

MINUTES FOR 37th DISTRICT DEMOCRATS JUNE 2019 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(6/10/19; ROUGHLY 45 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE; PREPARED BY JOHN STAFFORD)

I. OPENING (Stephen Reed -- 7:02)

- Call to Order
- Flag Salute
- Minutes adopted from May Meeting
- Stephen announces interest in having a Vice Chair of Events, who would focus on:
 - Summer Picnic and Holiday Party
- Vote to approve two new PCOs: vote passes unanimously

II. NOAH PURCELL TALK (7:07)

- Noah is Solicitor General of State of Washington, and he works for Bob Ferguson, Attorney General of Washington State
- Key Points of Talk:
 - He oversees biggest cases and gives advice to Governor, Attorney General and Legislature; and gets involved with initiatives.
 - Has launched exploratory committee to consider running for Attorney General (if Bob Ferguson runs for Governor).
 - Theme of his past (at UW as student): the laws are not meaningful if there is no one to enforce them.
 - Areas where he has been involved in lawsuits: travel ban; the office has filed about 38 lawsuits against the Trump administration (and won 23 thus far; and not lost any); no-poach clauses (in which employers collude to agree to not hire each other's employees); opioid cases (suing producers and distributors for unethical practices).
 - These cases emphasize the principle that the AG's office will stand up for the people against the Trump administration, corporations, etc.
- Questions
 - The Mueller Report indicates that the Department of Justice cannot charge the President with a crime. The New York Public Defender's Office may be investigating crimes by which Trump can be tried after he leaves office.
 - He has a long history of involvement with Franklin's Mock Trial Team.
 - Some of the divisions of the AG's Office work for specific departments (e.g., the Department of Ecology). Some divisions (e.g., the Civil Rights Division) are funded by settlements from cases won by the AG's Office.

- The opioid cases are a bit like the tobacco cases from the 1990s. Opioids are being treated differently than the Iran Contra drug epidemic of the 1980s, due to the different racial profile of drug usage in the two eras.
- Discussion about why the law calls for immigrants to defend themselves without legal representation, leading to four year-olds defending themselves in court.
- There have been two national courts (the 5th and 9th Courts of Appeals) that have reached different conclusions on the legality of religious institutions refusing to support birth control to employees.
- The Trump administration's legal team has engaged in low-quality legal work. It has also passed very few laws. Much of its "progress" has been via Executive Order. The most concerning dimension of its legacy may be judicial appointments.

III. **TOM SCHMIDT (7:36) -- MINIVAN**

- Vote Builder reports are downloaded into MiniVan (MiniVan7).
- You do not need to have a VoteBuilder account to use MiniVan.
- It is simple to create a MiniVan account.
- PCO's will receive a List Number from Tom. This List Number should be entered into MiniVan, and the App will provide the necessary information about the voters in the precinct.
- You can work off of the "Script" option or the "Details" option.
- Tom will be training on VoteBuilder and MiniVan on Wednesday evenings and Saturday's from now until the election.
- There is a Map Function that is helpful.
- Actually, there is now MiniVan8.
- People without phone access can have their lists printed out by Tom.
- Do not put the Sample Ballots in mailboxes.
- The ballots will go out July 16.
- It will be good for PCO's to pass out their first 100 Sample Ballots by the July Meeting.
- Thanks to Mary for creating the ballot.

IV. **STEPHEN REED (7:52)**

- The 37th District Democrats will be involved in the Gay Pride Weekend in two ways: (a) A booth near Cal Anderson Park; and (b) A position (toward the end of the line) in the parade. There are T-Shirts based on the commemoration of the Stonewall Riots.
- Mary will send an e-mail to members with an update.

V. UPDATES (7:56)

- Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos discusses the Legislative Session.
Highlights:
 - Bill to address the teacher shortage passed, which includes a bill to increase the number of teachers of color.
 - Bill to decouple graduation tests from graduation requirements. There are now multiple pathways to demonstrate proficiency for graduation.
 - New school safety bill passed, which will provide counselling to students if there is another school shooting.
 - In Health Care, a bill passed to create a long-term care benefit.
 - Bills to focus on housing (there is more funds for the housing trust fund) and a change in property tax calculations that will help seniors stay in their units and an increase in the eviction notice lead time, and the passage of I-1000 to overturn I-200 (which banned Affirmative Action programs in Washington State). Referendum 88 is now seeking to overturn I-1000.
 - Question: why did the comprehensive sex education not proceed out of committee? Sharon does support this, and signed onto the House version. The school districts tended to be opposed to a different version. This bill required all 295 districts to teach comprehensive sex education, but it is difficult to force school districts to teach something they aren't comfortable with.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER (8:22)

- Mt. Baker Meaningful Movies. *I Am Not Your Negro*. June 21 at 6:00 PM at the African American History Museum.
- Juneteenth at Campbell Hill School (6/13) and at Rainier Beach (6/15) and also at the Seattle Center.
- A local film placed highly in the SIFF awards.
- Motion to suspend the rules to support discussion to have Adam Smith support an impeachment inquiry. The motion to suspend the rules carries. The motion passes.
- King County Young Democrats. A watch party for the upcoming primary. Wednesday, June 26, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. This will be at St. Andrews Bar and Grill (7406 Aurora Avenue North).
- A motion to switch from Key Bank to Seattle Credit Union. The motion carries.
- Motion to adjourn passes. Adjournment at 8:35 pm.