

34th District GOP Meeting Minutes for June 17th, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:05PM by Vice-Chair Steve Schmidt

Guest Speaker: Lloyd Hara, incumbent and candidate for King County Assessor. Increased department efficiencies and saved 500K in postage. Saved taxpayers money by teaching internal staff new skills instead of outsourcing to vendors, and increasing productivity by implementing new technology e.g. iPads. Improved transparency and accessibility to property assessment info → 50% decrease in appeals. Re: special levies – excess levies can go above the 1% cap mandated by state law if they are voter approved. Some districts have over 50% of property taxes voter approved. *Localscape* is a new data portal on kingcounty.gov/assessor website that shows you the breakout of your property taxes including what percentage are voter approved. King County Assessor's office has 214 staff members, down from 246 when Hara took office; Hara stated that he is doing more with less. King County was the second fastest growing urban county in 2014. There was decreased construction after the 2008 recession; construction started to pick up in 2013, but there is still a housing supply shortage. Low housing supply + new jobs increase → higher pressure on housing prices. Working on increasing the income level for senior citizen exemptions, but it's hard to get attention in the state Legislature as they are primarily focused on education/transportation/mental health. Eastern Washington legislators oppose increasing the senior citizen income levels to qualify for exemption. Q: *how will you address the demand for low income housing?* A: there are existing programs to help with this e.g. the Multi Family Tax Exemption program. Proponent of creating a state bank to give low interest rate loans to help support affordable housing development. Has worked with Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority. Opposed to rent control. If you have further questions, Hara welcomes your calls directly at (206) 263-2300.

New Business:

Executive Board Update from KCGOP 2nd Vice Chair Courteney Lyle: The KCGOP Executive Board only endorses Republicans, but Legislative District organizations are free to endorse non-Republicans in non-partisan races. The primary directive for Precinct Committee Officers is to identify Republicans, and get out the vote. To do this we need a functional voter database, and GOP Data Beacon is not working, so KCGOP Exec Board voted to create a new database which will be modeled after one that Snohomish County has had success with. PCO Craig Keller noted that this SnoCo database was helpful for his 2015 Congressional campaign. Please attend a PCO training if you haven't already, email ashley@kcgop.org if you need assistance in signing up. Next month's LD34 GOP speaker will be Barry Knowles (former candidate for State Representative in the 47th Legislative District); the topic will be the Tenth Amendment and states' rights .

West Seattle Regional Chair Report from Craig Keller: next West Seattle regional meeting will happen soon, look for a notice via email.

Events Committee Report from John Denault: we have reserved Shelter #1 at Lincoln Park on Sunday August 23rd from 3pm-10pm for our 34th GOP Summer Picnic. Picnic will be potluck style, event time TBD, likely ~ 3:30-5:30pm. We need people to sign up to help organize the event and bring food; please email John at johndenault@hotmail.com if you can help.

Fairs and Community Events Committee Report from Molly Connelly, speaking in Committee Chair Becky Nicholas's absence: deadlines have passed for most of the summer fairs. Jubilee Days is still an option. Craig Keller volunteered to take charge of organizing a Jubilee Days booth – he will be calling/emailing soon to ask for volunteers to staff the booth.

Report from Vice-Chair Steve Schmidt: we need a volunteer for Burien Regional Chair. Darla Green said she may be able to volunteer for this in the future. May meeting minutes were presented and approved.

A representative from Chris Robert's campaign for King County Director of Elections spoke briefly and stated that Roberts will prioritize honest elections over partisan politics, and asked the 34th GOP to consider having Roberts as a future speaker.

Darla Green spoke briefly with an update on her Burien City Council campaign; they are working on creating walking lists, and working towards a 15K fundraising goal. For more information check out darlagreen.com.

Discussion ensued on creating candidate endorsement procedures for the 34th GOP. There was debate on whether we want to endorse non-Republicans in non-partisan races. The meeting was inquorate at the time of this discussion so no motions were able to be made but consensus of those present was to continue the discussion and firm up endorsement procedures at the next meeting. Some of the ideas that various PCOs suggested:

- given that local races are currently dominated by Democratic candidates, should we have an endorsement option for the "least harmful Democrat"?
- endorsed candidates should support Constitutional government, be committed to preserving U.S. sovereignty, and be very aligned with our KCGOP platform. We have taken oaths as PCOs to support the U.S. and WA State Constitutions and that oath would not be honored if we endorsed a candidate who supports unconstitutional policies.
- research endorsement practices of other organizations, and create a subcommittee to summarize results and accept their recommendations at the next meeting.
- send out a candidate questionnaire specific to each race. Questions proposed on a variety of topics e.g. candidate positions on the right to bear arms, rent control, limitations on property tax levies etc.

8:20PM Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be on July 15th, 2015 at 7pm at the American Legion.