

Many people have viewed choice as a yes or no question. Either you support legalized abortion or you don't. In political reality, it has never been that simple. Even here in Washington, which legalized abortion three years before *Roe v. Wade*, the line was not crystal clear. Referendum 20, approved by 56% of Washington voters in the 1970 General Election, was quite a modest step forward: it authorized an abortion only by a doctor, only during the first four months of a pregnancy, only for a woman who lived in the state for three months prior, only for a married woman if her husband consented, only for a minor if her parents consented, and only if the hospital or clinic had no

objection. It was not so much a declaration of a right as a political compromise, with individual legislators' fingerprints all over it.

Roe v. Wade was different, in the way a Supreme Court decision can be: a statement of a Constitutional right, details to follow.

But what is the real status of that right today?

A right, Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote, is not a right unless it can be exercised. The right to vote was meaningless for African-Americans in the South as long as they were prevented from registering and if registered forced to pay an unaffordable poll tax. In the same way, the right of a woman to choose an abortion now is severely limited by the reality on the ground of abortion availability.

According to a report by S.K. Henshaw, in 2000 87% of all U.S. counties and 97% of all rural U.S. counties had no abortion provider. These counties were home to 34% of all 15-44 year old women. There were just 1,819 physicians performing abortions in the entire United States, down from 2,000 four years earlier. Since 1982, the number of abortion providers had decreased by 37% and the number of hospitals pro-

viding abortions had decreased by 57%. More recent reports indicate that the decline in providers has continued since then.

One of the major reasons for the declining availability of abortion is the harassment of abortion providers and their supporters. In 2000, more than half of all U.S. providers experienced harassment by anti-choice individu-

A right is not a right unless it can be exercised.

Justice Thurgood Marshall

als/groups. In many, mostly rural areas, this has been part of a focused campaign aimed at driving them out of the community. In some, often high-profile cases, the harassment has culminated in bombings and murder.

But that must be Mississippi, you say, or the wilds of Indiana. Surely it is not a problem in Washington?

By 2000, 74% of Washington counties had no abortion provider, and some providers have closed since. The background of community acceptance or rejection of abortion is not all that easy to read, when we note that 22 of 39 counties voted for Referendum 20 in 1970. Clearly, since then the religious right has become much more aggressive, more effective, and more dominant in the public life of rural Washington.

An example of the shift is illustrated in the State Health Department statistics for 2003. The 152 women in Chelan county who opted for an abortion went to Seattle, Spokane or even Yakima to have it done- not one was performed in Chelan. Yet Chelan County had voted for Referendum 20 in 1970. Other counties illustrate the failure of local communities to effectuate women's right of choice: In Cowlitz County, 248 of the 269 women having abortions went out of state; in Garfield, Columbia, Lincoln, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Kittitas, Adams, Asotin, Lewis and Wahkiakum every single woman seeking an abortion had to go out of the county or out of the state.

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WE NEED YOU!

Lynne Dodson and Lisa Kothari have volunteered to take up the role of "Volunteer Coordinator" for the 43rd District Democrats. We are quite excited to work with the whole of the 43rd District to coordinate the volunteer positions, answer any of your volunteer inquiries, and provide updates as to what opportunities are available each month for volunteers via the newsletter and during the district monthly meetings.

Please find a form in this latest issue that asks each of you to update your contact information, as well as to indicate the types of volunteer opportunities you are interested in, as well as the amount of time you are willing to commit. **Please fill this form in fully, and return it to: Lynne Dodson, 506 E. Howell #101 Seattle, WA 98122 at your earliest convenience.** Lynne and Lisa will be coordinating this information into a volunteer database that will make the coordination of activities and volunteers much more streamlined and efficient.

We would also like to announce two on-going volunteer needs that the 43rd District Democrats have on an on-going basis. These include: the monthly newsletter and set-up/clean up of the monthly meetings.

The Monthly Newsletter: Ideally, we need 8-10 people who are interested in working on the newsletter on a monthly basis. The newsletter committee needs people who will participate in folding and labeling to prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Monthly Meetings: Ideally, we need 4 people to show up 45 minutes before the meeting to set up the room, 2 people to staff the front entrance table as people arrive, and 4 people after the meeting who can return the room to its normal state. These tasks can be handled by the same group of 4 people for a given month, or split up among different groups of people.

