



# The Politics Of Life:

By MCDGC Chair, KC Hanson

In life’s twist of wrenching ironies, the first week in November catapulted me into both the most exhilarating and tragic moments of my life. On Sunday, November 2, my closest friend of the past eighteen years suffered a devastating heart attack. On Tuesday, the 8pm PST proclamation of an Obama victory provoked the joyous outcry of an inspired community and world. On Wednesday and Thursday, it became clear that Multnomah County Dems and allies had met every election goal. On Friday, my friend died.

In a week of devastation and elation, I moved through time and space in an aura of the completely surreal. I was starkly out of place; my political joy and satisfaction did not have significance to me in light of my personal grief or the grief of Sandra’s family. My sadness created a murky film between my political family and me such that I was distanced from the celebration, yet felt guilty because of nominally experiencing a modicum of satisfaction.

Amidst all of this, hideous decisions were made in 4 states that denied the very humanity of my dying friend. During the same hours that Sandra’s girlfriend was at her side, California voters told the world that her girlfriend had no right to be there.

Sandra’s life, and the life of every GLBT person nation wide, was cast as less significant, less worthy, and was politically stripped of the relationship that makes life whole – both in celebration and in tragedy. In the deepest, most personal way, I felt hurt and betrayed by voters who pointedly told me that neither my friend nor I had any right to have our partners with us even – and especially – in the most dire moments of life.

A month has passed; the surreal fog is less opaque, and I place less blame on the citizens of California than on the mechanisms of money and campaign gamesmanship. Smarmy right wing pundits and their

ilk got the upper hand and won a debate. (That this bunch professes to have the psychological acumen, the moral imperative, and intimate familiarity to know, understand and dictate decisions for me has grated on me for years.)

Rights are not “granted” based on the success of a virulent, well-funded political campaign and decided by a public overwhelmed by distortions.

An individual’s basic humanity cannot be shaved and molded to fit the morality de jour of any particular community, and it is not within the rights of a democratic voting public to decide whether or not my dying friend and her partner had a right to be together at the end.

For me, the personal has always been political, and for a generation I have advocated for GLBT civil rights. But the political should never invade and decimate the personal. In June, 2007, Mildred Loving, on the cusp of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court decision declaring interracial marriage bans unconstitutional, said this:

**“Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don’t think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the “wrong kind of person” for me to marry.**

**I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people’s religious beliefs over others. Especially if it denies people’s civil rights. ...**

**I support the freedom to marry for all. That’s what Loving, and loving, are all about.”**



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## The Multnomah Democrat

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# PROSPECTIVE PRECINCTPERSON BIOGRAPHIES

Prospective Precinctpersons are asked to provide a brief biographical description, describe any previous political work or experience with the Democratic Party, and to tell what they hope to accomplish as a PCP. Here are the responses from recent applicants.

## **Brendan Barnicle** **HD 33, PCT 1013**

### **Here's a little information about me:**

I'm a Wall Street Financial Analyst that grew up around Democratic politics and values. Now that my children are older, I'd like to get back involved again.

### **Have you had any previous experience with the Democrats?**

I worked for Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse and Congressman Mike Kreidler (of WA) and worked in numerous campaigns until my children were born 10 years ago.

## **Richard Wardell** **HD 33, PCT 1013**

### **Here's a little information about me:**

54, oldest of 5 boys; federal employee (TSA); husband an father (& grandfather); novice gardener; new to Portland; new to Democratic Party.

### **I want to be a PCP because:**

Tired of sitting on the couch while other people decide how I'm going to live.

## **Ernest Adams** **HD 36, PCT 1315**

### **Here's a little information about me:**

2.5 years PSU performing Arts/Political Science.

### **Have you had any previous experience with the Democrats?**

Multnomah County Dems Recording Secretary 2000-1002; Assistant DL, HD36.

### **I want to be a PCP because:**

Like to keep active. Very active in inner-city artist colony, dance/theater.

