

**Issues Summit on the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats' Platform:**  
**Held at February, 2005 General Meeting of the 46<sup>th</sup>**

(Summary and outline of reports from small groups from minutes by Stan Sorcher, expanded by GP from groups' notes. Items with an asterisk are for consideration as general, cross-issue approaches towards goal of making platform a reality and building candidates/officials' expectations of supporting platform.)

Gerry Pollet explained the logistics for the Issues Summit. The meeting room was divided into 11 breakout areas, corresponding to sections of the Platform. A facilitator is assigned to each one. The groups should each come up with 2-4 focus points. The breakout groups met from 8:00 to 8:45 PM.

**Report-outs from the groups:**

Law and Justice:

- Adequate funding of courts and drug treatment programs.
- Protect rights of accused - listen to accused before filing charges.
- Gun control laws should be enforced, especially at gun shows

Human Services;

- Public education about the value of early childhood education, elder care, sex education, and other programs
- Find funding sources - King County Task Force to stabilize funding
- Engage candidates - raise the priority of this issue in campaigns
- Support the Seattle/King County Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Political Process:

- Paper ballot for recount and verification
- County should fully fund elections, so existing processes can be allowed to work
- Keep track of bills in the current state legislative session
- Restoration of voting rights should be simplified
- Change state law to allow two shifts of poll workers to reduce fatigue
- Local expert to provide education for us to understand details of the process

Civil and Human Rights:

- \*\*\*Reframe our message through words in our platform
- Voter verified paper ballots --- refer to legislative committee for action; ask candidates; program speakers
- Restoring voting rights of felons
- Support Healthy Youth Act - medically accurate sex education
- "Don't Tell Me Whom I Can Marry" Act (we don't call it "Defense of Marriage Act")

Education:

- Funding - No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and funding in general
  - potential bi-partisan
  - cut to reality of program (message)
  - \*\*\*Talk to school board and candidates about negative effects of NCLB
  - District Program on issue
  - Educate candidates... Senate, etc...
  - Support State suing feds
  - Close tax loopholes for \$
- Support Jim McIntire's revenue reform bill, and Ken Jacobsen's bill to raise local levy lids.
  - Rep. Kenney as a resource as Higher Ed Chair
- Promote positive elements of progressive education
- Campaign to swing all of WA to meet constitutional duty to fund schools

#### Cultural Affairs+ Economic Justice and Taxes:

- \*\*\*Postcard campaign at meetings – choose a topic and use time to distribute and write cards to targeted officials
- \*\*\*Develop and use email distribution list
- \*\*\*Send out our resolutions (note, this is a presumed role in Bylaws and EC)
  - post on website
  - publicize (news releases or email to reporters?, to electeds?)
- \*\*\*Write directly to legislators
- Reform monorail tax
- Promote income tax
- Oppose privatization of Social Security / Support: raising cap on payments
- Eliminate unfair tax breaks
- Lobby Senator Cantwell to align with our platform

#### Foreign Policy:

- Support veterans - health care, in particular
  - how can state law effect positive change for vets
- \*\*\*Better framing of issues, and language expressing progressive values
- \*\*\*Create progressive, Seattle based think tank
- \*\*\*Encourage sympathetic officials to stand up and be strong
- \*\*\*Work with national reps in support of our goals

#### Transportation:

- Secure funding to replace Alaskan Way viaduct
- Fund public transportation (multiple modes)
- Coordinate regional transportation agencies
- Work with Ken Jacobsen
- \*\*\*Create election year issues for transit and insist City, county etc. candidates address

#### Health Care:

- Single payer health care
- City Council Resolution that "health care is a right.": put on November ballot.
- Support Bob Hasegawa's single payer bill, and mental health parity bill
- Total Health Care for Washington.
- Blue ribbon commission for WA to plan for feasible reform.
- Deeper study on tort reform and report results to all of 46<sup>th</sup>.

#### Labor/Economic Justice:

- Protect right to organize
- Restore unemployment insurance benefits
- Create offshoring study commission
- Demand disclosure of offshoring
- Prohibit offshoring of state jobs.
- Oppose CAFTA, NAFTA renewal, and fast track authority
- Restore collective bargaining rights for Homeland Security employees
- support 3 bills in Oly on outsourcing – call Rep. McIntire

#### Environment and Energy

- #1: Support King County critical area ordinance - preserve rural lands from development
  - \*\*\*Letters to Editor – what it really does /// cut issue (frame)

- Support for Ron Sims on issue
- Support California auto emissions standards for 8 western state
- Global warming goals: Support Kyoto Accords; portfolio standards for utilities and green buildings
  - \*\*\* Lobby Legislature – Legislative Resource and Action Committee
- UW Bioterrorism lab- local issue
- Hood Canal cleanup and restoration

Other ideas:

\*\*\*Program on “Role Models” for Citizen Involvement with several individuals from 46<sup>th</sup> who serve and devote to social/political change in various ways – reach out to YDs and others to participate and see. (submitted by John Webber)

Proposals (by GP for discussion from suggestions above):

At each meeting, have Leg Resource and Action Committee and Program Committee choose an issue to provide suggested ACTION such as letter to editor, postcards to elected... with talking points (be sure to use appropriate framing of issue and language). Handout with email address for people to take home and send letter to ed, email to elected... and urge they point out that they are member of 46<sup>th</sup> and discussed at program. If using postcards, provide for membership.

Distribute our resolutions to all relevant officials and candidates. Post on website. Urge members send copies as individuals with email to electeds or candidates.