

The Mason County Democrat

"Neighbors Working Together"

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Monty Cobb

My fellow Democrats,

By now you have had a chance to digest the primary results and I hope you have heard the call to action because it rings loud and clear.

Take a look at the PCO races: where there were Republican and Democratic candidates for PCO, almost without exception the Republican tallied more votes than the Democrat. Fred Finn tallied fewer votes than the Republican and Independent combined. And, having heard the independent candidate's message, it is likely that many of his votes will become Republican votes in the general. My own results were just a few hundred votes different than in Fred's race. Kathy Haigh has a slim lead--less than 600 votes. The incumbent County Commissioner is out in the primary and, despite having a strong Democratic candidate still in the race, she faces a tough battle as well. Even adding up the "D" and "R" votes in the US Senate race leaves long-time incumbent Patty Murray behind.

Where does that leave us as Democratic candidates and as a Democratic Party? First we must recognize that no race is out of reach. Second we must understand how we got to the place we are. And finally, what do we do as candidates, as a party and as individuals to achieve victory in November.

Election officials predicted voter turnouts in the range of 38-40%, Mason County had well over 50% turnout. Why? My own opinion is that three things brought out voters in unexpected numbers:

1. people turned out because they are unhappy with national politics.
2. people turned out because they are unhappy with local politics--specifically the biomass issue, the PUD relocation and the County budget.
3. people with a conservative perspective turned out because the Republican Party outpromoted the Democratic Party on a local level.

Now, several people have--with good intention given my own race--pointed out that "Democrats don't vote in the primary." If that is indeed true, that speaks poorly of our party.

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Notes from the Chair

by Andrew Graham

The party owes a great deal of thanks to our candidates who recently completed their campaigns in the primary election. Ross Gallagher, Laura Lewis, Marcie Lohmeyer, and Justin Stang all fulfilled their highest civic duty when they chose to run for public office, and although unsuccessful, each brought ideas and goals to their respective races that improved the quality of the campaigns and the public's understanding of the offices.

Ross Gallagher in particular deserves our gratitude. He has served the public for decades on the county commission, the school board, and as chair of our party. Ross is a good Democrat and a good man, and I look forward to his future service to our community.

Laura, Marcie, and Justin have learned a great deal about how to run for office, and this experience will help them the next time they file. They have proven themselves to be valuable members of our Democratic Party and I encourage each of them to remain active in the party for the causes which compelled them to run.

Volunteer phone bank

My thanks go to all the volunteers who made thousands of calls to voters in the week before the primary. Those calls helped our candidates do as well as they did, and considering that in the County

Commissioner race Brenda Hirschi beat the third-place finisher by a mere 73 votes, I'm confident that the GOTV campaign made a difference. Now is the time to be calling potential voters to identify them, so that we know whom to call before the general election. These calls are easy to make but we have 4,000 to do. We have scripts and calling lists at the campaign office, so please call Marcia Hamilton at 360-275-6701 to volunteer.

PCO election

I've been asked several times when our new PCOs will take office. According to RCW 29A.80.051, that will be December 1st, just in time for our Reorganization meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Central Committee is Wednesday, September 8, 7pm at the PUD 3 meeting room. We will discuss endorsements of candidates and initiatives, and start spending our hard-earned money on those candidate races.

Andrew Graham
MCDCC Chair

Upcoming Events

Wed, Sept 8th, 7:00 pm—MCDCC Meeting at PUD3, Shelton.

Mon, Sept 20th, 6:30 pm—DemoChat (No Host) at Grove Street Brewhouse (1st and Grove, Shelton) (Mason County Chapter of Drinking Liberally - NOT affiliated with MCDCC).

Wed, Sept 15th, 11:30 am—Mason County Democratic Women's Club at El Sarapé Restaurant in Gateway Center. No host lunch. Meeting begins at noon.

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Deadline for articles, news, letters and photos for the October 2010 issue of the MCDCC Newsletter is 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 22.

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Opinions expressed by our contribu-
tors do not necessarily represent the
views of Mason County Democrats
as a whole.

PSP and Watersheds

By Jane Roush

It appears the buzzwords for the
environment this year are "water quality".

Water is the essence of Mason
County life. It is the rain in the forest, the
water in the Canal and Puget Sound for
commercial and sport fisherman. It is the
life of our shellfish. It is what lures tourist
to Mason County and allows my husband
to have a summer garden.

It is very confusing when govern-
mental programs, policies and services
overlap. Who is in charge often comes
to mind? What are the differences in
what agencies are saying and who is
responsible?

In 1998 the Washington's State Leg-
islature passed the Watershed Planning
Act. The legislation was supposed to
develop a framework for local solutions
to watershed issues. Local citizens in a
watershed could join together to as-
sesses the status of water resources and
determine best how to use them.

Twelve state agencies were respon-
sible for implementation of the act but in
the end the Dept of Ecology was the lead
agency. The state eventually was di-
vided into 62 WRIA's (Watershed Re-
source Inventory Area). (If you put Puget
Sound Partnership's map over the west-
ern part of Washington State, you can
see that PSP divided the area into large
groups, where the watersheds are many
small areas.) The remainder of the state
has the Columbia Basin watersheds and
many small watersheds on the coast.