## **Jim Stinson** **HD 46, PCT 4155**

### **Why I want to be a PCP:**

Elections come and go but civic responsibilities are continuous and the Democratic Party organization represents that continuity. Though my primary skills are writing, media and management, I also want to mobilize my neighbors and keep the energy of the recent campaign alive.

## **Shirley Vandermosten** **HD 50, PCT 5828**

### **Here's a little information about me:**

I am a long-time Democrat from District 50 who supports the inclusive nature of our party.

### **Have you had any previous experience with the Democrats?**

I worked on the Kerry and Obama Presidential Campaigns. I have supported our state representative and senator and all good Democrats in Oregon.

### **I want to be a PCP because:**

To encourage fair government and fair elections by supporting candidates and then electeds who stand up for our citizens and the constitution.

## **Garth Bowden** **HD 50, PCT 5855**

### **Here's a little information about me:**

I am a long-time Democrat from District 50 who supports the inclusive nature of our party.

### **Have you had any previous experience with the Democrats?**

Worked on the Greg Matthews campaign as a canvasser; worked for Human Rights Campaign.

### **I want to be a PCP because:**

Build a sustainable urban design and planning model; implement alternative energy; promote energy conservation; maintain and improve subsidy/rent control system; promote workers' rights.

## **Multnomah Democrats Organizational meeting and Officer Elections** **January 8 2008, Mark Your Calendars!**

Elections will also be held for delegates to serve on Oregon's Democratic State Central Committee and Congressional District Committees.

In last January's officer elections, officers were elected to a shortened 1 year term in order to make the election cycle more effective for the party.

Subsequent Officer elections will be conducted in January of odd-numbered years.

For more information and eligibility rules regarding candidates, and electors, as well as job descriptions of the of the positions, please attend the Dec 11 Central Committee meeting and stay tuned for more E-news.

# Multnomah Dems Celebrate Historic Victories



All Photos Courtesy of Bing Wong

Democratic Party of Oregon Chair Meredith Wood Smith addresses Multnomah Democrats with MCDCC Chair KC Hanson looking on



Quite Literally making the county "turn blue!"



Multnomah Dems, State Party Officials, and Senator/Representative-Elects alike bask in the afterglow of victory

# Good Democrats = Good Neighbors

## HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

You've probably seen the reports: Local food pantry stocks are running low and need is at an all time high. Food requests and lines to obtain staples have dramatically increased nationwide. At a family owned Colorado farm, an announcement that neighbors could come and get unharvested vegetables turned into a 40,000 person event.

In Oregon, we have achieved the sad distinction of becoming number 3 on the list of states where citizens are most affected by hunger and food insecurity.

The Multnomah County Democrats, in conjunction with the Democratic Party of Oregon and County Parties statewide, ask you to help address this critical problem. And unlike the economy itself, this is something upon which we can have an immediate, positive impact.

Please donate generously to local food banks. A variety of donation options are available:

1. Choose a location from the Oregon Food bank List:

[http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/events\\_and\\_food\\_drives/food\\_drives/food\\_drop\\_sites.html](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/events_and_food_drives/food_drives/food_drop_sites.html)

2. Make a monetary donation to the Oregon Food Bank

[https://secure.oregonfoodbank.org/make\\_a\\_difference/donate\\_funds/secure\\_donation/](https://secure.oregonfoodbank.org/make_a_difference/donate_funds/secure_donation/)

3. Drop off a donation at the Democratic Party of Oregon/Mult Dems Office at 232 NE 9th in Portland. You can drop off donations between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 503-224-8200 for more information.

4. Every time you are at the grocery store, Look for that food barrel and put something in it. Tens of thousands of Oregonians need your help. Don't just pass it up.

5. Finally, the Multnomah Democratic Party, recognizing that hunger is a problem throughout the year, will collect food donations year-round at Party meetings and gatherings.

Our next Mult Dems meeting is 7pm, Thursday, Dec 11, at the Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th. Guests and friends are always welcome..