Please alert Lynne and/or Lisa immediately if you are interested in these two volunteer opportunities, and we will work to coordinate the effort. We look forward to working with the 43rd District Democrats in this capacity. If you should have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact us at: Lynned@riseup.net or lisa.ruben@gmail.com.

IS CHOICE A RIGHT....CON'T

Many women seeking abortions are very young, poor, and without family support in their decision. For many of them, travel out of town is impossible. Their right to choose is stillborn.

Our political agenda on choice cannot begin and end with Roe v. Wade. The practical work of creating and supporting providers, public if need be, and assisting women with information and arrangements needs to be part of our state political agenda, or the battle to win the right will have been wasted.

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PODCASTING

The latest buzz is focused on Podcasting. While the technology is relatively new, it is becoming an exciting alternative to radio because the user can choose what shows they want to listen to and when they want to hear them. The ever expanding genres include politics, music, talk radio, comedy, news, science, health, etc.

If you are interested in getting free and unique audio content, podcasting is for you. To get started you will need a computer, an iPod, MP3 player or other media player. Your computer will need an internet link and a portable media player. You can stop at this point if you don't want to invest in an iPod or MP3 player. Otherwise, if you have an iPod, you will need to download iTunes 4.9 (the current version as of print date) and you are on your way to finding and downloading free podcasts.

One of the first pioneering podcasters is Adam Curry, former MTV DJ and his blog www.live.curry.com contains information and links. iTunes currently has 3,000 podcasts and their library is expanding every week. Many online sites are currently adding podcasting to their features i.e. The Note at www.abcnews.go.com.

CBS Looking for Podcasters

CBS has announced a [Podcasting Call](#). The network is searching for an "amateur DJ" to interview CBS stars and create a podcast about the upcoming fall season.

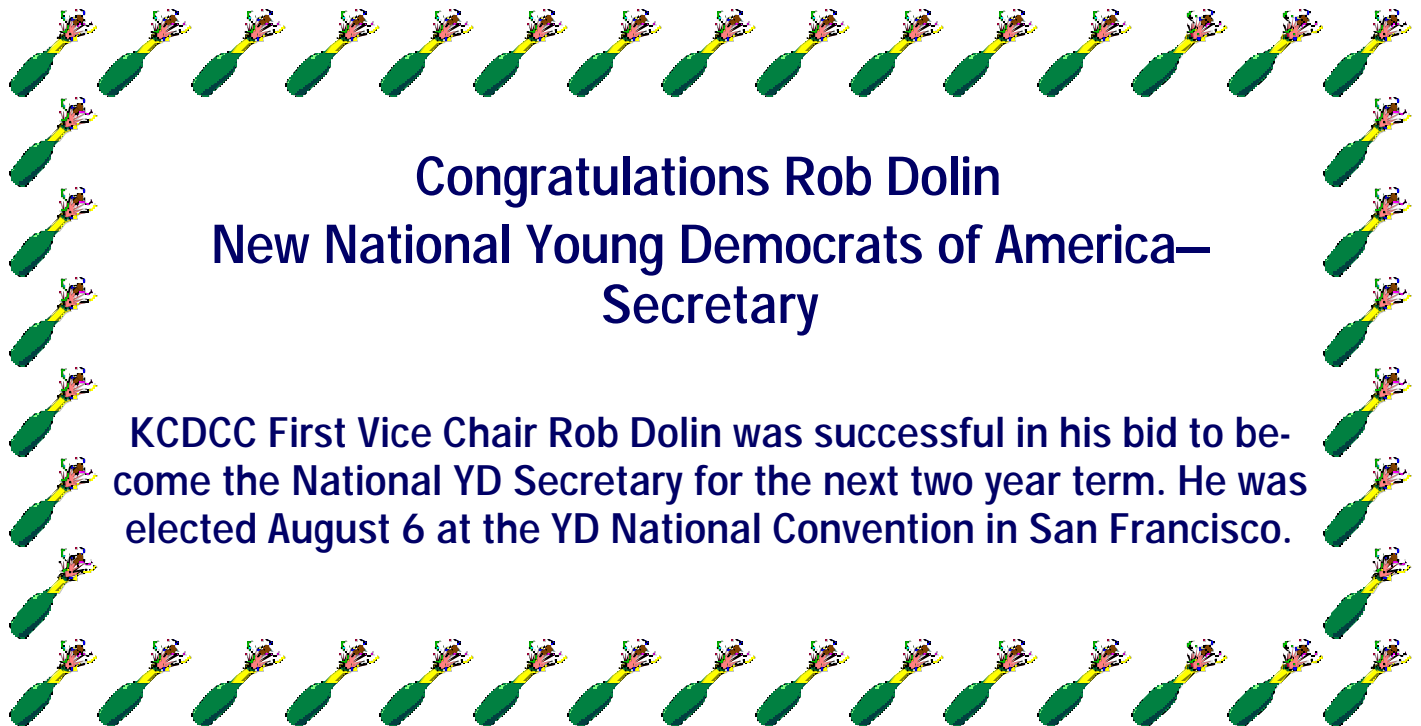
The podcaster will join top DJs at the CBS Radio Junket on September 10 in Hollywood to interview CBS talent for the podcast, which will be made available to listeners via CBS.com and Infinity Broadcasting's San Francisco-based KYOURADIO, the world's first-ever podcasting radio station.

