



I am A Democrat

I changed my party affiliation from Democrat to Non-Affiliated last fall. I had several reasons for doing so and won't review those now. Many of you emailed me and asked me to rethink my decision and encouraged me to re-register as a Dem. Today I have done so, but while I appreciate the thoughts and philosophy that many of you shared, it was not the words of any of my fellow Dems that made me switch back. Nor was it the fact that Oregon has a chance to actually impact the presidential race, or that I just felt a bit, well, weird, not being a Dem.

What changed my mind was the dictionary. Yep, the dictionary. I was wrestling with my conscience on this issue and I recalled my mother's words. Any time I had a problem with an issue, her first question was always "are you sure you have the basics down? Do you really know what it is you're considering?". So, back to the source. I looked up the following on Dictionary.com:

Democrat--"An advocate of democracy. A person who believes in the political or social equality of all people".

Democracy--"A form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and

exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system".

Well, duh, Mel---right? But really, I had forgotten what being a Democrat meant---not what "the Party" says, or what the politicians say or what the TV talking heads say. It's not about the platitudes and the assumptions about what Democrats stand for, or believe in, or what cause they support, or their belief on tax structures and health care and education. It's about the basics.

Read it again. "A person who believes in the political or social equality of all people".

We believe in equality for all. We believe that WE have the power. We believe that everyone has a right to help decide the course of our nation. Everyone. Equally. Regardless of status, money, race, gender, religion (or lack thereof), education (or lack thereof), or anything else.

I've truly felt tired of politics lately. But I realize that I've never truly tired of democracy. I just had to go back and look at the basics again and remember what it's really all about.

So, I've mailed off my form changing back to the Democratic Party today. It feels good. It feels right. After all, I'm a Democrat.

By Mel Harmon

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232 NE 9th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97232
Phone: 503-248-0826

E-mail: multdems@multdems.org

Web site: www.multdems.org

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- Recording Secretary Travis Miller
- Communications Secretary Sue Hagmeier
- Treasurer Laura Calvo
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MCDCC Announces Endorsements in City & County Races

The Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee has completed its 2008 endorsement process for Multnomah County and City of Portland elections. The list of endorsed candidates is displayed on the right.

Process

The Endorsement Task Force was charged with determining who to consider for endorsement based on evidence of an active campaign. Only Democrats were considered for endorsement, in accordance with our bylaws. Candidates were invited to submit responses to an endorsement questionnaire, which was made available to voting members to review prior to voting. Candidates also made presentations and answered questions from members of the Central Committee at an Endorsement Forum. An affirmative vote of a majority of voting members present at the forum at which a candidate appeared was required for endorsement. Voting members of the Central Committee are Precinct Committeepersons in Multnomah County.

Criteria

Our endorsement criteria state that "we wish to endorse any candidate whose ability, position on relevant issues, and participation in the Democratic Party would justify our active support were that candidate unopposed by another Democrat, and that multiple endorsements may result." In some races, multiple candidates have been endorsed. Not all candidates who participated were endorsed.

Results

All endorsed candidates are authorized to publicize this endorsement, but if that endorsement is shared by other candidates in the same race, that must be indicated by use of a term such as dual, joint, multiple or co-endorsement.

Endorsement will carry over into the runoff election in any race that is not decided in the May Primary.

We are delighted to have many good Democrats expressing their commitment to our community by running for office.



Portland City Commissioner Candidate Fred Stewart addresses Multnomah Democrats during Thursday's MCDCC endorsement process.

ENDORSEMENTS:

Portland Mayor:

Sam Adams

Portland City Commission, Position 1:

John Branam

Mike Fahey

Amanda Fritz

Charles Lewis

Chris Smith

Portland City Commission, Position 2:

Nick Fish

Jim Middaugh

Fred Stewart

Portland City Commission, Position 4:

Randy Leonard

Multnomah County Commission, Dist. 1

Deborah Kafoury

Multnomah County Commission, Dist. 3

Mike Delman

Rob Milesnick

Judy Shiprack

Multnomah County Commission, Dist. 4

Carla Piluso

Events - Democratic Party of Oregon Platform Convention

Dems Converged On Eugene And Forged A New Progressive Platform Agenda For Oregon



A roomful of Democrats get a briefing on the upcoming Oregon Presidential Primary Delegate selection process.



