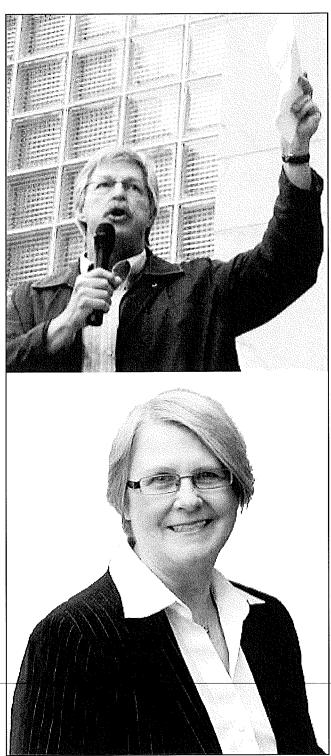
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Two Democrats have entered the 2nd Congressional District race against fellow Democrat Rick Larsen, the incumbent. From top, Larry Kalb, president of Health Care for All, a

statewide organization advocating single-payer health care; and Diana McGinness, a retired insurance fraud investigator. Republican John Koster, a Snohomish County Council member who ran for Congress in 2000, is also a candidate.

Contributed photos

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Congressman Larsen gets two challenges from within party | Election 2010

By <u>RICHARD WALKER</u> Journal of the San Juans Editor Feb 23 2010

Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Bellingham, will have a challenge in the primary from within his own party.

Larry Kalb, 55, announced his candidacy Jan. 15 for the 2nd Congressional District seat, to which Larsen was elected in 2000.

Kalb lives in Bellingham, works for the Whatcom Transportation Authority finance department, and is president of Health Care for All, a statewide organization advocating single-payer health care.

And Diana McGinness of Bellingham, a retired insurance fraud investigator, announced her candidacy Jan. 20.

On Jan. 13, Snohomish County Councilman John Koster, a former state representative who ran against Larsen in 2000, announced his candidacy. Koster is a Republican. He was featured in The Journal on Jan. 20.

Under Washington law, the top two vote-getters in the Aug. 17 primary — regardless of party — advance to the Nov. 2 general election.

Larry Kalb

Kalb is a former chairman of the Washington State Progressive Caucus and was twice a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He is a former board member of the Whatcom County chapter of Washington Conservation Voters.

Kalb will have some help in San Juan County, which gave Larsen 72.44 percent of its vote in the 2008 general election.

http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Congressman+Larsen+gets+two+challenge... 3/15/2010

"I've known Larry since 2004," said Sharon Abreu of Eastsound. "I'm impressed by his values and integrity and so I'm helping him with his campaign, working with Rebecca Hellman on Lopez to help people in the San Juans get to know Larry."

In a press release announcing his campaign, Kalb said he disagrees with Larsen on health care reform as proposed, and on expenditures for war.

Regarding health care reform, Kalb said, "The pending health insurance legislation, which lobbyists authored, represents the largest shifting of citizens' money to corporate interests in the history of this nation.

"The people of my district want to get Wall Street medicine out of their doctor's office, but instead my congressman pledged his allegiance to the insurance companies by giving them a profit windfall worth hundreds of billions of dollars on the backs of us taxpayers and that's wrong.

"My motto is 'Equal access, equal care — regardless of our station in life.' I believe our money should go to getting more health care services, not making middlemen richer."

Kalb lived in Europe for 11 years before moving to Bellingham. In Europe, he said he experienced first-hand the economic benefits of universal access to health care.

"A whole layer of our economy is missing in comparison," Kalb said. "Other nations depend on the intellectual initiative of a healthy citizenry to create domestic economic expansion, but with our health care system it retracts. And politicians always talk about creating more jobs. That can't happen under our system of profit-based medicine."

Kalb also differs with the incumbent over war expenditures.

"We could use the \$160 billion my congressman slated for more war in Afghanistan to stimulate job growth or to build a light-rail system from Blaine to Seattle. Our roads are already congested and the erosion of transportation improvement funds promises to make our air quality worse, causing more kids to be treated for asthma.

"A good steward of public funds would provide child care programs for young working moms and dads who struggle to set-up a household, or enable cash-strapped high school graduates the financial means to study a skill or profession of their choice, or even help those families facing foreclosure to keep their house."

His No. 1 goal if elected: Campaign finance reform legislation.

"This is our home. We have a right to just governance," he said.

You can talk to the candidate by calling (360) 927-2729. His Web site address is www.kalbforcongress.com.

Diana McGinness

In her declaration of candidacy, McGinness said Congress needs representatives that are willing and able to address the serious problems facing Americans.

"We need leaders willing to step up to enact solutions for 97 percent of the people, not politicians who test the wind before speaking out or casting a vote." She said she is committed to work for "real reform, rather than reinforcing the status quo."

"For 50 years, politicians have run for office with simplistic slogans," McGinness said. "It's time to stop governing and electing by 'bumper sticker.' Our problems are greater than two or three issues and much more complicated than a slogan."

http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Congressman+Larsen+gets+two+challenge... 3/15/2010

As targets for reform, she cited banking regulation, campaign laws, corporate monopolies, education, health care, international trade, ongoing wars and "jobs, jobs, jobs."

McGinness retired in 2007 as an insurance fraud investigator. She was recognized by state officials as the driving force behind the creation of a state bill that formed a dedicated criminal fraud investigative unit in the Insurance Commissioner's office.

Her career focused on investigating and uncovering fraud, including staged-accident and theft rings, medical offices billing for services not rendered, and improper billing by diagnostic and durable medical equipment firms.

Prior to her retirement, McGinness' interest turned toward politics. She said her work honed her research skills, and enabled her to define and research issues effecting our economy and civil rights.

"Whether we look back 50 years or five days, history will show us lessons we've forgotten and reveal solutions," McGinness said.

"We must educate voters so we can work together for what's best for our communities and our country. We have the will to restore our prosperity and protect our freedoms; now we must do it."

McGinness moved to Washington from southern Illinois in 1991. She has a daughter and two sons, one a former Marine who served in the Gulf War. Her home is in Bellingham.

Her Web site address is www.dianaforcongress.com.

The Candidates

- Larry Kalb: Democrat. President of Health Care for All. Former chairman of Washington State Progressive Caucus.
- John Koster: Republican. Snohomish County Council member. Ran for Congress in 2000.
- Rick Larsen: Democrat. Member of Congress since 2001. Member of the House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the House Budget Committee.
- Diana McGinness: Democrat. Retired insurance fraud investigator.

Earlier stories: Snohomish County Council member challenging Larsen for Congress.