For consideration, podcasters need to upload a mock three-minute interview. Details are provided at www.cbs.com.

NASA Astronaut Steve Robinson First Podcaster From Space

NASA has announced that STS-114 Mission Specialist Steve Robinson has transmitted the first "podcast" from space. The recording was made on the Space Shuttle Discovery, in orbit over Indonesia.

No podcast newsfeed is available at this time, but NASA has published an [MP3 download at www1.nasa.gov/mp3/124708main_sts114_robinson_podcast.mp3](#).



A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: U.S. EMPLOYERS AND THE PROVISION OF HEALTH INSURANCE TO EMPLOYEES

Although employer-based health insurance forms the backbone of the U.S. health insurance system, it has been slowly eroding. Between 2000 and 2003, the number of Americans without health insurance coverage grew by 5 million, with nearly the entire increase attributed to a decline in employer-sponsored coverage.

When employers do not provide health insurance to their own employees, those workers' medical costs are met by other sources. A new study by researchers at The Commonwealth Fund finds that the largest part of these costs is paid for by other employers, who spend an estimated \$31 billion to cover these workers through dependent coverage. That is in addition to the estimated \$150 billion they spend on their own workers' health care costs.

In "[A Shared Responsibility: U.S. Employers and the Provision of Health Insurance to Employees](#)" (Inquiry, Spring 2005), the Fund's Sara R. Collins, Ph.D., Karen Davis, Ph.D., and Alice Ho explore the characteristics of workers who do not receive coverage from their own firms; examine how health care costs are spread across workers, employers, and the government; and recommend policy options to expand and strengthen employer-sponsored coverage.

WORKERS WITHOUT JOB-BASED COVERAGE

According to the 2001 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 35.9 million of 112.8 million working Americans do not have coverage from their employers at any time during the year. Most of these—22 million—lack coverage because their employers do not offer it to them, while 11.2 million are offered insurance but decline to take it. Nearly 13 million workers are uninsured and most of them, 9.5 million, were not offered coverage by their employers. Workers in small firms are at the greatest risk of lacking job-based coverage: just 44 percent of workers in establishments with fewer than 25 employees have health insurance through their jobs. However, millions of workers in large companies are also without coverage. More than one-quarter of employees in companies with 500 or more workers do not receive employer-based coverage, the authors say.