Barak Obama supporters gathered Friday to cheer on their candidate before the beginning of the convention.



Oregon National Democratic Committeeman Wayne Kinney.

East County Forum Held April 29 In Gresham

The East Suburban Democrats of the Multnomah County Forum featured Democratic candidates Nick Kahl, Barbara Kyle, (Dist 49); Suzanne VanOrmand and Steve Richkind, (Dist 52) and Greg Matthews, who will face Republican incumbent John Lim in November (Dist 50).

Event organizers John and Shirley Vandermosten brought the group together for a lively discussion of issues of importance to East County. Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson moderated the event, held at Wink's Restaurant - 3240 S Troutdale Rd - Troutdale.

Candidates answered questions ranging from immigration to health care. All candidates agreed that citizens deserved access to health care. Richkind said that his brother died in his early 40's because he couldn't afford treatment for his heart problems. Said Kahl, "If we can't do it all now, we should at least ensure our kids are covered."

Candidates addressed the infrastructure problems in East County. Noted Kyle: "There is a desperate need for jobs in the community and in the state, but poor transportation infrastructure has been a roadblock to growth and jobs." All candidates noted that solutions would require a team approach addressing both the need for better roadways and development of alternative "green" transportation.

VanOrmand noted that as an Oregon City Commissioner in the 90s, she dealt with economic development "every day of every year. It's a huge issue for all of us, and it must start at the city level".

In the area of education, Kahl stressed the need to fully fund Headstart. Both Kahl and Kyle prioritized the need for fully funding Community Colleges such as Mt. Hood. Richkind said that "No Child Left Untested" is not the Way to Go." VanOrmand, who worked for Headstart, emphasized the need to advocate for education at all levels. Matthews said that, "kids will be a statistic later if we don't educate them now."

The issue of immigration was approached by the candidates from different angles. Kyle said that the new requirement of citizenship documentation in obtaining an Oregon driver's license is "a good thing". But Richkind said "The farmers in Hood River need the seasonal workers...I'm not going to be the guy to deport them."

Said Kahl, "The system is broken and the path to citizenship doesn't exist anymore." He noted that businesses hiring undocumented workers need to be held accountable. VanOrmand noted that NAFTA hurt Mexico as well as the US, and Matthews said the "feds dropped the ball."

The friendly forum closed with some lighthearted comments. Richkind, an attorney who noted he has a 3.5 million dollar civil rights lawsuit pending, said that, "If I go to Salem, I'll be a hell-raiser, and I don't know if you guys want that. He grinned, wrapped his arm around VanOrmand's shoulders and said, "Vote for her." VanOrmand grinned back and said that she didn't really need a campaign manager.

Matthews told Richkind that he could use some of that 3.5 million.

Capacity Building and Our Effectiveness

Capacity building as defined by Ann Philbin, Capacity Building in Social Justice Organizations, Ford Foundation, 1996, is the "process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive..."

Building organizational capacity is often akin to pulling teeth with a string and a doorknob... it tends to leave you bruised and questioning your own judgment. It is, in fact, one of the most daunting challenges for any volunteer organization and individual volunteers, as well.

For our purposes, for our volunteers, capacity building relates to leadership, mission, strategy, program development, diversity, partnerships and collaboration, volunteerism, advocacy,...well, really, the list could go on and on, but you probably get the point!

We need to take a long hard look at our ability to achieve our mission(s) while growing and sustaining our volunteer base. In order to do that, we must provide our volunteers with the necessary skills and tools to be effective and successful. While this might sound like the simplest of simple principles, it's important to remember that we're all volunteers. Making this concept work takes time and patience from all of us. And it calls for commitment and cooperation - and a healthy dose of good humor - to keep it all together.