Journal of the San Juans Editor Richard Walker can be reached at rwalker@sanjuanjournal.com or 360-378-5696.

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http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/85060952.html

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In PORT ANGELES

one Choices

Democrat announces run for Clallam prosecutor

March 10th, 2010 - 6:00am

(Port Angeles) -- An official challenger for Clallam County prosecutor has emerged.

David Fox says he'll run as a Democrat for the seat held by Republican incumbent Deb Kelly.

Fox told the Peninsula Daily News this week he was running because of high turnover in the prosecutor's office.

Fox ran as a Democrat two years ago for Clallam County commissioner but was ousted from the top-two primary by a Republican and an Independent candidate.

Fox has practiced law in the area for more than a decade, although he is currently not listed on the Clallam County Bar Association's roster.

Kelly announced last month she intends to run for a third term this fall.

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This is a printer friendly version of an article from www.peninsuladailynews.com To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Article published Mar 10, 2010

Port Angeles lawyer eyes county prosecuting attorney post

By Tom Callis Peninsula Daily News

Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney Deb Kelly has a challenger in the November election: attorney David R. Fox of Port Angeles.

Fox, who is running on the Democratic ticket, announced his candidacy last week.

He is challenging Kelly, a Republican, who said she would seek a third term as county prosecuting attorney at the Clallam County Republican Party's Lincoln Day fundraising dinner last month.

Kelly was first elected in 2002 when she ran against incumbent Chris Shea, a Democrat. Kelly was reelected in 2006 when she ran unopposed.

Fox, who ran unsuccessfully against County Commissioner Mike Chapman in 2008, has practiced family, criminal and public service law for 15 years in Port Angeles, he said in a prepared statement.

He received a juris doctorate degree from University of Idaho College of Law in 1994.

Fox criticized Kelly for employee turnover in the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and for an age discrimination lawsuit filed by former employees in fall 2008. The lawsuit has not been resolved.

"If elected prosecuting attorney, I would seek a staff of excellent attorneys who demonstrate a desire to root in the community, treat them as professionals and probably keep them around for a while, better serving the expeditious administration of justice," he said in the statement.

This year's candidate filing period is June 7-11.

The primary election is Aug. 17. The general election is Nov. 2.

Reporter Tom Callis can be reached at 360-417-3532 or at tom.callis@peninsuladailynews.com.

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John White

From:

Saved by Windows Internet Explorer 8

Sent:

Monday, February 15, 2010 8:43 AM

Subject:

Fired-up Lakewood cop running for seat in Legislature

Attachments: ATT00034.bin; ATT00035.bin; ATT00036.bin; ATT00037.bin; ATT00038.bin; ATT00039.bin; ATT00040.bin; ATT00041.bin; ATT00042.bin



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Last updated February 14, 2010 10:44 p.m. PT

Fired-up Lakewood cop running for seat in Legislature

By RAY LANE KOMO-TV STAFF

A Lakewood police officer says more cops are needed in the state Legislature -so he's running for office himself.

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Brian Wurts has never before run for public office -- but he says the deadly shootings of four of his fellow Lakewood police officers is the prime reason he's doing this.

After years of lobbying for change in Olympia for police issues, he now wants to be a change-maker.

"After this last year, I can't sit behind the scenes anymore," Wurts says. "We need more people, we need more cops in the Legislature."

In the days just after the Lakewood police officer shootings last November, Wurts was often front and center.

As an officer of that department, he's also the president of the Police Officers Guild in Lakewood.

He says that experience, and what he's learned in the wake of the tragedies, would make him a good state lawmaker.

He says he's working with others to draft new laws to reform the bail system, set stiffer penalties for rendering criminal assistance and fighting for survivor benefits for the families of slain officers.

All of that is related to an effort to keep violent criminals from getting another chance to do harm -- like Maurice Clemmons did.

"My job is easier than what Olympia is going to be -- but it's lit a fire not just in me, but those families -- those families that are speaking out that were left behind," says Wurts.

Wurts will run against Kent Keel in the Republican primary for the 28th District. Keel announced his candidacy just a few weeks ago.

The winner will challenge incumbent Rep. Tami Green, a Democrat.

Wurts thinks his law enforcement background would be a huge asset in Olympia, saying he's learned plenty during his 14 years on the street.

A political newcomer, he says he just wants to shake things up.

"Things get done that way," he says. "It doesn't need to go through 50 committees and die quietly. And that's what happens down there -- things die quietly.'

Wurts says he knows others might say he's using his recent "face-time" and name

2/16/2010

recognition in the aftermath of the officers shootings to get elected.

But he says the families of the fallen officers and his fellow officers know he's genuine in his decision to run for a seat in the House.

Soundoff (22 comments, Hide/show comments) What do you think?



Posted by N47 W122 at 2/14/2010 11:06 p.m. (Report violation) Please but, no.



Posted by courtland at 2/14/2010 11:55 p.m. (Report violation)



Best of luck...you should get hazardous duty pay if you get the Legislature.



Posted by Skeer at 2/15/2010 12:05 a.m. (Report violation)

Oh no, a fired up, smoke breathing Republican cop who thinks we need more cops in the legislature. Cops have too much power already. And look at how awful Riechert ... more



Posted by 1970Tina at 2/15/2010 12:14 a.m. (Report violation)

best of luck to ya



Posted by 7777 at 2/15/2010 12:23 a.m. (Report violation)

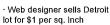
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May 31, 2006

Pick-a-Party Primary Refresher

The pick-a-party primary was conducted for the first time during the 2004 Primary Election and a few counties conducted such a primary for the 2005 Primary Election. Since then, several counties have new employees and have switched vote tabulation equipment. The following information may be of assistance as you prepare for the 2006 Primary Election:

- The pick-a-party primary has no impact on who can file as a major party candidate; a candidate does not have to receive the endorsement of a major party to file for candidacy for a partisan office.
- Minor party and independent candidates must still follow the nominating convention process at the end of June; they do not appear on the primary ballot, but advance directly to the General Election.
- Write-in votes for major party candidates may not be tallied if the candidates have not filed a
 Declaration of Write-In Candidacy affiliating with a major party. This provision only applies to
 partisan primaries.
- Precinct Committee Officers will appear on the Primary Election ballot.
- Precinct Committee Officers must file Declarations of Candidacy during the regular filing period. The extended filing period allowed for Precinct Committee Officers in the past no longer exists.
- The office of Precinct Committee Officer may not be filled using the process for major party ticket vacancies. If there is a void in candidacy for the office of Precinct Committee Officer, the incumbent retains the position until he or she resigns as directed by RCW 29A.80.041. Upon resignation, the position is filled by appointment by the party as directed by RCW 29A.28.071.
- The office of Precinct Committee Officer must appear on all poll site and vote by mail ballots. If no candidate files, a space for a write-in must be provided. For poll site counties, the exception to printing the office on the ballot if there are less than two candidates of the same party remains for absentee ballots.

