

34th District GOP Meeting Minutes for October 13th, 2015

Pershing Hall, 3618 SW Alaska St, Seattle, WA 98126

Meeting called to order at 7:08PM by District Chairman Chuck Rangel. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Rangel.

September minutes presented, and approved.

New Business:

Executive Board Update from KCGOP 2nd Vice-Chair Courtney Lyle: KCGOP Liberty Dinner and Auction on Oct. 30th, 2015 still has seats available; we have a table for the 34th LD. If you can donate items or services for the auction please contact KCGOP. Doorbelling event for Burien City Council candidate Darla Green on Oct. 17th, 2015; please sign up to help. Doorbelling event for Teri Hickel in LD30 on Oct. 24th, 2015 from 9:30am-12noon, contact KCGOP if you can help. The Freedom Foundation has published very useful and extensive information on school board candidates <http://www.myfreedomfoundation.com/blogs/liberty-live/informed-voters-guide---school-board-2015>.

Treasurer Report from Myke Wilken: current balance in our account is \$2137.41. We owe two month's rent to the American Legion (= \$200), which will be paid shortly. Our current account is with Bank of America, with a monthly fee of \$14.00. Umpqua bank has an option for a checking account with \$0.00 monthly fee with \$1000.00 minimum balance. Treasurer Wilken and Chairman Rangel, with the approval of the 34th District Republicans, have decided to change our account to Umpqua. The 2016 caucuses will require a significant outlay of funds from our account, and we need to be mindful of this with our budgeting, and ensure that we aren't spending more than we are taking in. Currently we are spending more than we take in with regards to the \$100/month cost of the American Legion Hall.

Guest Speaker: Sierra Hansen from the No on I-122 campaign. I-122 raises property taxes to fund \$3 million/year to distribute four \$25 "democracy vouchers" to every registered voter. Vouchers are redeemed on a first-come, first-served basis, so many voters will not be able to have their vouchers redeemed. I-122 is written to favor incumbents and special interest groups; as such it will undermine the intent of District Elections. \$41 million worth of vouchers will be printed for each election, but only \$3 million of vouchers are funded by the initiative, and administrative costs, which could be 1/3 to 1/4 of the cost, are not acknowledged in the funding. Seattle already has transparent donor processes and significant limits on campaign donations. The pro I-122 campaign has raised ~800K, of which over 600K is from five out-of-state special interest groups, one of whom is a bank. Why? Because Seattle is a springboard for a national movement towards public campaign financing. Voters need to be informed that this initiative will force their tax dollars to be spent on candidates they don't support. Transit and housing are higher priorities for the average voter. Question: how is it decided which candidate gets the money from the vouchers? Answer: a threshold of contributions has to be met before vouchers are dispensed. Even if campaign finance limits are met, the campaign can request an exemption from the limits if an independent expenditure campaign enters the race. Question: do you have to be a U.S. citizen to get a voucher? Answer: unknown. The No on I-122 campaign will follow-up on this and get back to us. Question: will the initiative pass the legal test? Answer: perhaps not. But it's better to defeat it at the ballot box than to spend taxdollars defeating it in court afterwards. Question: what happens to money that isn't spent? Answer: it's unlikely that there will be leftover money. The administrative costs are significant, it is estimated to cost \$28 to administer every \$100 of vouchers, and additional administrative costs have an unknown price tag that could drain the general fund beyond the \$3 million raised by property taxes. Two former chairs of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission have opposed I-122.

Endorsements of candidates and measures for the Nov. 3rd, 2015 general election:

Burien City Council Position No. 6: Craig Keller nominated and spoke for Darla Green; Steve Schmidt seconded the nomination. Voting was done by show of hands; with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

Port of Seattle Commissioner Position No. 2: JoAnne Butzerin nominated and spoke for Goodspaceguy. Bob Stewart seconded the nomination. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 92%, Nay: 8%. Motion passes.

Highline School District No. 401, Director District No. 3: Steve Schmidt nominated and spoke for Joe Van. Chuck Rangel seconded the nomination. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 55%, Nay: 45%. Motion passes.

King County Elections Director: Chuck Rangel nominated Julie Wise. Steve Schmidt seconded the nomination. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

King County Assessor: Chuck Rangel nominated Lloyd Hara. Craig Keller seconded the nomination and spoke for Lloyd Hara. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 33%, Nay: 67%. Motion fails. Steve Schmidt nominated John Wilson. There was no second, so motion failed.

City of Seattle Proposition No. 1: JoAnne Butzerin motioned that we endorse a “No” vote on this measure. Molly Connelly seconded the motion. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

City of Seattle Initiative Measure No. 122: Steve Schmidt motioned that we endorse a “No” vote on this measure. Courtney Lyle seconded the motion. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

State of Washington Initiative No. 1366: Craig Keller motioned that we endorse a “Yes” vote on this measure. Molly Connelly seconded the motion. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

State of Washington Initiative Measure No. 1401: Craig Keller motioned that we endorse a “No” vote on this measure. Motion was seconded. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

King County Charter Amendment No. 1 Law Enforcement Oversight: Craig Keller motioned that we endorse a “No” vote on this measure. JoAnne Butzerin seconded the motion. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

King County Proposition No. 1 Regular Property Tax Levy for Children, Youth, Families and Communities: Craig Keller motioned that we endorse a “No” vote on this measure. JoAnne Butzerin seconded the motion. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 100%, Nay: 0%. Motion passes.

Tom Schafer suggested that we purchase an advertisement in local media with notice of our endorsements.

Chuck Rangel motioned that the 34th GOP donate \$100 to Darla Green’s campaign. Motion was seconded. Opposition to motion spoke and stated that before disbursing money to candidates, we need to bring enough money in to cover the cost of renting the American Legion Hall, with suggested donation of \$5/meeting/person; if we can cover the costs of the hall and still have a surplus, then we can spend money on candidate campaigns, and advertisements in local media. Voting was done by show of hands, with results being: Yea: 33%, Nay: 67%. Motion fails.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 18th, 2015 at 7pm at the American Legion Hall.

8:50PM meeting adjourned.