We already have a new Community Action Committee, renewed participation in east county, and motivated PCPs developing projects for their precincts that can be replicated throughout the county. We also have a growing number of folks who want to become more involved in party activities, which presents us with opportunities to expand even further.

As we build capacity and reshape our county party, we must pay close attention to our resources, our volunteers. We can accomplish whatever we choose with help from all of you. Please help us build an organization that sustains our people, strategies, and other resources we need to be a viable and influential voice in our communities, beyond this coming election cycle.

And thank a volunteer...it means a lot.

3rd District CD Committee Proposed By Laws Amendment

3rd CD Chair Joe Smith drafted the following By Laws change as discussed at the 3rd Congressional Committee at their last meeting. The changes are shown below in italics.

"Members of this committee shall be the Delegates and Alternates elected from each county within the Congressional District in accordance with Democratic Party of Oregon rules and state statute, and the officers elected by this Committee.

Only members of this Committee are permitted to address the Committee or engage in debate, except as authorized by vote of the Committee. Only Delegates may vote on decisions of the Committee, except that Alternates may vote when substituting for an absent Delegate. Officers of this Committee have a vote on the Committee only if they also serve as a Delegate or Alternate voting for an absent Delegate. The number of Delegates shall be as provided by State Statute and the rules of the DPO.

The number of Alternates shall be 4, one a resident of Clackamas County, and three residents of Multnomah County. A Delegate vacancy shall be filled by the most senior Alternate from the county where the vacancy occurs. If two or more alternates were elected on the same day, the one who received the most votes will be considered the most senior."

Video Equipment Needed

Mult Dems is trying to develop a video program, both for capturing our history and for broadcasting what Multnomah County Democrats are doing to take back our country. We're looking for some equipment you might be willing to lend or donate. And not to sound ungracious from the start, but the older the equipment, the less able we will be to use it. But go ahead and make the offer, and we can see if it will work!

Here's what we need.

Good digital camera (nothing uber-fancy, but capable of quality images)

Tri-pod

Levalier microphone(s)

Boom mike with stand

Cable (audio) to run on floor as needed

Camera bags

Big external HD (at least 320GB; prefer 500GB); Firewire

Video camera (we have one, but another wouldn't hurt)

Lights & diffusors (don't know the technical name; screen?)

Please contact Mult Dems Historian Todd Barhart or Communications Director Sue Hagemeier if you can offer any of these. If you want to help us purchase items, we'd be glad to accept those donations.

Presidential Candidates Contact Information

Oregon Offices

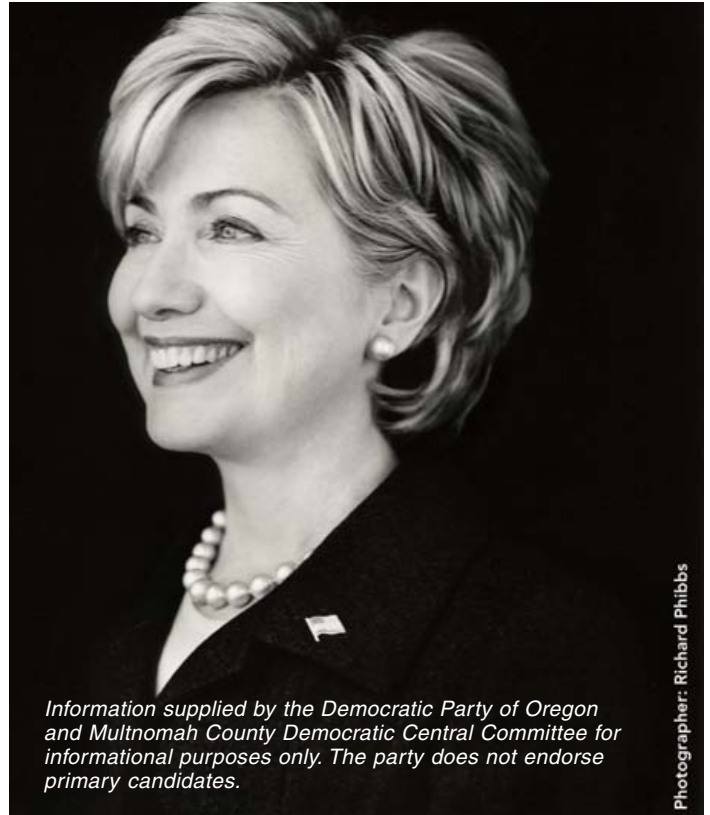
Oregon for Hillary Headquarters
32 NW 5th Avenue
Portland, OR 97209
Phone: 503-227-0269
winoregon@hillaryclinton.com