These issues and others regarding the pick-a party primary, including ballot layout, consolidated ballots v. physically separate ballots, and what to count and not count will be covered in more depth during a one hour session at the annual Election Conference on Friday, June 9.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Amber Cervantes at 360.902.4165.

From:

Mauch, Wendy

Sent:

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:48 AM

To:

SAU - Elections

Subject:

FW: Inserts for Top Two Primary ballot

Reminders from the state – we have to keep the separate insert with the primary ballots.

Wendy Mauch
Elections Supervisor
Snohomish County Auditor's Office
425-388-3651 wendy.mauch@snoco.org

From: Nieland, Libby [mailto:Inieland@secstate.wa.gov]

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 4:43 PM

Subject: Inserts for Top Two Primary ballot

Good Afternoon Election Partners,

I have had several questions regarding the insert and notices required for the Top Two Primary last year. I just wanted to assure all of you that nothing has changed in the instructions to voters for the Top Two Primary. These requirements still apply to partisan races.

If your county has a partisan office on the Primary ballot you will need to do the following:

- 1) WAC 434-250-040(1)(k) requires a separate insert be included with the ballot.
- a. The insert must state:

"Washington has a new primary. You do not have to pick a party. In each race, you may vote for any candidate listed. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the August primary will advance to the November general election.

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate."

- b. The statement must be printed on colored paper.
- 2) WAC 434-230-015(4)(a) requires a notice be printed on the ballot immediately above the first partisan state or county office.
- a. The notice must be exactly as follows:

"READ: Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that

he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate."

b. The notice must appear in **bold** print.

For General Election ballots with partisan races, you do not need to include either of the prior messages. Instead, the explanation required by $\underline{WAC\ 434-250-040(1)(l)(l)}$ (below) must accompany the General Election ballot.

"Washington has a new election system. In each race for partisan office, the two candidates who receive the most votes in the August primary advance to the November general election.

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate."

If you have questions, please email me, as I am out of the office training on Monday. Have a great weekend.

Libby Nieland

Certification and Training

Elections Division

Office of the Secretary of State

520 Union Ave. SE

Olympia, 98504-0229

(360) 725-5770

Fax 360.664.4619



Washington's Top 2 Primary / Voter Outreach Campaign Messaging for Paid Media Effort

Mandatory Key Messages

- The new Primary election system gives voters the freedom and choice to "vote for the person, not the party."
- Voters can now choose any candidate on the ballot.
- The top two vote-getters will advance to the General election, regardless of their party preference.
- If there's a candidate you'd like to see in the General, make sure to vote in the Primary, [or] If you want to make the most of your choice, make sure you vote in the Primary.
- For partisan offices candidates can list a party they prefer.
- · A candidate's party preference doesn't mean the party endorses or approves of that candidate.
- Washington voters approved a "Top 2" Primary by initiative in 2004.
- Your vote is your voice. Be heard by voting in the Primary election, August 19.
- · To find out more, got to www.vote.wa.gov.

Mandatory "Avoidance" Statements

- Candidates should not be referred to as "Republican," "Democrat,"
 "Independent," "Libertarian," etc.
- Do not use the word "endorsed," "affiliated" or "nominated" unless a candidate has been
 officially endorsed or nominated by the named political party.
- This is not the old "blanket Primary." Do not refer to it as a blanket Primary.



Top 2 Primary Advisory 04: Reporting Election Results June 24, 2008

When reporting election results for the Top 2 Primary, your voting system reports will not include the party preference field with each candidate's name.

Some counties may be able to set up a report outside of their voting systems that can report this information. If you choose to do this, you must report the whole statement for each partisan candidate ((Prefers xxxx Party) or (States No Party Preference)) or no party information at all.

Political party names may **not** be abbreviated, with the exception of reporting Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) and Presidential/Vice Presidential results.

Candidates for PCO and President/Vice President are representing a political party, and as such may be treated differently when reporting results. The reports may either contain the complete statement (e.g. Democratic Party Candidate or Republican Party Candidate) or use an abbreviation for the political party. Valid party abbreviations for PCOs on reports are "D" and "R", or "DEM" and "REP." Valid party abbreviations for the Presidential race will be provided at a later date.

Note: The state website and WEI websites will report the (Prefers xxxx Party) information with each candidate name. However, political party information will **not** be required to be on the final canvass reports that you will send to the Secretary of State's Office.

For further details or questions, you may contact Patty Murphy at <u>pmurphy@secstate.wa.gov</u>, or call (360) 902-4188.

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009 Comments (7)

Recommend (0)

16th District, House: Vote for Laura Grant

By the Herald editorial staff

This editorial is about the 16th District race for the state House of Representatives.

It is also about the Tri-City Herald editorial board's philosophy of political recommendations.

There is a fine Republican candidate running for this seat, Terry Nealey of Dayton, the prosecuting attorney there for 16 years.

He has wisdom, solid ideas and a background that puts him very close to the roots of Eastern Washington. He was born in Walla Walla and grew up on a farm in Whitman. Upon graduation from Washington State University, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He spent his time in Fort Meade, Md., and Korea. Upon leaving the service, he enrolled in Gonzaga Law School and graduated in 1974.

He is a very attractive candidate -- solid family, solid values and right on the issues -- of which, more later.

Laura Grant, a Democrat, was appointed to the seat after her father, longtime Rep. Bill Grant, D-Walla Walla, died in January, just one month after being diagnosed with lung cancer. He had served, often as the lone Demo-cratic legislator from Southeastern Washington, for 22 years.

She did a good job during this year's session.

Walla Walla is her home and her family has been in Eastern Washington since 1858. She attended Walla Walla Community College, then transferred to Eastern Washington University, where she earned her teaching degree. She earned her master's degree in 1993, a library media endorsement in 1995, a teaching English as a second language endorsement in 2001, and her National Board of Professional Teachers certification in 2006.

She served on the Prescott School Board and as a co-president of the PTA. She has been teaching in the 16th District for 21 years.

And she has shown, throughout her life, the same independent streak that enabled her father to win election after election as a Democrat in what is a substantially Republican district.