PS: Here is what the Oregon Food Bank says about making the most of your food donations:

Most wanted foods

Oregon Food Bank needs these nutritious foods:

canned meats (i.e., tuna, chicken, salmon)

canned and boxed meals (i.e., soup, chili, stew, macaroni and cheese)

peanut butter

canned or dried beans and peas (i.e., black, pinto, lentils)

pasta, rice, cereal

canned fruits

100 percent fruit

juice (canned, plastic or boxed).

Oregon Food Bank can't use?

**To ensure food safety, we cannot use:**

*rusty or unlabeled cans*

*perishable items*

*homemade items*

*noncommercial*

*canned or packaged items*

*alcoholic beverages, mixes or soda*

*open or used items*

P L E A S E

NOTE: If you donate glass products, please box or bag

them separately and label the box or bag "GLASS" on all sides.

Why both food and funds matter?:

**Food drives provide some of the healthiest and highest-quality food we receive. Food donations also provide a direct connection between donors and people who are hungry.**

Cash donations keep our freezers running and our trucks on the road. They also support innovative programs that address the root causes of hunger through advocacy and public education.

Oregon Food Bank makes efficient use of cash donations.

Every dollar you donate enables Oregon Food Bank to collect and distribute 5 pounds of food through its food distribution program.

Thank You,

KC Hanson

Chair

Multnomah County Democrats



# Obama Backs Off Promise to Pass Windfall Profits Tax on Big Oil



By David Sirota

Good news and bad news in the last day. The good news: Barack Obama has appointed a NAFTA critic, Rep. Xavier Becerra, as the next U.S. Trade Representative). The bad news is this just off the Reuters wire :

CHICAGO/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President-elect Barack Obama is not planning to implement a windfall profit tax on oil companies because prices have dropped below \$80 a barrel, an aide said on Tuesday..

Obama, who signaled early in his campaign for the White House that he would take an active approach to oil markets as president, had planned to use the revenue from a windfall profits tax to fund a tax rebate for low- and middle-income families struggling with high energy prices.

Between this move and the move to wait to repeal the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, it seems like the Obama team is buying into the right-wing frame that raising any taxes - even those on the richest citizens and wealthiest corporations - is bad for the economy. Of course, that frame is debunked by history. And while sure, it's OK to rack up deficits so as to spend our way out of the economic crisis, it's sorta silly to ignore the tax moves that could be implemented to limit those deficits where possible.

Oh, and one last thing - if oil prices are down and oil industry profits are truly down, what's the harm in passing a windfall profits tax? Even if you buy the right-wing nonsense about a windfall profits tax "hurting the industry" or "hurting the economy" when it is applied, if there really are no windfall profits to tax, then it won't be applied.

That's what a windfall profits tax really is - a safety valve regulation against profiteering, and one that can raise needed revenues when profiteering occurs. If there is supposedly no profiteering occurring, then what's the supposed harm?

There is none even if you ignore history and believe taxing the wealthy/big corporations automatically hurts an economy. That is, unless you are ready to go down another right-wing rathole and argue that a windfall profits tax will somehow prevent energy companies from more energy exploration. But, then, if you are that far out on the fringe, then I guess your not interested in any facts whatsoever...

# Possible Resolution To Be Voted On By Multdem

**WHEREAS, the Oregon initiative system has been usurped by wealthy, out-of-state individuals and groups to further their own political agenda; and**

**WHEREAS, the Governor and legislature are elected by the people to represent the people by enacting legislation. It is the legislature and Governor that have the resources to research laws and to research the effect of legislation. This duty and right of representatives in our republican form of government can currently be usurped by a simple petition of four percent; and**

**WHEREAS, the unintended and incessant use and misuse of the initiative has stymied action and accountability of the legislature resulting in the intimidation of elected officials by representatives awaiting ballot measure results rather than creating effective legislation; and**