Bend Field Office
117 NW Oregon Ave
Bend, OR 97701
541-312-2353

Beaverton Field Office
12470 SW 1st Street, Suite 200-B
Beaverton, OR 97005
503-641-6530

Medford Field Office
111 E Main Street
Medford, OR 97501
541-779-5127 (phone)

Salem Field Office
189 NE Liberty Street, Suite 205
Salem, OR 97201
503-588-0765
Springfield Field Office
1441 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477
541-741-1761



Photographer: Richard Phibbs

Information supplied by the Democratic Party of Oregon and Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee for informational purposes only. The party does not endorse primary candidates.



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Oregon Offices

Headquarters-Portland
3016 SE Division St.
Portland, OR 97202
(503) 236-2008
or@barackobama.com

Astoria
42 7th St., Suite 101
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-8703

Beaverton
8126 SW Beaverton/Hillsdale Hwy.
Portland, OR 97225
(503) 292-4066

Bend
373 NE Greenwood Ave
Bend, OR 97702
(541) 728-0971

Corvallis
CMT Building
413 SW Jefferson Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 766-2008

Eugene
1280 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 345-1925

Forest Grove
1728 Pacific Ave.
Forest Grove, OR 97116
(503) 746-7578

Gresham
1665 NE Division St.
Gresham, OR 97030
(Hood Ctr. Shopping Ctr.)

Medford
40 S. Central Avenue
Medford, OR 97501

Oregon City
605 Main Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 742-2008

NE Portland Office
1516 Killingsworth
Portland, OR 97211

Roseburg
850 SE Mosher
Roseburg, OR 97470

Salem
155 Liberty St. NE, Suite 29
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 391-8998

St. Helens
289 S. first St.
St. Helens, OR 97051

Tillamook
112 Main Ave.
Tillamook, OR 97141

MCDCC Executive Board Meeting

May 1, 2008 - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Donkey Stable, 232 NE 9th, Portland

MCDCC Monthly Meeting

May 8, 2008 - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
The featured speaker will be DNC Committeeman Wayne Kinney, on the topic of the delegate selection process.
Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th Ave., Portland

Post Office Food Drive

May 10, 2008
Multnomah Dems will volunteer at Gresham Post Office. For more information, please contact John Vandermosten at: johnv5828@verizon.net

Town Hall with House Majority Leader Dave Hunt

May 29 2008 - 11:00am
Please join in with Dave Hunt to discuss issues of importance to our communities and state. Meet at the Gladstone Senior Center.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council's Eleventh Annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night

May 31, 2008, 6:00 PM,
Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland,
An evening honoring the labor community's outstanding men and women! Buffet, Dessert Bar
Dinner Tickets: 410/Person
Raffle Tickets: \$1 or 7 for \$5
Raffle benefits Labor's Community Service Agency Emergency Fund, To purchase tickets or for more information, call
NW Oregon Labor Council, (503) 235-9444
RSVP for Dinner Tickets no later than May 19, 2008.

Your Oregon, Your Health Hearings-Portland

June 10, 2008 - 7:00pm
The OR Health Fund Board wants your input to help shape the future of Oregon Health care, to make sure all people get care through an accountable plan providing affordable, quality, accessible health services. Save the date, details to follow. Child care and interpreters can be provided on request, by calling 1.800.789.1599x23.