Like him, though, she is more of an Eastern Washington Democrat -- one whose politics are more in line with agriculture than, say, downtown Seattle.

In fact, going back to the issues we mentioned earlier, she and Nealey agree on pretty much all of them:

- -- Both say they support nuclear power and hydropower being counted as a renewable energy.
- -- Both would support a bill that would grant additional water rights to farmers growing biofuel crops.
- -- Both disagree with a state cap-and-trade initiative.
- -- Neither agrees with a Northwest Power and Conservation Council draft that says that as much as 85 percent of the region's energy needs throughout the next 20 years can be achieved through conservation.
- -- Both oppose increased taxes.

They seem to differ on their perceptions of Gov. Chris Gregoire. He thinks "Gregoire has been a very effective governor." She says, "Gregoire scares me."

We recommend voters choose Grant.

Which brings us to the editorial board's philosophy. This is an unusual case, where we think party labels really count.

We will not embarrass them, but we will assert that many, many Eastern Washington Republican legislators have told us over the years just how valuable it was to have Bill Grant in the Democratic caucus in Olympia. His name on a bill could get it considered when a dozen Republican names would not.

Democrats dominate the Legislature, and it is unlikely that will change soon.

This, then, is a pragmatic recommendation. We're aware that pragmatism is not a compelling (or even forgivable) reason for some voters.

Nevertheless, there it is.

Eastern Washington needs a Democrat in Olympia -- but a Democrat who is sympathetic to Eastern Washington values.

Laura Grant has that job, and is doing pretty well at it.

We say, let her keep it.

The Herald editorial board recommends Laura Grant for the state House of Representatives.



http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_legislature.html

Last updated November 3, 2009 11:34 p.m. PT

GOP beats only statehouse Dem in rural E. Wash.

By CURT WOODWARD ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

OLYMPIA, Wash. -- The Legislature's minority Republicans scored a key moral victory Tuesday with a lopsided defeat of the only statehouse Democrat from largely conservative rural Eastern Washington.

Republican challenger Terry Nealey was easily outpolling Rep. Laura Grant, D-Walla Walla, in the race for the 16th Legislative District, which includes the cities of Pasco and Walla Walla.

Nealey's margin stood at about 58 percent to 42 percent on Tuesday night, with about 60 percent of the expected vote counted in unofficial returns.

Nealey, a former Columbia County prosecutor, said his victory showed that voters in the district were ready for a change after 22 years of having a Democrat occupy one of their House seats.

Nealey said his campaign focused primarily on the state's looming budget shortfall, and he credited voter frustration with state and national government finances as a major boost.

"People were both concerned and upset about those issues, and people felt they needed to elect a conservative Republican that would represent their interests," he said. "And I was the right guy at the right time."

Grant was running to complete the term of her late father, Bill Grant, who died earlier this year. Laura Grant was appointed to the seat by county officials, but had to run in Tuesday's special election to keep the job.

Nealey will now finish out the remainder of the term, and must run for re-election next fall. Grant and Democratic campaign officials did not immediately return messages seeking comment Tuesday night.

Republicans also will retain Eastern Washington House seats in two other special elections held Tuesday. The first of those contests was in the 9th District, which includes Pullman and Cheney.

Both candidates in the 9th were Republican, a wrinkle allowed by the state's "Top Two" primary, which advances the top vote getters regardless of party. Susan Fagan was leading that contest Tuesday night, holding about 55 percent of the vote to Pat Hailey's 45 percent, with roughly 56 percent of the vote tallied.

The two were vying to fill the seat previously held by Republican Steve Hailey, who died before completing his term.

The final contest saw freshman Rep. David Taylor, R-Moxee, easily retain his appointed seat. Taylor was elevated to the job after Dan Newhouse was appointed Gov. Chris Gregoire's agriculture secretary.

Taylor faced a nominal opponent in Tuesday's polling, but that candidate, Democrat John Gotts, abandoned the race and endorsed Taylor weeks ago.

Tuesday, Nov. 03, 2009 Comments (0)

Recommend (0)

ELEX: Pullman's Fagan apparent winner in 9th District

By Michelle Dupler, Herald staff writer

Susan Fagan of Pullman was the apparent winner Tuesday night in the historic 9th District match-up that pitted two Republican women against each other.

Fagan got 11,421 votes, or 55 percent, compared with Pat Hailey's 9,222 votes, or 45 percent.

The predominantly rural Eastern Washington district covers Asotin, Whitman, Adams, Garfield and parts of Spokane and Franklin counties.

Hailey of Mesa led in north Franklin County with 973 votes, or 84 percent, compared with 184 votes, or 16 percent, for Fagan, but that wasn't enough to overcome Fagan's apparent wins in more heavily populated Whitman and Spokane counties.

Although this is an off-year for legislative elections, the 9th District seat was left open by the death of Rep. Steve Hailey, R-Mesa, in December, and the decision by Rep. Don Cox, R-Colfax, Hailey's appointed replacement, not to seek election this fall.

The election is the first time two Republicans have battled for the seat.

The election results are to be certified Nov. 24.

Friday, Oct. 09, 2009 Comments (0)



9TH DISTRICT: Fagan, Hailey face off for 9th District representative

By Michelle Dupler, Herald staff writer

Susan Fagan and Pat Hailey were friends long before they became political rivals.

The two Republican women got to know each other when Hailey's late husband hit the campaign trail several years ago, and Fagan was a precinct committee woman for the party in Whitman County.

Now the pair -- both 61, both widows -- face off against each other in the Nov. 3 general election to see who will replace Rep. Don Cox as 9th District state representative.

The seat was left open by the death of Rep. Steve Hailey, R-Mesa, in December, and the decision by Cox, R-Colfax, his appointed replacement, not to seek election this fall.

The election is the first time two Republicans will vie for the seat.

Both describe themselves as conservatives who favor fiscal responsibility and oppose raising taxes, as well as promoting agricultural interests in the Legislature.

Fagan, who left her job as government relations director for Schweizer Engineering Laboratories to campaign full time, has decades of experience working with government, from her time as an aide to three U.S. senators to being involved with advocacy organizations such as American Agri-Women, the Association of Washington Business and National Association of Independent Business.

She said she always thought she would make the leap to public life, and when Cox opted not to run, she decided to seize the opportunity.

One of Fagan's top priorities is to improve the state's economic climate by reforming taxes on businesses. She believes the business and occupations tax and estate tax, which she calls a "death tax," restrict businesses from growing and discourage new businesses from locating in the state.

Fagan's website reports she has been endorsed by Attorney General Rob McKenna and Secretary of State Sam Reed, both Republicans, and two-time Republican gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi.

