



*A Grassroots
Organization
dedicated to
increasing political
participation!*

43rd Delivers Huge Democratic Margins

In the November General Election, the 43rd District produced record-breaking votes for Democratic Candidates.

In the Presidential race, we produced 63,346 votes for Kerry and Edwards, while holding Bush and Cheney to 9,406: a net margin of 53,940 for the Democratic ticket!

This margin is about 20,000 more than the 2000 margin for Gore over Bush. **It is the biggest margin any legislative district in Washington has ever produced for any Presidential candidate of any party.** Our percentage for Kerry, 85.4% was

also the highest in the state. The 43rd margin for Kerry was more than enough to offset all of Bush's net margin from Eastern and Southwestern Washington.

For the U.S. Senate, Patty Murray received 60,296 to George Nethercutt's 9,893. Most of the Democratic statewide candidates and our two State Representatives won similar margins, with two exceptions, Attorney General candidate Deborah Senn and Secretary of State candidate Laura Ruderman. Each carried the 43rd, but by a much smaller margin.

In the cliffhanger Governor's race, the 43rd pro-

duced a margin for Christine Gregoire that was more than 300 times her 130-vote statewide margin, even though she was not nearly as strong here as John Kerry and Patty Murray. She won the 43rd 56,755 to 13,122.

The tremendous results in the 43rd were not an accident. They were the result of three years of careful, energetic and organized outreach to our community and the tremendous personal efforts of 43rd PCOs and members.

These results are due to you.

Meeting Agenda

January 18, 2005
7:30pm—9:00pm
University Baptist Church
NE 47th and 12th NE

- 7:30 Call to order—
Richard Kelley, Chair
- Minutes—
Will Affleck-Asch,
Secretary
- Finance Report—
Lynn Chadsey,
Treasurer
- 7:40 Chair's Report
 - 1) Proposed Budget for 2005
 - 2) Election of Governor
 - 3) State Party reorganization
- 7:50 Vice Chairs' reports
- 8:00 Program —
Neal Traven, Vice Chair
- Light Rail to
Somewhere: Where
should the Roosevelt-
area Sound Transit
station be located?
- 8:40 Resolutions
- 8:55 Good of the Order
- 9:00 Adjournment

Learn more about Light Rail

Overall information about the "North Link" of the light rail:
<http://www.soundtransit.org/projects/svc/link/north/default.asp>

Documentation for 8th Ave:
http://www.soundtransit.org/projects/svc/link/north/8thAve_FactSheet.pdf

Documentation for 12th Ave:
http://www.soundtransit.org/projects/svc/link/north/12thAve_FactSheet.pdf

P-I article from October:
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/transportation/196349_transit22.html

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Note From the Chair



A Little Tax Issue With Big Implications

As you know from your holiday shopping, the Federal Government has a moratorium on state collection of sales tax on internet sales to out-of-state customers. If you buy a shirt from an Eddie Bauer store, you pay sales tax. If you call the store to order it, you pay sales tax. If you buy it over the internet, you do not pay sales tax. This odd policy has been in force for several years now. The original justification was that the internet was a tender sapling which needed nurturing, not (gasp!) taxing.

That may have been true, for about fifteen minutes. But now, with retail internet sales in the hundreds of billions, and growing faster than anything else in the economy, this permanent tax holiday is just a scam. The total amount of sales tax Washington State lost out on this year was \$483 million, and this loss is growing at an enormous rate. It is also not just revenue we might have had, but is directly reducing sales tax receipts as the internet becomes a bigger and bigger part of stores' sales. And it is not just tax avoidance, but seriously regressive tax avoidance: the average income of internet purchasers is far higher than the average income in their communities. This means that poor

folks are paying sales tax at Target and Fred Meyer while rich folks are paying nothing by shopping over the net.

When the Congress has considered bills to either put a Federal tax on internet sales or allow state sales taxes, internet merchants have wept and knashed their carefully bleached teeth, moaning that the power to tax is the power to destroy. Indeed. They also claimed that it would be so confusing to program fifty states' different tax rates into their computers that they would go bankrupt trying. These are the same people who can program a computer to recognize your face from millions of possibilities, and beat you at chess while you are waiting.

Now, a compact has been developed among the states, with the blessing of Congress, which would set a uniform sales tax structure, and start internet merchants paying their fair share of sales taxes. Enough states have to agree to the arrangement for Congress to lift the moratorium and let the plan go ahead by interstate compact. One of the states holding up the compact is – you guessed it! – Washington, which is more dependent on the sales tax than any other state.

Democratic State Representative Jim McIntire, our neighbor to the North in the 46th District, is chair of the House committee which will

be taking up the issue again this month. He is a supporter of the interstate compact, and is hopeful of success in this session.