**WHEREAS, the Oregon initiative system is the most lenient and least restrictive of the 24 states that have some form of direct democracy; and**

**WHEREAS, the referendum process can too easily strip individuals from basic civil liberties guaranteed by the US Constitution such as limiting protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens; and**

**WHEREAS, The Oregon Constitution must be held to a higher standard than statutes. An initiative amendment to the constitution bypasses the legislature and, thus, must have a higher majority of votes. It is currently relatively simple to amend the constitution by referendum thereby decreasing the standard by which it exists by only requiring a simple petition of eight percent and a simple majority of votes in an election; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Club of Portland has thoroughly studied the effects of Oregon's initiative process and have created a 76 page report and recommendations for reform;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. The Multnomah County Democratic Party expresses its support for the report and recommendations of City Club of Portland.**

**Section 2. The Multnomah County Democratic Party supports efforts to reform the Oregon initiative and referendum process.**

# Mult Dems Monthly Calendar

See [www.multdems.org](http://www.multdems.org) for ongoing updates

## **The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA)**

12/06/2008 - 10:00am - 12:00pm

will hold its ANNUAL Membership Meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 10:00 AM to NOON. The meeting will be held at the Salem YMCA, 685 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. The meeting is open to the public.

Location: Salem YMCA, 685 Court St. NE, Salem, OR, 97301

## **State Central Committee Meeting**

12/07/2008 - 12/08/2008

**232 NE 9th Ave. Portland, OR 97232**

Sunday, December 7th @ PCC-Cascade:

**705 N. Killingsworth Portland 97217**

## **Meeting of Peace Caucus**

12/07/2008 - 10:00am - 10:30am

Our caucus will meet during the State Central Committee quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 7th at PCC-Cascade Campus at 705 N. Killingsworth in Portland. Even if you do not intend to meet with our Peace Caucus at 10 am, please attend the important Joint Caucus meeting at 9 am. Invite y/our other Dems to join our Caucus. Directions and more can be found at: [www.oregondemocrats.org/scc](http://www.oregondemocrats.org/scc).

## **Meeting of Election Integrity Caucus**

12/07/2008 - 3:30pm - 5:00pm

NOTE NEW LOCATION !!!!! for General Membership meeting at 3:30 pm  
Democratic Party of Oregon, 232 NE 9th Ave. Portland, OR

The Election Integrity Caucus of the Democratic Party of Oregon will be having a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, December 7th, 2008 from 3:30 - 5 pm

## **Multnomah Democrats Central Committee Meeting**

12/11/2008 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Social hour at 6 PM, Meeting begins at 7 PM

Hollywood Senior Center  
1820 NE 40th Ave Portland, OR

## **Multnomah Democrats Central Committee Meeting & ReOrganizational meeting and Officer Elections**

1/8/2009 - 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Elections will also be held for delegates to serve on Oregon's Democratic State Central Committee and Congressional District Committees.

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# The Democratic Party of Multnomah County

The Multnomah County Democratic Party is the official representation of registered Democrats who live within Multnomah County, Oregon. All voters legally registered as Democrats, and residing in Multnomah County, are members of this organization and of the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO).

Our vision is to restore an effective and efficient government that will respect your rights, count your votes, rebuild the economy, and restore accountability. We do that by organizing Democrats within the County to develop, adopt and support a party platform, with the goal of electing Democratic candidates to elected office. We also represent Democrats at the Congressional District and State Central committees. We are active locally in numerous projects and issues, on a wide variety of interests and are dedicated to making people's lives better.

The Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) is made up of elected and appointed Precinct Committee Persons (PCPs) and is the highest authority in the county party. This body has the authority to adopt rules, Bylaws or resolutions covering any matter of Party governance within the county and to take positions on issues on the Party's behalf.

The precinct is the smallest political unit in the county and the Democratic Party begins its organization with the Precinct Committee Persons (PCPs). A Precinct Committeeperson is a representative of the Party in the precinct in which he or she resides, and represents the precinct in Party affairs.