Department of Ecology web page
states: "A "watershed" is an area draining
into a river, lake, or other water body."
Another definition of a WRIA is "where
you stand on a piece of ground and the
water under your left foot goes one way
and under the right foot goes another
way." That is how the boundaries of
WRIA's were established.

DOE goes on to state that the
WRIA's would prepare plans balancing
the competing demands for water, in
other words whether it be the economic
needs of the area such as forest, fishing,
tourism, or the private needs of citizens,
all groups should be represented in the
plan. The WRIA's were also required to
address the amount of water available
and the use of that water. The plans
would also consider minimum in-stream
flows and future out-of stream require-
ments. Other options the WRIA could
address included habitat.

There were 4 phases of planning
that were funded by the state:

1. Organizational – Which included

- \$50,000 per WRIA;
2. Assessment—Up to \$200,000 for
each assessment of the water-
shed;
3. Planning—Up to \$250,000 for a
plan to be developed, getting ap-
proval and county board adoption;
and
4. Implementation—Up to \$100,000
per WRIA for getting the plan up
and running.

Mason County has the luck (?) to en-
compass four different WRIA's.

The southwest corner of Mason County
was included in WRIA 22. WRIA 22 and 23
are combined and called the Chehalis Ba-
sin Partnership. The planning group for
these WRIA's organized, performed their
assessments and submitted a plan to the
Board of Commissioners for Grays Harbor,
Lewis, Mason and Thurston counties in
2004. All four counties accepted the plan.
The implementation work was started in
October 2005 and the detailed implementa-
tion plan was approved in Oct 2006. The
key recommendations were a water data
management system, compliance towards
illegal water users, and incentives for water
conservation and reclamation. The Legis-
lature has provided funds for expanded
water qualified monitoring program. This
WRIA is exceptionally successful in its
planning and implementation of its pro-
gram. The old saying the early bird gets
the worm is true since their program re-
ceived full funding.

The Tahuyha Peninsula of Mason
County is included in WRIA 15. One prob-
lem with the Kitsap Watershed Planning
(WRIA 15) in my opinion is that there are
too many government entities involved in
the process. There are 4 counties, 1 city, 1
water district and 2 tribes. The group com-
pleted phase 1 and 2 of the planning
phases, however in June 2005 after they
had completed their draft watershed plan,
everything came to a standstill. At that
point they were unable to reach consensus
and the Squaxin Island Tribe voted against
the plan approval.

Mason County is the lead for two
WRIA's, 14 and 16. *(To be continued next
month.)*

Sources: DOE web pages at
www.ecy.wa.gov; Mason County Planning
Advisory Commission Minutes May 8,2006;
Associated Press Story, Seattle Times,
8/25/10, "Repairing aging roads to aid for-
est restoration"; Washington News Service,
Chris Thomas, 8/24/10, "Skokomish Water-
shed Cleanup Puts Locals to Work".

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Such comments, though well-intentioned, also call into question the efficacy of the extraordinary efforts of some persons in working the VoteBuilder system since that system is built around national level candidates. If voters are upset with national Democratic leaders, does it benefit local candidates to be tied to national leaders?

Please understand that I do not in any way disparage the efforts of those who worked the phones in that effort. Our national candidates are fully deserving of our support and time but my question remains the same: "If voters are upset with national Democratic leaders, does it benefit local candidates to be tied to national leaders?"

Second, how do we as candidates and as a Party turn local issues to our favor? As a Party, we have chosen to take a neutral position on biomass. Is that the correct position? As a Party, we have not taken a position on the PUD relocation. The relocation IS going to happen, but is there a position or issue that the Party can adopt that strengthens our position with the electorate?

On the continuing issue of the County budget, how does the current budget crunch affect law enforcement specifically or the criminal justice system generally? I have spoken briefly with our Democratic candidate for County Commissioner, on my thoughts of how to mesh the concepts of being a Democrat, a fiscal conservative and protecting (in the budget process) those who protect us on the streets of Mason County. Each candidate must, of course, be true to their own thoughts and ideals, but we must also share our knowledge and ideas for the greater success of our candidates and our community.

But most significantly, we as a political party have lost the initiative this year to the opposition. The primary is done, and with one exception, we do not have a "D" vs. "D" race in the general. Here are my suggestions:

1. The Party must have a unified front. Democrats should publicly support other Democrats. Share contacts. Share sign placements. Make introductions. Encourage financial support where appropriate. For those of you who were not successful in the primary--Stay Active! Your support and your supporters are vital to the success of other Democratic candidates.

2. The local Democratic Party should expend its resources in support of local candidates. This may be as individuals if needed but should include slate based ads whether print, radio or other media. These ads should be locally focused unless there is a benefit to expanding to a broader audience.

3. Candidates in concert, or preferably the local Party, should sponsor local "meet the candidate" events throughout the County to promote local candidates.

