

31st District Democrat's Newsletter



31st District Democrats

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MEETING NOTICE

31ST DISTRICT DEMOCRATS
WILL MEET
from 7-9PM Wednesday
JANUARY 26th
in the
SUMNER PUBLIC LIBRARY
1116 Fryar Ave.
Sumner, WA 98390
(253) 863-0441



WHAT ARE PRECINCTS AND PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICERS? By Sharon Hodgins, PCO Chair

Every 10 years, our country's government takes a census; within two years of a census, new borders are drawn for Congressional Districts, State legislative Districts, and precincts, in an attempt to smooth out population shifts so that each elected official will represent about the same amount of people. Most people have not paid much attention to precincts in our state, because political parties have not had much power. Due to new court rulings regarding how candidates are selected to represent a party, precincts and precinct committee officers may become much more important in our state.

Precincts are the smallest political unit in any state; they generally include about 300 households, and there are about 5,000 in our state. The 31st State Legislative District has about 170 precincts.

A precinct committee officer or PCO represents a political party within the precinct; each precinct may have a Democrat, and a Republican, and a Libertarian or any other political party representing the Democrats, Republicans and Libertarian voters within the precinct. A Precinct officer is basically the grass-roots organizer for that political party within his/her precinct.

Precinct Officers are voted on every two years, and appear on that precinct's ballot. A political party can also appoint a precinct officer for a precinct, until the next even-numbered election year.

Precinct Committee Officers are asked to identify Democratic voters in their Precinct, and to serve as their representative. Among some of the things Precinct Committee Officers do are:

1. Conduct a precinct caucus when necessary;
2. Make recommendations for poll-workers for the precinct;
3. Doorbell with campaign materials for endorsed candidates prior to elections;

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4. Participate actively in get-out-the-vote activities and help with campaigns;
5. Voter registration.

By state law, it is the Party's Precinct Committee Officers who name candidates for an elected official who cannot fulfill his/her term of office. For example, several years ago, Republican Kent Pullen died before fulfilling his term on the King County Council. Republican PCO's for Kent's district gathered, and selected three nominees; it was from those nominees that Kent's replacement was chosen.

Depending on what our Party eventually decides, Precinct Committee Officers could have a more substantial role in helping to determine candidates to represent the Democratic Party in elections. We have about 1/5 of the possible Precinct Committee Officers we could have in the 31st; we will be having small training sessions for our PCO's, as some of their work involves the computer. We hope that if your precinct is not

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represented, you will ask to become its Precinct Committee Officer. If you're interested, please contact Sharon Hodgins, PCO Chair at 253-862-7103 or rshodgins@earthlink.net.

Websites and other info

Pierce County Democrats
www.piercecountymocrats.org

King County Democrats
www.kcdems.org

State Democratic Party
www.wa-democrats.org

Liberal talk radio- Air America
1090 AM

31st GOES DIGITAL!

In a time saving and environmentally friendly move, the 31st Legislative District Democrats will be sending meeting notices, as well as our newsletter via email. In order to help us facilitate this process, we ask that you notify us of your email address, at dguinn@tx3.net. This will be a dedicated email list, to be used for meeting notification and the newsletter only, your email address will not be shared or sold to any other organization. We will continue to send notices through the mail for those members who do not have access to a computer, but we ask for your understanding and patience while instituting this very necessary change. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our new message line at 360-761-9368.