The reason the interstate compact has not yet passed the Legislature is that there is a small difference between the way we distribute sales taxes and the way it would happen under the compact. We give the local share of the sales tax to the city (or county, if in an unincorporated area) where the sale occurred. Under the compact, the local share of the sales tax would go to the city where the customer lives. Not a big difference, you say? It would probably all come out in the wash, eh? Well, no.

Sales tax receipts have been the biggest single driver of cities' annexation and incorporation decisions for many years. This was ground into me during the time I spent negotiating on behalf of King County, across the table from the cities, in the Regional Finance and Governance process, an offshoot of Growth Management. A city would do a profit-and-loss statement on an area we wanted them to annex. If the area had little retail business, their answer was sure to be no, because they would pay out more in services than they would take in taxes.

Congratulations to our new 43rd Officers!

Our new 43rd Officers were elected at the December 14th reorganization meeting.

Chair

Richard Kelley

Secretary

Will Affleck -Asch

Treasurer

Lynn Chadsey

1st Vice Chair for Membership

Derek Standford

Vice Chair for Communications

Elva Gonzalez

Vice Chair for Events

Julian Wheeler

Vice Chair for Programs

Neal Traven

State Committee Man

David Kunselman

State Committee Woman

Lisa Stuebing

King County Committeeman

Bill Sherman

King County Committeeman Alternate

Charlie Bendock

King County Committeewoman

Linda Clifton

King County Committeewoman

Alternate Katie Evans

Past Chair

Javier Valdez

Electronic or Paper Newsletters?

Many organizations are opting to convert their existing print publications into electronic newsletters (e-newsletters) and for good reason.

E-newsletters can be developed for a fraction of the cost of their print counterparts and delivered to our membership instantly via email or archived on our website. The possible financial savings are enormous and would provide the extra funds

to run our organization, expand our GOTV activities, sponsor events, speakers, etc.

In order to receive an e-newsletter, you will need to "opt in" by contacting Elva at editor43dems@hotmail.com.

Otherwise, your paper newsletter will be continued to be delivered to you via snail mail.

Opt in for an electronic newsletter.

A Little Tax Issue With Big Implications con't

Purely residential areas were losers, costing more to service than they generated in taxes. So places like Tukwila built up enormous retail business areas, and reaped the sales taxes from all the surrounding region. They do not want to see the interstate compact succeed, because they would then receive only the sales tax money from their residents. Legislators have tried to work out some sort of an offset to ease the transition for the sales-tax-rich cities, but so far they are intransigent.

If we were to sign on to the tax compact, something very basic would change about the way cities and counties relate to each other. Cities would have a new incentive to annex residential areas. They would also have reason to say No when the next huge box store wants to swallow prime farmland, the way commercial developments destroyed the Green River Valley. An important result for Seattle is that the areas which border us on the South, White Center/North Highline and Skyway, would become much more

attractive in a tax/services analysis, and we might well want to annex them. This would improve public services in those areas and, particularly in the case of White Center, bring a vibrant multicultural community into our city, along with its many energetic immigrant business owners.

The power to tax is the power to destroy. Done right, however, it is also the power to shape our communities to a more rational and equitable design.

43rd District Democrats

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Calendar of Events

January

- 9 Understanding the Right Wing Message Machine, Rob Stein, Chairman, Democracy Alliance**
Richard Hugo House
1634 11th Ave., Seattle,
(Capitol Hill) 7:00 pm
RSVP: davek45@hotmail.com
- 12 Governor's Ball and Inauguration**
Olympia
- 13 City Club Congressional 2004 Review/2005 Preview**
Luncheon Forum 12:00-
1:45pm
\$25/Guests, \$30/Members
(206) 682-7395
www.seattlecityclub.org

- 18 43rd District Membership Meeting**
University Baptist Church Hall
4554 12th Ave NE (47th and
12th) 7:30pm—9:00pm
- 24 Author event:**
Sister Helen Prejean
*The Death of Innocents: An
Eyewitness Account of Wrong-
ful Executions*
Free event, Elliott Bay

February

- 15 43rd District Membership Meeting**
University Baptist Church Hall
4554 12th Ave NE (47th and
12th) 7:30pm—9:00pm

Submit events for the newsletter to
editor43dems@hotmail.com

A new year for the 43rd

We have a new set of officers (see the column with their contact information) and plans for a successful 2005. Now we need you to pay your 2005 dues—this is the fuel for most of what we do, because we don't take soft money, we don't have big contributors, and we have a lot to do.

Please use the envelope and form in this newsletter to send your dues today, while you are thinking about it. \$25 for one, \$40 for a household, \$43 for a sponsor membership, \$100 for a donor membership, and \$5 (or whatever you can afford) for a limited income membership.

Thank you for your support!