Friends, we have a huge challenge ahead of us but with resolution, hard work and a message that resonates with the voters, we can and will be successful.

Monty Cobb

From Brenda Hirschi Candidate for Mason County Commissioner

I'm honored to be the Democratic candidate running for Mason County Commissioner. My team of volunteers and supporters deserve enormous credit for helping me to make it to the top two.

I'd like to tell you who I am and what I stand for.

Growing up in the coalfields of West Virginia, I experienced many of the challenges that we still face today in the timber-based economy of Mason County. The public health and social challenges, poverty and economic hardship, difficult working conditions, and the arguments surrounding environmental protection versus our citizen's ability to make a living, are all things that our next commissioner will have to deal with on a daily basis. I get that and I'm prepared for that.

For the last two years, I've consistently attended the county commissioners' briefings, workshops and business meetings. I understand the county's budget and the budgeting process. The Prosecutor, County Commissioners (both past and present) and the Auditor all say that the county budget is the most important job for our Board of County Commissioners. I know how to balance a budget and hold the line on critical services like public health and public safety. My career in budget management with the Army and Forest Service has prepared me well to help manage our county government during this fiscal crisis.

My Democratic roots go deep. I know which party supported affirmative action and understand how that made it possible for me to have a career not just a job. Coming from the south, I know which party supported civil rights, which made a difference in the lives of so many families. I know which party supported the coal miners in their quest for safer working conditions and compensation for black lung. Those are just a few of the reasons that I claim to be a Democrat.

I know what it's like to live in poverty and what a difference it makes, when as a community, we help out those who are less fortunate. I understand the need for a safety net because as a child my family found need of the safety net on occasion. I know what it's like when there are no jobs and our young people must leave their communities to find work. I understand the need for a vibrant economy and will work to bring sustainable jobs and promote small

business and light industry that is the right fit for Mason County. I know what it's like to live in an environmentally damaged community. I understand the value of caring for our land so that we can continue to protect Mason County's precious and unique ecosystem for generations to come.

I'm asking for your vote and support in this upcoming general election. Please help me become the next Mason County Commissioner, District 3.

From Fred Finn Candidate for State Representative, 35th LD

We had a pair of wonderful fund-raising events in Mason County just before the Primary. It is always good to connect with supporters and potential supporters in these and other types of events.

There were so many people throughout the county making telephone calls to voters on my behalf, and I appreciate that so much.

The Primary results put us in first place, so we go forward to the General Election. We do have our work cut out for us, and to that end, have formulated plans for getting out and contacting voters in all 4 counties that make up the 35th Legislative District.

Our campaign continues to work, and we are grateful to all of you joining us.

From Melody Peterson Candidate for Mason County Assessor

Thanks to all who supported me through the primary. It wasn't easy and I appreciate every person who helped along the way, I will never take my vote lightly again.

Thanks to every one who took the time to doorbell, wave signs, and stand up for me. You know you are the best! And just think, we are not done yet!

Mason County Democratic Women's Club Update

by Marilyn Sayan

Democratic Women's Club President / PCO 122 Miller



The Democratic Women's Club will meet at El Sarape in Gateway Center on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. A no host lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Following a short business meeting at noon, Theresa Jacobsen, candidate for PUD 3 Commissioner, will speak about her campaign and share her views on issues facing the Commission.

In August, Auditor Karen Herr reviewed the results of the previous day's Primary Election, noting that in the contested primary races, there were a number of ballots to be counted the following Friday which would determine who would proceed to the General Election. (The count subsequently confirmed that Brenda Hirsche, Melody Peterson and Theresa Jacobsen would appear on the November ballot for County Commissioner, County Assessor, and PUD 3 Commissioner respectively.) Karen also confirmed that a majority of Mason County voters had supported Representatives

Kathy Haigh and Fred Finn in their re-election bids for 35th LD, as they did for County Clerk Pat Swartos. Monty Cobb is continuing his bid for County Prosecutor. And as you know, neither Auditor Herr or Treasurer Lisa Frazier drew opponents (except for that mousey character named Mickey who thankfully ran an unsuccessful write-in campaign.)

There's still a lot of work to be done to ensure that the candidates we support are successful in November. Be sure to come to the County Central Committee meeting at 7 pm on September 8th and our Women Demos meeting at noon on September 15th and be involved!

Peace,
Marilyn Sayan

OPPORTUNITY!

There are still opportunities for people to volunteer in the office.

We are now heading into the push to get Democrats elected at all levels of government in the general election. As the results from the primary election showed us, **every vote counts**. At the local level, a race can be decided by just a few votes, so we need to get every democrat to return his/her ballot and be counted.

We are planning to have a second phone line installed in the office; in order to make it cost effective, we need more people staffing the office and making phone calls. So far I have signed up only one person per shift, but we can easily accommodate at least two people in the office at the same time. Please contact me to arrange your volunteer time.

Adrienne Amar
MCDCC Office Manager

**Mason County Democrats
P. O. Box 1272
Shelton, WA 98584**

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Save the Date!

MCDCC Meeting,
Wednesday, Sept.
8th at 7:00 p.m.