Low wages, in both small and large firms, is another known risk factor. Just 47 percent of workers earning less than \$10 per hour have insurance from their companies, compared with 80 percent of those earning more than \$15 per hour. Workers in low-income households also tend to have jobs without employer-sponsored coverage. About one-quarter (26%) of workers living in households with incomes under the federal poverty level have insurance through their companies, compared with three-quarters of workers with incomes above 400 percent of the poverty level. These workers lack access to other employer-based insurance, the authors say, either because they are the only worker in their household, other family members are without employer-sponsored coverage, or other family members' job-based insurance does not cover dependents. In all, nearly 70 percent of this group is outside the employer-based system.

Youth is also a risk factor for not having employer-sponsored coverage. Only 54 per-cent of workers ages 19 to 29 receive job-based coverage.

WORKER HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

Of an estimated \$268 billion spent on health care for working adults, ages 19 to 64, in 2004, just over one-half (\$150 billion) was provided by own-employer insurance, leaving \$118 billion to be covered by other sources. These include employers that cover workers who are employed elsewhere (\$31 billion), public pro-grams (\$8 billion), and other sources which include charity and bad debt (\$13 billion). Workers, them-selves, also pay a portion of these costs, either through out-of-pocket expenses (\$58 billion) or private individual insurance premiums (\$3 billion).

Health spending, per capita, varies widely by primary source of coverage. Not surprisingly, health spending is lower for the uninsured (\$700) and those covered under other private insurance (\$1,677). Out-of-pocket costs are higher for these groups, and consequently they likely use fewer services. In contrast, spending by workers who are covered by their own employer is higher—about \$2,600 per year, of which \$1,945 is covered by insurance.

STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN EMPLOYER COVERAGE

If more major U.S. companies eliminate coverage, or make it less affordable by shifting more of their costs to employees in the form of higher deductibles, greater premium contributions or copayments, employer-sponsored coverage may continue to decline. Targeted policy strategies, however, could help curb this erosion and increase coverage for more Americans. One immediate strategy would be to provide tax credits or premium assistance to low-wage workers to make coverage more affordable. About 11 million workers are offered insurance but decline it; about 2.5 million of them are uninsured.

Another strategy, proposed by Senators John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), is to reduce and stabilize premiums for smaller firms through reinsurance or stop-loss coverage. New York State’s Healthy New York program, which has successfully enrolled about 123,000 people since it began in 2001, uses this strategy to provide lower premiums for small employers. A third strategy involves creating larger purchasing pools—a parallel to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, for example—for small businesses to get better premiums and benefits, as well as more choices.

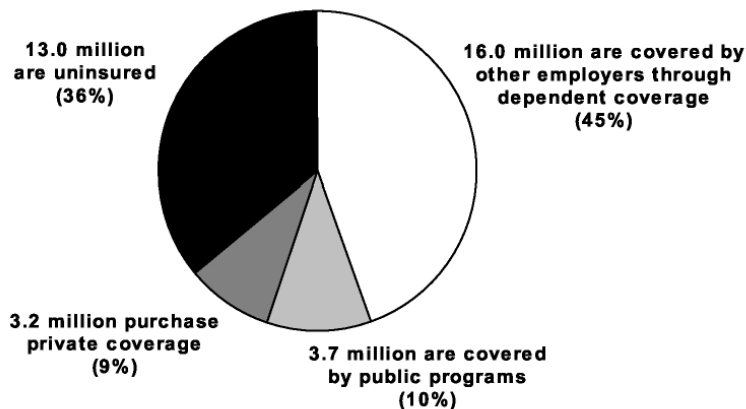
There are many incremental changes, as well, that employers could make to improve coverage, like covering young adults under their parents’ policies up to age 23 or 25, whether or not they are full-time college students; limiting waiting periods for new employees; and continuing coverage for employees for two months after termination of employment. “Policy options like these, designed to strengthen the employer-based system,” say the authors, “would help stem the rising tide of uninsured Americans and spread the costs of coverage more equitably across workers, employers, and government.”

35.9 Million Workers Do Not Have Coverage from Their Own Employers

Of these workers . . .

35.9 Million Workers Do Not Have Coverage from Their Own Employers

Of these workers . . .



Source: S. R. Collins, K. Davis, and A. Ho, “A Shared Responsibility: U.S. Employers and the Provision of Health Insurance to Employees,” *Inquiry* 42 (Spring 2005): 6–15.