She also has been endorsed by the Association of Washington Business -- of which she is a member -- Inland Pacific Associated Builders and Contractors, Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs and Washington State Council of Fire Fighters.

Hailey, a farmer, wants to continue the work begun by her late husband in his two years as a 9th District representative, including trying to curtail state spending and pass budgets that don't overtax citizens.

Among her priorities are lessening regulations on businesses -- especially farms -- and restoring water rights to farmers who have lost them through the state's "use it or lose it" policy. She also would protect private property rights for farmers.

She said as a former member of the North Franklin School Board and school registrar that education is her passion and she'd like to serve on the House of Representatives' K-12 education committee so she can protect levy equalization money and basic education.

Hailey said she has been endorsed by the Public School Employees of Washington, a labor union that represents school district staff such as janitors and bus drivers. She said she hasn't asked for other endorsements.

Through Thursday, Fagan had raised more than \$88,000 in contributions. Hailey had raised about \$57,000, according to the state Public Disclosure Commission.

- -- On the net: www.susanfagan.com; www.pathailey.com
- -- Michelle Dupler: 582-1543; mdupler@tricityherald.com

Ninth district candidates differences tough to find

-- 10/22/2009

Fagan and Hailey share similar views on issues, differ on background, campaigning and I-1033

By JOHN McCALLUM

Editor

Since their primary victories in August, state representative candidates Susan Fagan and Pat Hailey have put thousands of miles on their vehicles, crisscrossing the vast 9th District they seek to represent.

They've spoken at so many meetings, forums and debates they're eligible to charge a speakers fee, and they've rung so many doorbells that the phrase "ding-dong" likely elicits a Pavlovian response to extend a handshake. But with all this public exposure, neither candidate said recently that the priorities they first campaigned on have changed. In fact, they say, they've been strengthened. Both believe getting Washington's economic house in order is priority one, and say the best way to do that is through limited government and fiscal responsibility. Hailey also lists protecting and strengthening agriculture and education as two other priorities, especially agriculture. Hailey, from Mesa in Franklin County, said \$22 billion of Washington's revenue is agriculture-related, with the 9th accounting for \$1.2 billion of that, as well as \$200 million in property taxes paid by farmers. Hailey believes farmers face too many regulations, especially regarding water and property rights, and says she would work to relax some of those while promoting conservation and protection of resources. "We need to remember how much agriculture means to this state," she said.

Fagan, from Pullman, agrees, saying Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the country, exporting \$16 billion in 2008. If elected, she would work to strengthen export markets while protecting property and water rights for rural and urban users.

Regarding education, Fagan would like to see more emphasis placed on the role community colleges can play in higher education, especially for students from rural communities, while Hailey has talked about improving training programs and vocational education as well. Both firmly believe levy equalization is vital to district schools.

"We're very rural," Fagan said. "We're dependent on levy equalization and it's important for us to protect it." With both agreeing on many issues, it may be difficult for voters to make a selection come Nov. 3. What may separate the candidates, both Republicans, may lie in the background details.

Fagan is the former Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories director of public affairs. She resigned after 10 years to focus on her campaign, and has 15 years of experience working for former Idaho U.S. Senators Steve Symms and Jim McClure, and current senator Larry Craig.

Fagan has experience in natural resources through production agriculture and managing family-owned timberlands. She has served on numerous chambers of commerce and other organizations, including her current position as chair of the Association of Washington Businesses Healthcare Committee.

Hailey is owner of Hailey Company, the fourth-generation family farm/ranch near Mesa. She has served on the Franklin County School Board since election in 2005 as well as a past PTA president and sat on numerous boards and associations, including current positions with the Washington Cattleman's Association and the Washington State Farm Bureau. Her late husband, Steve Hailey, previously held the position she is campaigning for. According to the state's Public Disclosure Commission, when it comes to campaign financing, Fagan has raised the most, \$98,014. Of that, \$24,650 has come from businesses or organizations, including Avista, Premera, Wal-Mart and Idaho Beverage, Inc. She has received endorsements from Attorney General Rob McKenna, former gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi, as well as organizations such as the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs.

Hailey has raised \$65,224 in campaign contributions, \$4,900 of which has come from some businesses but mainly organizations such as Public School Employees of Washington, the Washington Cattle Feeders Association and the Washington Education Association. She is endorsed by former 9th District candidate Art Swannack, 13th District Rep. Judy Warnick (Moses Lake), and the WEA, something that surprises Hailey since she is a Republican and the state teacher's organization typically leans Democrat.

"There's areas we're going to disagree on and they know that, but they feel I'm a stronger education candidate," she said.

Hailey points to her focus on individual campaign funding as something that separates her from Fagan. Fagan defends her funding, noting that many organizations, like the Northwest Food Processors, represent people in the

district and their concerns.

"Those are people who process food grown in Washington," she said.

Another area where there may be some separation is the issue of Initiative 1033. The initiative would limit growth of certain state, county and city revenues to annual inflation and population growth, and require excess revenue be repaid through lower property taxes.

Hailey opposes the initiative, saying it cuts too deeply into local areas and smaller taxing districts, and could hurt public safety. But, it's the state government's fault it's on the ballot, she said, noting Washington had a \$1.6 billion surplus in 2007 – now all gone.

"We know if the legislature had behaved itself, not gone on a spending spree, roller coaster ride, we wouldn't have this initiative process," she said. "Quite frankly, they blew it. For way too many years."

Fagan agrees, but said she is struggling with her decision on 1033. On one hand there's the opportunity to reduce property taxes, while on the other its passage will hurt small towns and taxing districts, and likely result in a loss of services people depend on.

"It's unfortunate that this decision gets thrown to the people," she said. "(They) don't get to see all the budgets. Everybody is just scraping by."

Whatever the outcome in the 9th race, one thing is certain and that is the district will have its first female representative in history. Both candidates feel highly qualified.

"I hope voters look at my record," Fagan said. "They should feel confident that I will work hard on their behalf. I'm confident in my skills and the ability to hit the ground running."

"The only reason I'm doing this is I want to be in service to people," Hailey said. "I have the education and experience. I will use it somewhere, but I really think I can use it best in Olympia."

John McCallum can be reached at jmac@cheneyfreepress.com

Friday, Oct. 16, 2009 Comments (0)



9th District, House: Vote for Pat Hailey

By the Herald editorial staff

What happens when two friends run for the same office? Time will tell. But we do know that the 9th District of the state Legislature will be filled by a Republican regardless of who wins.

