



THE ALERT

THE VOICE OF THE THUNDERING 36TH

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Report on the January General Membership Meeting

School funding, Metro Transit and the state budget were high on the agenda as nearly 40 members of the 36th District Democrats gathered for the regular monthly general membership meeting in January.

School Board member Peter Maier, who lives in the 36th District, spoke in favor of the two Seattle school levies that will be on the February 9th Special Election ballot. He noted that these are not new levies, but are renewals of the operating and a capital levies that provide much of the money to run, renovate and build schools. Renewing the levies is even more important this year, said School Board member Lynn Porterfield, because enrollments are increasing in the early grades, so much so that the school district expects to have to reopen five elementary schools to meet the demand. The district membership voted to endorse these measures.

John Burbank, another 36th District resident and head of the Economic Opportunity Institute, spoke about state finances, saying, "The worst thing we can do is cut the budget." Burbank said that cutting services just compounds problems from a recession and he proposed raising more revenue. Raising the sales tax on a list of items from fertilizer to software and repealing some exemptions could raise about \$800 million, and increasing the so-called sin taxes on soda, cigarettes, candy and gum, cosmetic surgery and other items could pull in another

\$585 million. Burbank also proposed moving away from regressive sales and B&O taxes and finally moving to enact an income tax on high earners; those with incomes over \$250,000 a year and a higher rate for those earning more than \$1 million per year.

Another resolution ran into rough waters. A spokesman for the estimated 30,000 Vietnamese-Americans in the greater Seattle area asked the meeting to endorse the symbolism of a flag representing these immigrants and urged that it be flown at many public meetings. Linh Thai made a reasoned pitch saying this might help move Vietnamese-Americans over to the Democratic Party, which they have never favored, and would support people who have spent 34 years trying to get over leaving their homeland. District members expressed reservations, wondering whether this meant retroactively supporting a war the U.S. lost and some had come to oppose. They also worried whether this might affect sister-city programs arranged with the current government in Vietnam. Consideration of the matter was placed on hold.

36th Democrats to Send Relief

The need for help in the earthquake-ravaged nation of Haiti is already daunting, but the projected needs as residents simply struggle to rebuild are staggering. The price of rebuilding over the following decade is estimated to be in the billions.

The 36th District Democrats will be collecting donations at our monthly general membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10th. We will be accepting donations of cash, checks and gently used clothing for the people of Haiti. All donations collected at the meeting will be sent to Haiti through the Red Cross.

The need for all of us to be generous is great, but the gratitude for our help will be even greater. On behalf of the Red Cross and the people of Haiti, I thank you for your generosity in these desperate times for so many people. - Noel Renggli, *Community & Service Chair*

You're Invited!

February General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Phinney Neighborhood Association
Community Hall

6532 Phinney Avenue N

Rub elbows with your neighbors.

Enjoy snacks and refreshments.

Get involved in the political process.

The Alert is published monthly by the 36th District Democrats. More than 500 copies are mailed to members and PCOs across the district, and to other Democratic Party Leadership.

The editorial deadline for each edition is 20 days prior to the following general membership meeting, which is held on the Second Wednesday of each month.

For more information, please contact jsandifer57@gmail.com

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Eric Hougan on Political Organizing

The recent election of Scott Brown (R-MA) to the U.S. Senate is a reminder that we, as Democrats, need to continually fight for our progressive values at all levels of government. As the grass roots base of the Democratic Party, we can deliver positive change, especially now at the local level. Here are some ways you and your neighbors can get involved:

- Sign-up for the annual PCO / Party Activist Training, which will be held in Olympia on Monday, Feb. 15th, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The training is \$15, which includes coffee and lunch.
- Please e-mail Eric (hougan@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out with the upcoming caucus; Sunday, Mar. 14th is legislative district Caucus Day.

We all lead busy lives, but please consider taking part in at least one of these activities. Please feel free to invite your friends.

Notes from the State Democratic Central Committee

The 2010 Caucuses and State Party Convention – For the off-year 2010 caucuses, the state central committee voted to eliminate the precinct-level caucuses and start at the legislative district (LD) level, which will be held statewide on Sunday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m.; more details on the 36th LD caucus will be announced soon. The state party convention will be held in Vancouver on June 25-26, 2010.

Party Nominations – At its autumn 2009 meeting, the state central committee updated the rules for the nomination of Democratic candidates for statewide, congressional and state legislative offices. These Party nominations are important, as the current top-two primary undermines the long-standing process of selecting the party nominee through the primary. The party will nominate candidates for partisan statewide elected offices at the state convention; congressional district candidates will be nominated by the state central committee; and legislative districts will nominate their local state legislative candidates.

A report on the state party winter meeting follows.

State Party Central Committee Considers Resolutions

A number of resolutions were expected to be on the agenda of the State Democratic Central Committee winter meeting on January 30th in Seattle. There were more than 20 resolutions submitted from all over the state on topics ranging from economic justice to energy and the environment.

Several called for the legislature to consider new taxes, rather than engage in an all-cuts budget that would further affect public safety and social services. At least two sought to change the rules for nominating candidates for Congress.

