My Fellow Democrats,

As you read this, please keep in mind what Will Rogers once said: “I am not a member of any organized political party, I’m a Democrat.”

We had a big night last Thursday at our LD meeting where we voted on candidate endorsements and approvals. The results are below.

I want to thank my fellow E-Board members for their support and help during the entire process from reviewing applications to participating in the numerous candidate interviews. I could not have done it without them: Ginny Bell, Kathy Canderle, Jesse Cockerham, Chiara D’Angelo, Steve Green, Doug MacKenzie, Brian Maule, Erin Phillips, Hallette Salazar, Tarra Simmons, Ginger and Jim Sommerhauser.

As for the meeting itself, Doug, Erin and Hallette took care of the Zoom logistics, Ginny and Ginger kept the discussion moving forward, Kathy kept the time and Jim did his job as parliamentarian by keeping me and the process on the right track. I really appreciated Jeff Wiley stepping up to put the balloting process together and doing the voting tallies.

After lots of discussions and exercising our knowledge (or lack thereof) of Roberts’ Rules, motions were approved that resulted in the following:

**Endorsements of the 23rd LD** were voted for:

* Representative Derek Kilmer for US Congress-6th District
* Governor Jay Inslee for Governor
* Justice Whitener for Washington State Supreme Court
* Hilary Franz for Commissioner of Public Lands
* Representative Drew Hansen for Position 2, 23rd District for the State House
* Lynn Fleischbein for Kitsap Superior Court

Senator Christine Rolfes and Kitsap County Commissioner Rob Gelder received their endorsements at the 23rd LD May meeting.

**Approvals of the 23rd LD** were given to:

* Denny Heck and Marko Liias for Lieutenant Governor
* Leslie Daugs and Tarra Simmons for State Representative, Position 1
* Charlotte Garrido and Stacey Smith for County Commissioner Position 2

We also heard from former State Representative Jesse Wineberry and campaign coordinator Amanual Mamo on Initiative 1776. I-1776 reintroduces the Washington Anti-Discrimination Act and is collecting signatures to be turned in on July 2. For more information on I-1776 go to the website which is yeson1776.com.

The state chair Tina Podlodowski provided this information about I-1776:

The Secretary of State (SoS) is not accepting electronic signatures on petitions at this time, and act accordingly. According to the Office of the SoS, state law and the state constitution (specifically article II) outline the processes for initiatives and referendums. The SoS will only accept handwritten signatures.

The reason stated for this is that the petition check process involves ensuring the authenticity of the signature. And to ensure the signatures on the petitions sheets were intentional, the way the SoS will verify that is to have the “wet” signature. (Their words, not mine...)

For example, there would be no way to verify whether an electronic signature scanned and then copied onto a petition sheet was intended for that sheet.

That is the current position of the SoS - no exceptions.

Thanks, and surely it’s disappointing for backers of I-1776 as well, and do note no one is “standing in the way of making progress” unless it’s the GOP.

This coming weekend is the 4th of July, our annual celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Given all that has happened these last few months, we would all do well to think about what those mean and to whom they were directed. There’s much to do to make the potential of this country possible for everyone. A great step forward is to not only make WA blue but also our US Congress and the White House.

Be safe – wear masks – don’t set off fireworks. See you next on July 23 – once again, the 23rd LD meets on the 23rd of the month😊.

Val Torrens,

Chair 23rd LD