

Jefferson County Democratic Party - General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020
Virtual Meeting Platform Zoom

The Chair welcomed Liz Bumgarner, Chair of the Clallam County Democrats to the meeting. The Chair and Elections Chair Gary Larson tossed the coin for speaking order. The speaking order will be Rebecca Parson, followed by Derek Kilmer, for 6th Congressional District House of Representatives. The Chair thanked the members joining early. The Chair opened the program portion of the meeting at 6:15 PM.

The Chair welcomed the candidates for U.S. Congress for the 6th Congressional District.

The Chair called on Ms. Rebecca Parsons. Ms. Parsons spoke to the members sharing her experience and policies (Green New Deal and Single Payer Health Care, affordable housing, accessibility, and economic policies benefitting workers who have lost jobs), as well as her many endorsements. Members may contact Rebecca at 253-433-9768 and at RebeccaforWA.com.

Derek Kilmer, US Representative, spoke to the members sharing his concerns about the impacts of the pandemic, and pride in Governor Inslee's response for Washington. And Rep. Kilmer pointed out the failure of President Donald Trump to adequately respond to the crisis. Rep. Kilmer encouraged members to work together to build a better "new normal" with several enumerated policies (paid sick leave, paid family leave, health care reform, campaign finance reform, immigration reform). Rep. Kilmer shared a few of his endorsements. Members can access information about Derek at DerekKilmer.com.

The Chair called the business meeting to order at 6:26 PM.

The Chair called for a motion to endorse Democratic candidates recommended by the JCD EBoard. Jean Ball moved to endorse all the Democratic candidates recommended by the JCD EBoard. The Chair read the slate of candidates recommended by the EBoard:

Governor - Jay Inslee.

Attorney General - Bob Ferguson.

Commissioner of Public Lands - Hilary Franz.

Treasurer - Mike Pellicciotti.

Secretary of State - Gael Tarleton.

24th District State Representative - Mike Chapman.

24th District State Representative - Steve Tharinger.

24th District State Senator - Kevin Van de Wege.

Connie Gallant moved to include in the slate Rep. Derek Kilmer. The Chair clarified that the members could not consider Rep. Kilmer for endorsement because his candidacy was not included in the written notice, per the JCD bylaws for endorsement. Peter Newland asked if the vote would be taken for the slate or individual races. John Collins clarified that a motion to separate any candidate from the slate would be in order. Deborah Pedersen moved to amend the motion to separate Gael Tarleton and Mike Pellicciotti from the other candidates on the slate. M/S/Failed. VOTE: 19 Yes 23 No. Bruce Cowan suggested that the two state representatives attending the meeting be allowed to speak. The Chair reported that he had invited Rep. Chapman and Rep. Tharinger to speak. Diane Jones shared information about the candidates opposed to Tarleton and Pellicciotti.

Rep. Steve Tharinger spoke and said that he would appreciate the endorsement and support of the JCD. Rep. Tharinger feels that he and the JCD, and Democrats, have been working well the last ten years and shared accomplishments, including much needed rural health care funding especially for East Jefferson County. He would appreciate our support and would love to have the JCD endorsement.

Rep. Mike Chapman supports the motion for Steve and Kevin's endorsement. Rep. Chapman has had the opportunity to work with people over the years and finds the measure of people who fight until the wee hours of the morning to pass a capital budget as those needed most. Rep. Chapman said we won't find people who are more hard working than those candidates. They challenge Rep. Chapman to be a better representative for the District. Rep. Chapman reported that the 24th LD is in the cross hairs, and the Republicans are putting money into our district to defeat Democrats. Rep. Chapman invited the members to look at the candidates voting records where we will find 50 maybe out of 500 votes we may not agree with, but the totality of what the state Representatives do for the district is overwhelming. Rep. Chapman also pointed out that members will never hear any of the candidates denigrate or put people down on social media. The District can say that it is represented by really good people. Rep. Chapman encourage the members to take the measure of an individual and how they carry the whole district forward to a better place. Rep. Chapman would certainly appreciate the JCD support and endorsement.

Rep. Tharinger complimented Rep. Chapman for his work, saying Rep. Chapman in three terms has become a strong voice for our district, and all the state electeds form a strong team for the district in the legislature. Rep. Tharinger thanked the members for making it possible to represent the district and work for all of us.

The Chair acknowledged a candidate for Commissioner of Public Lands, Mr. Frank Wallbrown to speak. Mr. Wallbrown is running for Commissioner of Public Lands against Hilary Franz. Frank said he decided to jump in the race last minute. Frank has concerns for Franz's glyphosate spraying and taking large timber company funds and the impacts on policy. He believes that organic hemp farming could help solve problems. He would like to be considered for endorsement and thanked the members for giving him an opportunity to speak. Jean Ball asked Mr. Wallbrown what party he registers as. Frank said he filed as a Democrat, and is a Democratic PCO in Mount Lake Terrace. Connie Gallant asked about his qualifications. Frank has a geology and mathematics degree. He is a Member of the Progressive Caucus of the WSDCC, is a member of the Veterans Caucus. Responding to question from members Frank shared his experiences, which do not include firefighting or managing large agencies.