This is the first time in our region that two members of the same party are facing each other for a legislative seat in the general election.

Under our top two primary system, Republican Susan Fagan and Republican Pat Hailey are competing for the seat vacated when Hailey's husband, Steve, died in office last December.

Both women are longtime activists in the Republican Party. In fact, the two women met while Fagan was helping on Steve Hailey's campaign.

The race is sure to cause a division among their friends and likely among party faithful as well.

Fagan, from Pullman, gained experience in the political arena as an aide to three Idaho senators over the span of 10 years and also as the public affairs director for Switzer Engineering.

She gained some agricultural experience as a forest landowner with her husband before his death in 2002. Her sons now manage the land.

Fagan would be a sincere legislator and has been busy trying to get up to speed on issues that are important to Eastern Washington. She has some bigname endorsements behind her like Sam Reed, Rob McKenna and Dino Rossi.

Still, our nod goes to Hailey.

She is an ag production farmer, part of an industry that is valued at \$1.2 billion in our state, and she still manages her farm in Mesa.

Although both candidates describe themselves as "farmers," leasing your land to a forestry operation is not the same as plowing, planting and harvesting ag products.

As a plus, the Hailey farm is a "cash-only" operation, meaning they only buy what they can afford.

A lawmaker used to operating on that business model would be a valuable addition to the state Legislature.

Education is also high on Hailey's list, and she has worked as an attendance registrar for 10 years and served on the North Franklin School Board.

If elected, she would seek to serve on the agriculture and education committees and would be a strong voice on both of them.

Fagan's political ties seem more closely allied to Idaho and Pullman.

Hailey has been working the 9th District alongside her husband, Steve, for the past seven years. She has traveled the district, talked to the constituents and been to Olympia, but mostly in a supporting role. We think it's time to give her a shot at the lead.

The Herald editorial board recommends Pat Hailey for the state House of Representatives.

Strange Bedfellows

http://blog.seattlepi.nwsource.com/seattlepolitics/archives/184026.asp

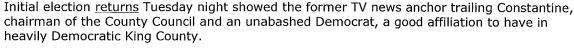
King Co. voters like knowing who's a 'D' and who's an 'R'

King County voters decided a year ago to make county elective offices nonpartisan, but they nonetheless want to know the party affiliations of the nonpartisan candidates they elect.

And while county executive candidate Susan Hutchison called herself an independent, nonpartisan nonpolitician despite her ties to Republican and conservative candidates and causes, the voters apparently concluded that if she walks, acts and quacks like a Republican, she must be a Republican.



Those findings from a public opinion <u>survey</u> just before Tuesday's general election help explain why Hutchison appears headed for defeat in her race against Dow Constantine in the race for the newly nonpartisan office of county executive.





Much of his campaign consisted of labeling Hutchison, a novice candidate, as a stealth conservative Republican.

Hutchison was a prominent supporter of last year's ballot measure to turn the county executive, council and assessor into nonpartisan offices. It passed easily, 56 percent to 44 percent, enabling her to run this year without having to declare a party affiliation.

Yet in a Survey USA poll of King County voters conducted for KING TV last Friday through Sunday, 62 percent of the voters said it was very important or somewhat important to know the party affiliations of the county executive candidates. Only 38 percent said it was not very or not at all important.

Majorities of self-identified Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, moderates and liberals all said knowing the candidates' party affiliations was important. Among independent voters, 52 percent said it wasn't important and 48 percent said it was.

And when voters were asked whether they viewed Hutchison as a Republican, a Democrat or an independent, 60 percent identified her as a Republican, 27 percent as an independent, 4 percent as a Democrat, and 9 percent were unsure.

Forty-eight percent of Republicans, 72 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of independent voters considered her a Republican.

Hutchison has been a generous contributor to Republican political campaigns and has been urged by conservative Republicans in the past to run for public office.

- Neil Modie

Posted by P-I Politics Team at November 3, 2009 10:02 p.m.

· Return to King Co. voters like knowing who's a 'D' and who's an 'R'

The Seattle Times

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 - Page updated at 11:12 AM

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Wash, election features 3 statehouse contests

By CURT WOODWARD

Associated Press Writer

Voters in three Eastern Washington legislative districts chose state House members in special elections Tuesday to replace departed incumbents.

Each of the seats was vacated before the previous occupant's term expired - two by deaths, and one by a promotion. The winners will serve out the remainder of a term that lasts through 2010.

The leading contest is in the 16th District, which includes the cities of Pasco and Walla Walla. Freshman Rep. Laura Grant, D-Walla Walla, is facing Republican Terry Nealey, a former Columbia County prosecutor.

Grant was appointed to the seat early this year after the death of her father, Bill Grant, who held the job for more than 20 years. Nealey claimed 46 percent of the vote against Bill Grant in the 2008 general election.

Republicans are targeting the race because Grant is the Legislature's only Democrat representing rural Eastern Washington.

Another contest features two Republicans, a wrinkle made possible by the state's "Top Two" primary. They're competing for a House seat in the 9th District, which includes Pullman and Cheney.

The seat opened following the death of Rep. Steve Hailey, R-Mesa. His widow, farmer-rancher and school board member Pat Hailey, is competing against Susan Fagan, public affairs director for a Pullman manufacturer and former aide to three U.S. senators from Idaho.

The final race is essentially a formality. Freshman Rep. David Taylor, R-Moxee, faces no real competition for the seat representing the 15th District, which includes Sunnyside and Goldendale.

Taylor was appointed to complete the unexpired term of Dan Newhouse, who was appointed Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire's agriculture director. The nominal challenger is John Gotts, a Democrat who abandoned the race and endorsed Taylor after advancing through the primary.

On the Net:

Legislature: http://www.leg.wa.gov

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Tuesday, May 27, 2008 - Page updated at 03:46 AM

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Top-two system producing more party-of-one races

By Andrew Garber

Seattle Times staff reporter

Leslie Bloss is the only Republican running for an open seat in Seattle's 36th District, but you probably won't see her name on the November ballot.

She isn't expected to make it through Washington's new top-two primary, in which the two candidates with the most votes, regardless of party, advance to the general election.

In the liberal 36th District, which includes the Magnolia and Queen Anne neighborhoods, Bloss' two Democratic opponents are likely to take first and second place in the Aug. 19 primary.

"It's really pretty sad," said Bloss, who's competing for the seat left open by retiring longtime Democratic Rep. Helen Sommers. "It's not fair for voters."

Although state officials had predicted single-party contests would be rare under the new system, there could be a half-dozen legislative races this year with candidates from the same party running against each other in November.