Sara R. Collins, Ph.D.
 Karen Davis, Ph.D.
 Alice Ho

Commonwealth Fund Pub #839
 June 2005

AUGUST

Daily

Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090

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|---|---|---|
| <p>16 PLAN
 Progressive Legislative Action Network
 Launch: Seattle
 Noon to 6pm
 Bell Harbor Conference Center
 2211 Alaskan Way (Pier 66)
 Cost: \$35
 Keynote speaker: Senator John Edwards
 Master of Ceremonies: Willie L. Brown, Jr.
 Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer
 www.progressivestates.org</p> | <p>16 2005 Magnuson Awards
 Special Guest:
 Senator John Edwards
 Honoring: The Governor's Legal Defense Team and other Grassroots Democrats
 5:00 Reception and auction
 6:15 Awards Ceremony
 Benaroya Hall, 200 University St.
 Seattle</p> <p>19 KCDCC Candidate Forum
 Seattle Labor Temple, Hall I
 6:30 pm</p> | <p>23 KCDCC Endorsement Meeting
 Seattle Labor Temple, Hall I
 5:30 pm</p> <p>25 1st District Picnic
 Cedar Grove Park
 22421 9th Ave SE, Bothell
 5:30 to 8:00 pm
 Suggested Donation: 5:00</p> <p>Please visit www.43rddems.org for additional listings.</p> <p>Don't see your event listed?
 Please send all event information to Elva at editor43rddems@hotmail.com</p> |
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SEPTEMBER

Daily

Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090

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|--|---|--|
| <p>9 Mainstream or Extreme
 The Future of the Republican Party
 8:00pm, Meany Hall
 University of Washington
 www.foolproof.org</p> | <p>16—17 Summer State Committee Meeting
 Quality Inn/Comfort Inn
 101 128th SE
 Everett, WA 98208
 Shawna Ousse (206) 583-0664</p> | <p>24 Whose Planet Is It, Anyway?
 Strategies for a Green Future
 8:00pm, Paramount Theatre
 Seattle
 www.foolproof.org</p> |
| <p>16 36th District 10th Annual Garden Party and Auction
 West Seattle Nursery
 5275 California Ave SW,
 6:00 pm
 www.34dems.org</p> | <p>27 43 District Meeting
 7:30 to 9:00 pm
 University Baptist Church
 NE 47th and 12th NE</p> | |

Attention Contributors

We have expanded our newsletter in order to focus on more substantive and topical articles. We urge the contribution of articles from any member on a topic of general interest. Editing will be done because of space and/or page constraints. The editor reserves the right to reject any news item or article.

Articles: We welcome articles reporting on events and news. All items should be typed and spell-checked and submitted in an email, in Word or text format.

Events: All announcements and/or calendar events should be emailed including available hyperlinks.

Deadlines: The deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month.

43rd District Democrats
Richard Kelley, Chair
6312 18th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

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Next Meeting

September 27, 2005
7:30 pm—9:00 pm
University Baptist
Church
NE 47th and 12th NE

Renew your dues TODAY!

Please take a moment to look at your name as it is printed on this newsletter's Address Label. If "2005" appears after your name, Thank You! You are a dues paying member of the 43rd District Democrats. If "2005" does not appear, we hope you will send in your Membership Dues today. We need your dues to support this newsletter and our activities as we strengthen our operations.

Sign up today by clipping this form and mailing a check, payable to the
43rd District Democrats, c/o Lynn Chadsey, 2135 N. 51st Street, Seattle, WA 98103

Name* _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

**Please list all household names joining if membership is for a Family, Sponsor, or Donor Membership)*

Contribution Levels (Dues are for the period Jan—December 2005)

_____ Regular Membership (\$25)	_____ Family Membership (\$40)
_____ Sponsor Membership (\$43)	_____ Family Sponsor Membership (\$43)
_____ Donor Membership (\$100)	_____ Family Donor Membership (\$100)
_____ Limited Income Membership (\$5)	_____ Family Limited Income (\$10)

Opt in for an electronic newsletter.