The Chair clarified to the members and Mr. Wallbrown that the JCD could not consider his or any other candidate not part of the eight that were notified to the membership, per the JCD bylaws. Endorsement votes require two weeks-notice and Mr. Wallbrown's candidacy could not be considered at this time.

John Collins moved to call the question. M/S/P unanimously. VOTE: 40 Yes 0 No; no abstentions.

Patricia Jones asked if the JCD shall give a preliminary vote of the tally during the meeting, and the final vote later after emails and mail in ballots were included. The Chair reported that the JCD will announce the final vote after email and mail in ballots were tallied.

Membership Chair John Hamilton reported the preliminary vote on the slate of candidates. There were 2 Abstentions and 38 Yes votes. Claire Roney asked if a member must be logged into the meeting to send into a vote. The Chair clarified that a member voting must be signed into the meeting to have an eligible vote via email or mail in. Jean Ball called for a credentials report. Chair John Hamilton reported on credentials: There are 278 total JCD members including the last two days of renewals; Members attending the meeting are 44, constituting a quorum. Jean Ball stated that it appears the JCD has endorsed the slate of candidates given the vote. John Hamilton has prepared the final report and that there were no email or mail votes to affect the totals from the meeting. John's final credential report of members attending and eligible to vote on endorsements were 46 members.

The Chair reported on the legislation Washington State SB 5395, passed into law, and that there are two referenda to repeal the legislation. The petitions are referendum R 90 and R91. The JCD EBoard recommends that members do not sign the petitions for R 90 and R 91. Pat Teal moved to endorse the EBoard recommendation. Pat Teal spoke to the motion in support. Bruce Cowan asks the Board to consider supporting SB 5395 after the petitions fail and express the support for the bill. Amanda Funaro spoke as a parent of three teenagers, in school districts, in support of the technical, good sex education program. Gary Larson moved to amend the motion to add support of the bill because the JCD supports Washington State SB 5395. Victoria Marshal asked that the endorsement be clarified that it is Washington State SB 5395. Rep. Tharinger gave background on title of the bill as it came out of OSPI, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Rekdahl, that it had "sex education" in the bill title (SB 5395), and that it was very challenging and created problems in the legislature and outside the legislature. Rep. Tharinger believes the motion is correct and as we talk about it – we need to make kids and families aware of domestic violence. It is important to talk about it in different terms in addition to "scientific sex education". The Chair asked for messaging recommendation from Rep. Tharinger and Chapman to include wording on the bill and endorsement of "no sign" on R 90 and R 91 for the next JCD newsletter. Rep. Chapman said Steve is right in his comments. Rep. Chapman said the opposition on the Republican side are using mischaracterizations. Rep. Chapman said SB 5395 protect parental rights, they were not taken away. The bill is being used and mischaracterized for purely political reasons. Rep. Chapman suggested that the members view the TVW debate of the bill that went late into the night and included opposition comments from elected officials that should never have been uttered "in the People's house."

The amendment to include JCD support for SB 5395 in the endorsement was passed M/S/P unanimously. VOTE: Yes 37 No 0. The main motion as amended to endorse "no sign" on R 90 and R 91 and support SB 5395 M/S/P VOTE: Yes 43 No 0.

The Chair called for suggestions for making the Zoom format better for upcoming endorsement membership meetings, please email info@jeffcodems.com. Gary Larson said the meeting went well. The Chair thanked members for registering for the meeting early. John Hamilton expressed his thanks to everyone also to register early and give feedback about what didn't work well. Connie Gallant said thank you and wonderful to see your faces. Patricia Jones commended John and Jill Hamilton for their work on the membership and credentials, and the vote tallying.

The Chair called for other comments on the Good of the Order.

The Chair recognized Bruce Cowan, 24th LD Chair. Bruce is working with the League of Women Voters. The League needs a chairperson who is not an officer of a party. Please suggest candidates to Bruce to work with a great team. Bruce also sees a few other candidates who

have not spoken, can they take an opportunity during the good of the order to speak. The Chair declined the suggestion, with apologies to Amanda Funaro and Lorna Smith, candidates for District 2 Board of County Commissioners. The Chair said it is an important race, and the JCD did not announce to all candidates in the race that candidates could speak at the membership meeting. The candidates for that race will surely be invited back at another time with notice to all the candidates. Diane Jones announced that all three candidates' videos are on the JCD web site for viewing, with a link to their web sites. Amanda Funaro thanked the JCD and thanked Gary for a very smooth video process. Lorna Smith thanked the members and said all three candidates information can be viewed on their web sites and social media, at lornaforcommissioner.com. Amanda's web site is <https://www.amanda4countycommissioner.com/>. All three BoCC District 2 candidates are linked through the JCD web site at <https://jeffcodemocrats.com/elections/candidates/>.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Connie Gallant moved to adjourn. M/S/P 7:30 PM.