District Leaders (DLs) and Assistant District Leaders (ADLs) are the next level of organization within the county Party. Districts are defined by the various State House Districts that are wholly or in part within Multnomah county. The PCPs of each District elect their District Leaders and ADLs, in District meetings following PCP elections, which occur in the Primary Election in even numbered years.

District Leaders set the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the District and organize PCPs as a Party presence in their district both during campaigns and between campaigns. When the District is represented in the Legislature in either the House or the Senate by a Democrat, District Leaders maintain open communications with their Legislators and facilitate their communication with constituents as they are able.

District Leaders also represent the District at meetings of the Executive Committee and appoint standing committee members to represent the District on standing.

The Central Committee elects officers for two year terms, and Delegates and Alternates to the State Central Committee and Congressional District Committees at the Central Committee's Organization Meeting, held in January of odd numbered years.

# MCDCC Leadership List

## OFFICERS

Chair	KC Hanson	503-312-1970	chair@multdems.org
Vice Chair	Susan Silodor	503-310-5253	vicechair@multdems.org
Recording Secretary	Travis Miller	503-248-0826	recording@multdems.org
Communications Officer	Sue Hagmeier	503-236-4005	communications@multdems.org
Treasurer	Laura Calvo	503-248-0826	treasurer@multdems.org
Historian	Todd Barnhart	503-248-0826	historian@multdems.org

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fundraising	Teddy Keizer	503-248-0826	budgetchair@multdems.org
Campaign & Gov. Liaison	P. Shane Jackson	503-248-0826	campaignchair@multdems.org
Community Action Comm.	Luelle Robbins and Lynn Dorman	503-248-0826	info@multdems.org
Platform, Resolutions, Legis. Rules	Gordon Hillesland	503-248-0826	platformchair@multdems.org
	Sue Hagmeier	503-248-0826	ruleschair@multdems.org

## STATE DELEGATION

Delegation Chair	Deb Whitcomb	503-248-0826	statechair@multdems.org
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## DISTRICT LEADERS

Dist 33	Luelle Robbins	503-248-0826	33leader@multdems.org
Dist 27,31,35	Dave Jackson	503-246-6827	27leader@multdems.org
Dist 36	Pete Munroe	503-248-0826	36leader@multdems.org
Dist 38,41	Mark Schwebke	503-963-8214	38leader@multdems.org
Dist 42	Zak Johnson	503-248-0826	42leader@multdems.org
Dist 43	Shirley Minor	503-248-0826	43leader@multdems.org
Dist 44	Pam Arden	503-289-9475	44leader@multdems.org
Dist 45	Jay Jackson	503-253-1611	45leader@multdems.org
Dist 46	Bing Wong	503-771-3215	46leader@multdems.org
Dist 47	Sam Kahl	503-248-0826	47leader@multdems.org
Dist 48	VACANT		48leader@multdems.org
Dist 49	Mel Harmon	503-975-1139	49leader@multdems.org
Dist 50	John Vandermosten	503-248-0826	50leader@multdems.org
Dist 52	Julie Christensen	503-695-2474	52leader@multdems.org



**Multnomah Democrats**

[www.multdems.org](http://www.multdems.org)

inside the party | news & action | in the blogs

Visit the always improving party website at [www.multdems.org](http://www.multdems.org) today for updates on coming events and party information. Sign in or create an account for access to all the site has to offer!

Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee  
232 NE 9th Avenue  
Portland OR 97232  
“Dedicated To Making People’s Lives Better“  
RETURNSERVICEREQUESTED

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PORTLAND OR  
PERMIT NO. 2526

### MCDCC General Meeting

Thursday, Dec 11th  
Social Hr: 6 pm  
Business Meeting: 7 pm  
All MultDems welcome

Multnomah County Dems meet monthly  
on second Thursdays.

1820 NE 40th Ave., Portland 97212,  
just north of Sandy Blvd.

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