Farm interests in Eastern Washington were represented with resolutions regarding slaughter of horses and water rights. The 26th District Democrats sought to blunt corporate power with a resolution supporting Internet neutrality. Hispanic members are supporting a Latino Research Center and honoring Tomas Villanueva for his farm labor work. The 11th District Democrats are calling for the U.S. to withdraw from Afghanistan.

For updates on the state party winter meeting, please visit our website at www.36th.org.

Presidents' Day in Olympia and the State Party Crab Feed

Democrats will be heading to Olympia on Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb.15, to lobby the legislature on progressive priorities during the day, then party with other democrats in the evening. We're carpooling down like last year with return trips to Seattle both before and after the Crab Feed).

To join the carpool, please RSVP to Jeff Manson (jeffmanson1@gmail.com) and provide the following information:

- Are you willing to drive?
- If so, how many passengers can you carry?
- Do you want to return pre-Crab Feed (leave at about 3:30) or post-Crab Feed (leave at about 8:30)?

Here's the day's schedule:

- **8:00 a.m. – Carpool Departs** from the Park & Ride under I-5 at 65th St. NE (far north end of the lot).
- **10:00 to 10:30 a.m. – 36th District Day Meeting** with 36th District legislative assistants. Capitol Campus, JAC Hearing Rooms A/B/C. Refreshments provided.
- **10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – King County Democrats Lobby Day** Guest speakers, citizen lobbying training and an overview of progressive bills. Capitol Campus,

JAC Hearing Rooms A/B/C. Box lunch will be provided (donation requested).

- **1:00 to 1:30 p.m. – 36th District Day Meeting** with Jeanne, Mary Lou and Reuven. Capitol Campus, JAC Hearing Rooms A/B/C.
- **1:30 to 4:30 p.m. – Free time** to lobby legislators, attend committee hearings and participate in rallies on the Capitol campus. [Some of the carpool will leave Olympia at around 3:30 p.m.]
- **5:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Washington State Democrats Crab Feed** featuring all-you-can-eat crab, salmon, clams, vegetarian plates and a multitude of side dishes. St. Martin's University Pavilion, 5300 Pacific Ave. SE in Lacey. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

The annual Washington State Democrats Crab Feed is a fun and festive event that includes a live band, great food and lots of mingling.

Sen. Patty Murray, Gov. Chris Gregoire, Rep. Jim McDermott and Rep. Adam Smith will be joining members at the Crab Feed. You can register for the crab feed online at www.wa-democrats.org/crab. Sponsorships are also available; for more information on sponsorship, you can visit www.wa-democrats.org/crab.

Young Democrats of Washington Annual Convention

The Young Democrats are inviting party activists, elected officials and community leaders throughout the state to join them at their convention, which will be held on Mar. 5-7, 2010, in Seattle. YDWA is one of the oldest political organizations in the state, with a tradition of youth activism going back more than 75 years. Each year, the Young Democrats spend countless hours on volunteer work for great Democratic candidates and causes at the municipal, state and federal levels.

As a part of the convention, YDWA will host an awards banquet on Saturday, Mar. 6th, at the Best Western Executive Inn in Seattle. A VIP reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner and the awards ceremony to follow at 7:00 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$50 per person. Tickets for the VIP reception are \$25 per person.

To register, please go to <http://tiny.cc/1G0Gh> (the third character is a zero). Tables and half-tables for the dinner are available at a discounted rate. All supporters of the Young Democrats are invited.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Peabody at andrew.peabody@ydwa.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

36th District 2010 Budget

The following table summarizes the 2010 budget for the 36th District Democrats. Space limitations prevent us from presenting greater detail here, but a more complete breakdown of the 2010 budget will be available at the general membership meeting on Feb. 10th.

Description	Income	Expenses
Beginning Balance	\$5,025.00	
Monthly Income (\$501/mo.)	6,012.00	-
Additional Income	500.00	-
Fundraising Income	4,500.00	-
Total Income	\$11,012.00	
Monthly Expenses (\$590/mo.)	-	7,080.00
Political Committee Expenses	-	3,900.00
Contributions/Dues/Misc. Exp.	-	4,561.00
Total Expenses		\$15,541.00
Ending Balance	\$496.00	

Subscription & Membership Renewal

If you paid your last membership dues in February 2009, or earlier (last payment or contribution), your membership may be about to expire. Please check with us at the next meeting to bring your membership up to date.

You can renew online at www.36th.org. Click on **Get Involved!**

To pay by mail, please cut out and complete this form, then send it along with your check (made payable to 36th District Democrats) to:

**36th District Democrats
P.O. Box 19476
Seattle, WA 98109**

Annual membership dues:

- Individual \$25
- Family (*two voting members at the same address*) \$36
- Student / Retiree / Living lightly \$5

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer & Occupation
(for Washington State Public Disclosure Commission Reporting) _____

Next Membership Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Phinney Neighborhood Assn.
Community Hall
6532 Phinney Avenue N

36th District Democrats
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Seattle, WA 98109

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