In the past, candidates who won the primary in districts heavily dominated by one party would generally coast to a win in November. Now they face prolonged and expensive fights.

"When I first got into this, I had planned a vacation after Aug. 19. That will not take place," said John Burbank, one of the two Democratic candidates in the 36th District. The other is Reuven Carlyle.

Secretary of State Sam Reed acknowledged the whole thing "is strange. Weird for all of us. We've never seen anything like this in our state."

But Reed said, "I really think it's going to be a healthy thing in the long run."

He predicts the new primary will lead to more competitive races. And he doesn't buy the argument that it shuts out candidates who deserve to be on the November ballot. It just means parties have to field stronger candidates to ensure a spot in the general election, he said.

The chairmen of the state Democratic and Republican parties disagree. They've long opposed the top-two primary and are looking for ways to kill it in court.

"Republican voters in Seattle have the right to vote for a candidate in the general election. And that right is being taken away from them," Democratic Party Chairman Dwight Pelz said. "Democratic voters in Eastern Washington have the right to vote for a Democrat in the general election and that right is being taken away from them."

There's some speculation that the state treasurer's race could end up with two Democrats in the general election. State Rep. Jim McIntire, D-Seattle, is running against Democrat ChangMook Sohn, the former chief economist for the state. However, Republican Party Chairman Luke Esser said the GOP candidate, Allan Martin, is "a very strong candidate." Martin is the

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current assistant state treasurer.

But legislative races in both Eastern and Western Washington likely will have two candidates from the same party running in November.

For example, in Seattle's District 46, which includes Northgate, Lake City and parts of Greenwood, two Democrats are running for the seat left open by Rep. McIntire. No GOP candidate has announced yet.

And in District 7, in Northeastern Washington, four Republicans are running for the seat held by Rep. Bob Sump, R-Republic, who is retiring. No Democrat has filed.

Reed argues that in those cases, voters previously may have had one unopposed candidate on the November ballot. Now, they'll have two people to vote for, albeit from the same party. That, he said, increases choice for voters.

Voters created the top-two primary when they approved Initiative 872 in 2004. However, before the new system could go into effect, the state's major parties sued. They argued it infringed on their right to pick their own nominees for the general election.

The parties won their case in the U.S. District Court and in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, keeping the top two from going into effect.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling earlier this year overturned the lower-court decisions and reinstated the top two.

In addition to allowing single-party contests, the new system has the state parties scrambling to figure out the best way to inform voters which candidates have their official backing.

Before the top-two system was created, the parties used the state primary to winnow the field of candidates down to those who would be their nominees in the general election. Parties liked it better because voters had to choose a party ballot and pick only from that party's candidates.

Now, voters can cast ballots for any candidate, and the primary will no longer serve as the official party nomination process.

As a result, the state Democratic Party has established its own way of determining which candidates they consider their nominees. In legislative races, Democratic precinct committee officers in each district are supposed to designate an official party candidate for each state House and Senate position.

That designation won't appear on the primary ballot, but candidates can use it in their campaign literature.

The state Republican Party is encouraging precinct officers to nominate candidates but is not making it mandatory.

The new nominating process has led to some intraparty wrangling.

Precinct officers in the 36th District, for example, would not endorse a candidate. Peter House, chair of the 36th District Democrats, said they dislike the new top-two primary but are uncomfortable nominating candidates. "We just thought the nominating convention would be too awkward and not democratic enough," he said.

Party rules allow Pelz to nominate candidates in that situation. Pelz picked Burbank, executive director of the Economic Opportunity Institute, a public-policy research center, as the official Democratic candidate.

Burbank said Pelz named him because "he recognized my work for the past two decades has been very important for Democratic polices in the state."

However, the nomination hasn't dissuaded his Democratic opponent Carlyle, who has raised more than \$95,000 in campaign

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contributions — twice as much as Burbank.

Carlyle, an entrepreneur who works in the wireless and software industries, said the fact Pelz picked Burbank means little. "This is not the party. It's Dwight Pelz. He's the nominee of one guy," Carlyle said.

State Rep. Sam Hunt, D-Olympia, chair of the House Democratic Campaign Committee, said he's not even sure if the party nominees will get any financial help from the committee.

"If we have two strong Democrats after the primary, we'll probably just let them work it out," Hunt said. "They'll have to raise money on their own and fight it out amongst the brotherhood."

Party leaders say it's too early to say how this will all play out.

"We'll find out how satisfied the voters are with the top two," said Esser, the state Republican Party chairman.

In the meantime, Bloss, the Republican candidate in the 36th District, plans to keep running despite the odds. The last time there was a contested primary in 2004, the two Democratic candidates took 87 percent of the vote, the Republican got 12 percent and a Libertarian took 1 percent.

"I got involved because it would have been them [the two Democrats] running unopposed," said Bloss, a local Realtor. "I'm hoping people look at the issues rather than, just because I'm a Republican, discounting me."

Andrew Garber: 360-943-9882 or agarber@seattletimes.com

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State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

TO:

Members, Public Disclosure Commission

FROM:

Vicki Rippie, Executive Director

DATE:

May 20, 2009

SUBJECT:

Initiative 872 (Top Two Primary) and its impact on implementation of campaign

finance law provisions in 2009

Background

In March of 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Washington's Top Two Primary system which was enacted into law by the voters in 2004 through the passage of I-872. 2008 was the first year the Top Two system was implemented by elections officials. Further, since the Supreme Court's decision was not issued until March of 2008, the Legislature had not had an opportunity to respond to the Top Two decision to address any impacted laws, including the portion of the district court decision concluding that I-872 "impliedly repealed" chapter 29A.20 RCW relating to Minor Party and Independent Candidate Nominations.

The definition of "bona fide political party" in the campaign finance statute relies on the process in RCW 29A.20 to distinguish bona fide political parties from other political committees for contribution limit purposes. Since RCW 29A.20 was repealed, there is no process for organizations to engage in so that they quality as minor parties as opposed to regular political committees.

In June of 2008, the Commission adopted three emergency rules to address campaign finance issues implicated by the I-872 Supreme Court decision, pending Legislative consideration and action to harmonize the provisions of Title 29A with the Top Two Primary decision in 2009. Those rules expired in late October 2008.

In the 2009 legislative session, the Secretary of State's Office had legislation introduced, SB 5681, to update election laws consistent with the Top Two Primary system. That bill passed out of policy committee, but did not advance to the Senate floor for consideration. No comparable bill was introduced in the House. I believe it is fair to say that the Legislature is reluctant to significantly amend election laws while the political parties continue to pursue litigation related to the Top Two Primary.