Portland Pride Festival and Parade

June 14-15, 2008, Noon - 11:00pm
The Democratic Party of Multnomah County will have a booth at the festival. The Pride Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 14th-15th at Tom McCall Waterfront Park
Noon - 11:00 P.M. Saturday
Noon - 6:00 P.M. Sunday
The Democratic Party of Multnomah County will be marching in the parade. The Pride Parade will step-off at 11:00 am on Sunday, June 15th from the North Park Blocks
Group sponsoring event: Portland Pride
Location(s) Tom McCall Waterfront Park/Portland, OR

Prospective PCP Bios

Prospective PCPs 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.

PCP BIOGRAPHY ROGER WILNER

I want to be a PCP because:
I want to get to work!



Bill Clinton Stumps Again in Oregon For Hilary Clinton As Oregon Primary Looms.

Bill Clinton in Portland

President Bill Clinton barnstormed through Oregon on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, capping off his public appearances with a Saturday evening speech at Portland's Lincoln High. Clinton noted that more Americans than ever are without health care access, and that under George Bush, the national debt has exploded 4 trillion dollars (from 5.7 trillion in 2001). Campaigning for his wife, Hillary, Clinton called her the most capable person he's ever met in accomplishing goals. Clinton referred to a comment by daughter Chelsea when she was responding to a reporter's question. Chelsea was asked which of her parents would be a better President; without hesitation, Chelsea had said, "my mom." On Saturday, Bill Clinton said, "She's right - at this point in history."

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		recording@multdems.org
Communications Secretary	Sue Hagmeier	503-236-4005	communications@multdems.org
Treasurer	Laura Calvo		treasurer@multdems.org
Historian	Todd Barnhart		historian@multdems.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budget & Finance	Paul Terdal	503-248-0826	budgetchair@multdems.org
Campaign & Gov. Liaison	Tom Markgraf	503-285-9549	campaignchair@multdems.org
Community Action Comm.	Lurell Robbins and Lynn Dorman	503-248-0826	info@multdems.org
Platform, Resolutions, Legis. Rules	Gordon Hillesland Sue Hagmeier (interim)	503-248-0826	platformchair@multdems.org ruleschair@multdems.org

STATE DELEGATION

Delegation Chair	John Bradach	statechair@multdems.org
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DISTRICT LEADERS

Dist 27,31,33,35	Dave Jackson	503-246-6827	27leader@multdems.org
Dist 36	Donna Munroe		36leader@multdems.org
Dist 38,41	Mark Schwebke	503-963-8214	38leader@multdems.org
Dist 42	P. Shane Jackson	503-233-0241	42leader@multdems.org
Dist 43	Shirley Minor		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		47leader@multdems.org
Dist 48	VACANT		48leader@multdems.org
Dist 49	Vern Cook	503-665-5762	49leader@multdems.org
Dist 50	John Vandermosten		50leader@multdems.org
Dist 52	Julie Christensen	503-695-2474	52leader@multdems.org



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Visit the always improving party website at 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“
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MCDCC General Meeting

Thursday, May 8th
Social hour begins at 6 pm
with refreshment’s
The Central Committee meeting will
come to order at 7 pm.

Hollywood Senior Center
1820 NE 40th Ave.
Portland, OR, 97212



Sign Up to be a Neighborhood Leader Today



I’m ready to do my part for Oregon and America! I pledge to contact at least 25 voters in my neighborhood about Democratic candidates at least 3 times between now and Election Day 2008, and find 2 more Democrats to sign up as Neighborhood Leaders like me.

Under Howard Dean’s leadership, the Democratic Party is building a team of Neighborhood Leaders across Oregon and across the country.

Becoming a Neighborhood Leader is the best way to help elect Democrats. Face to face contact is the number one way to influence voters.

The program asks you to walk your neighborhood and speak at least 3 times with at least 25 of your neighbors, and recruit 2 more Neighborhood Leaders to do the same.

You can turn your neighborhood blue and move your state forward. Help us win the most important election of our lifetime.

You can sign up at:
http://www.oregondemocrats.org/neighborhood_leader_program