Since the Legislature did not pass SB 5681 in 2009, the question for the Commission at this point is whether emergency rules identical to those adopted in 2008 should also be approved for 2009, in anticipation of renewed attempts by PDC or others to seek legislative change in 2010. At a minimum, some provisions of RCW 42.17 need to be amended to remove reference to party "affiliation" and to revise language saying the primary election "nominates" a candidate for an office. In addition, if minor parties are to remain on equal footing with major parties regarding how much they may contribute to their candidates, then a process for submitting petition signatures to the Secretary of State's Office needs to be enacted into law.

Summary of Issues and Possible Next Steps

1. Party Preference. According to election law and rules, primaries in Washington are now runoff elections, not nominating elections. For partisan office, a candidate's party designation on the declaration of candidacy form indicates the candidate's party preference only, and does not indicate a formal affiliation between the candidate and the party specified, or reflect an endorsement or support from that party.

Two sections of Chapter 42.17 RCW and Title 390 WAC use the term "party affiliation" as opposed to "party preference." Also, the C1 and C1pc registration statements along with the C5 (out-of-state committee reporting form), the C6 (independent expenditures and electioneering communications reporting form), and the C7 (special political expenditures form) all refer to "political party affiliation, "political party," or "party."

<u>Recommendation:</u> It often takes more than one session to pass legislation, especially if there is some controversy surrounding an issue. Staff recommends a renewed effort to have some surgical changes made to both election and campaign finance statutes in 2010. In the meantime, we also recommend adoption of an emergency rule effective June 30, 2009, clarifying the term "party affiliation" and references to "party," "political party" and similar terms on disclosure forms and elsewhere in Title 390 WAC. See draft WAC 390-05-274 attached. The rule would be in effect for 120 days.

2. Bona Fide Political Parties. The contribution limit provisions approved by voters in 1992 rely on RCW 29A.20 to distinguish bona fide political parties from other political committees. Bona fide parties may contribute considerably more to their candidates than may committees that do not satisfy the definition: For example, regarding 2008 elections, bona fide parties could give \$2.6 million as opposed to \$1,600 per election to a candidate for statewide office.

Since RCW 29A.20 has been effectively repealed and RCW 42.17 has not been amended by the Legislature to remove reference to RCW 29A.20 and substitute a new definition of a minor party organization, it appears the Commission has two options. You could determine either that:

- (a) the law no longer provides a mechanism for an organization to become a minor party, and until the Legislature acts such parties do not technically exist for purposes of party contribution limits; or
- (b) I-872's impact on the bona fide political party definition in RCW 42.17 appears to be an unintended consequence and, consistent with the intent of I-134 and the intrinsic value of minor parties to the political process, clarify the definition of "bona fide political party" in rule to include those minor parties which in any year between 2002 and 2007 filed at least one valid certificate of nomination under former RCW 29A.20. This list includes: the American Heritage Party, Constitution Party, Green Party, Libertarian Party, Progressive Party, Socialist Equality Party, Socialist Workers Party, and Workers World Party.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission select option (b). Attached is a draft emergency rule (WAC 390-05-196) that, if adopted, could go into effect on June 30, 2009, to address this issue for the 2009 election only, pending amendment of RCW 42.17.020(6) by the Legislature in 2010. In addition, we recommend that you amend, on an emergency basis, WAC 390-05-275 to reference new WAC 390-05-196. Both emergency rules would be in effect for 120 days.

¹ According to RCW 42.17.020(39), "'Primary' for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 [the per-election contribution limits] means the procedure for **nominating** a candidate to state office under chapter 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in large measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW." The Top Two Primary uses the procedures established in RCW 29A.52.112.

² RCW 42.17.040, Statement of organization by political committees; RCW 42.17.093, Out-of-state political committees—Reports; WAC 390-17-030, Sample ballots and slate cards; and WAC 390-18-020, Advertising—Political party identification.

Possible Emergency Rulemaking to Implement I-872's Impact on Campaign Finance Provisions in 2009 May 2009

Party Affiliation Draft Rule

New WAC 390-05-274 Party affiliation, party preference, etc.

- (1) "Party affiliation" as that term is used in chapter 42.17 RCW and Title 390 WAC means the candidate's party preference as expressed on his or her declaration of candidacy. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by that party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.
- (2) A reference to "political party affiliation," "political party," or "party" on disclosure forms adopted by the commission and in Title 390 WAC refers to the candidate's self-identified party preference.

Bona Fide Political Party Draft Rules

New WAC 390-05-196 Bona fide political party—Application of term. An organization that filed a valid certificate of nomination with the secretary of state or a county elections official under chapter 29A.20 RCW in any year from 2002 through 2007 is deemed to have satisfied the definition of bona fide political party in RCW 42.17.020.

Amend WAC 390-05-275 Definition – Party organization. "Party organization," as that term is used in chapter 42.17 RCW and Title 390 WAC, means a bona fide political party as defined in RCW 42.17.020 and applied in WAC 390-05-196.



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WA Voters: Next Election Could Sneak Up on Ya

July 6, 2009

SEATTLE, Wash. - The next primary election here in Washington is coming up August 18th, which may catch some voters by surprise. It means that if you need to register or make changes to your voter registration, you've only got until July 18th, not even two weeks, to do so. Even though it's an off-year election, the primary is full of important local races, and in some counties there are hot contests that could mean big

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changes. It's also the first year of vote-by-mail in all Washington counties but one.

Miriam Helgeland with the League of Women Voters hopes the earlier date doesn't cause confusion, but she says there's a good reason for the change.

"Of course, they worry about changing it because in August, people are gone, and they're doing summer things. But they really needed more time for the people who won the primary to prepare for the general election. The primary used to be in September - late in September - and that only left about a month and a half."

The state is now using what's called a "Top Two" primary system - only the top two vote-getters go on to the general election, even if they're from the same political party. Helgeland says that makes a good primary election turnout more important than ever.

"If people fuss in the general election and say, 'I don't have any choices, I'm not gonna vote, I don't like the choices,' then they should've voted in the primary - in order to affect the choices."

This is the first year that King County, that is, Seattle, joins other Washington counties with an all-vote-by-mail ballot - in fact, the only county with traditional polling places will be Pierce County, whose seat is Tacoma.

Helgeland says the convenience of being able to vote by mail might spark a bigger turnout in most places; primaries in non-presidential election years tend to draw fewer voters.

Washington residents can register to vote by calling their county auditors' offices.

Chris Thomas, Public News Service - WA

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