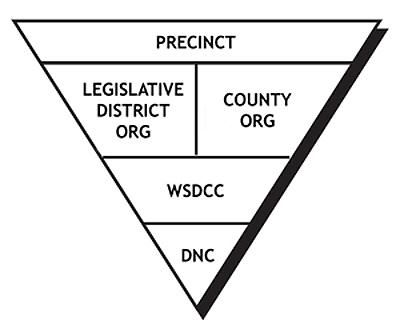
**23rd LD State Committeeperson Report from Ted Jones. Issue 1: 13 May 2021**

This will be a periodic report. I plan on keeping the base material and adding updates each time. My email is *statecommitteeman@kitsap23rd.com.*

**Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) overall –**

* Reorganization Meetings – The WSDCC is made up of two reps from each Legislative District and two from each County Democratic organization. The first sessions after biennial elections are always dedicated to electing officers, filling committees, and passing by-law changes. 
  + *[https://www.](https://www.wa-democrats.org/)**[wa-democrats.org](https://www.wa-democrats.org/)*
* May 1 quarterly WSDCC meeting (Thank you to Mary Bryant and Arne Nelson for the following notes)
  + Credentials Report: 157 members were “seated” for the quarterly WSDCC meeting.
  + Democratic National Committee (DNC) Report:
    - $20 million is being invested is state parties as part of Chair Jaime Harrison’s 50 state strategy.
    - With COVID, the DNC has allowed for more participation by members for less cost.  It is hoped that this option will allow continued participation in meetings without expensive travel.
    - The DNC has purchased billboards in 20 states to remind voters that the benefits of the American Recovery Act were because of the Biden administration and congressional Democrats.  Republicans claiming credit are being called out.  The DNC is increasing their voter protection capacity.
    - the dates for the next delegate selection process will be developed by the Rules and Bylaws committee in the coming year.  There is increased interest in changing the timing of the Iowa Caucuses and NH Primary to allow a more representative primary to be held earlier in the election cycle.
    - State parties are seeing more support from the DNC and the White House which will strengthen the entire state structure.
  + At-large nominations for Executive Committee: The at-large members on the Executive Committee are selected and nominated to balance the gender and other characteristics of the Executive Board members.  The CD elections in January resulted in a 6-seat female advantage on the Executive Board.  With these new appointments the Executive Committee will be 67% BIPOC, LGBTQ or disabled per our affirmative action categories.
  + The Resolutions Committee presented three resolutions to the members with recommendations to approve as amended:
    - 975 Holding Tacoma Police Accountable.
    - 976 Support for eliminating the filibuster.
    - 977 Censure and Expel Representative Sutherland.
* Legislative Session Accomplishments – With a majority in both houses, a strong Democratic governor, surprisingly good revenue projections and federal COVID relief funds, the legislature passed, and the governor signed the most progressive and sweeping legislation in recent history. Our local elected officials were front and center to these efforts. Please see their websites to see full details of the laws enacted and the efforts of our elected leaders as sponsors and cosponsors of these bill.
  + [*Governor Jay Inslee | Washington State*](https://www.governor.wa.gov/)*.* Here is a one-stop summary of the legislative accomplishments.
    - [*2021 legislative session SUMMARY*](https://medium.com/wagovernor/2021-legislative-session-ends-with-historic-wins-for-climate-covid-19-relief-9edf7f4755f4)
  + [*Tarra Simmons – Democratic Member of the WA State House of Representatives*](https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/simmons/)
  + [*Drew Hansen – Democratic Member of the WA State House of Representatives*](https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/hansen/)
  + [*Sen. Christine Rolfes (wa.gov)*](https://senatedemocrats.wa.gov/rolfes/)
* Rise & Run and Contest Every Race (CER). Rise & Run is an initiative of State Chair Tina Podlodowski to identify, encourage and support Democrats for local partisan and nonpartisan offices. CER is a nation- wide, 50-state strategy by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to do the same. As of 13 May, had recruited 2186 candidates, of which 70% are women or people of color.
  + [*Rise and Run - Washington Democrats (wa-democrats.org)*](https://www.wa-democrats.org/riseandrun/)
  + [*Contest Every Race - Compete Everywhere. Win Everywhere.*](https://contesteveryrace.com/)

**Redistricting Committee Member –**

* State Commission. Although the Constitution mandates reapportionment of Congress every 10 years, the processes for setting Congressional District boundaries and Legislative District boundaries is up to each state. Fortunately, Washington has one of the better processes designed to reign in extreme partisan gerrymandering. The 5-member State Commission is comprised of a Democrat and Republican from both the State House and State Senate, plus a 5th no-voting chair. They must have three of four votes to pass their recommendations. The leader they have chosen is a career dispute resolution expert.
  + Sarah Augustine, Chair
  + Joe Fain, Senate Republican Caucus Appointee
  + Paul Graves, House Republican Caucus Appointee
  + April Sims, House Democratic Caucus Appointee
  + Brady Walkinshaw, Senate Democratic Caucus Appointee
  + [*Commission - Redistricting 2021 - Washington State*](http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/commission.html)
* State party Committees. Both parties have Committees to help shape the redistricting outcome. Our roll is not to make maps, so much as it is to review drafts and suggest changes. Our output goes directly to WA State Chair, Tina Podlodowski to discuss with the two Democratic Commissioners. Further our role is to publicize the processes and bring forward local concerns. We do not have a website.
* League of Women Voters of Washington (LOWVWA) Speak Up Schools. LOWV is non-partisan but they will be engaged throughout the redistricting process and will speak up if either party is getting a disproportionate number of “safe seats”. The Redistricting Commission existed 10 years ago, but the Commissioners stated they found little value in the public testimony. LOWV has taken on educating the public on how to give effective testimony in person or in writing. I attended all two of the three “speak up schools”. If you missed any, here is the link to the recorded sessions.
  + [*League of Women Voters of Washington - Speak Up Schools (lwvwa.org)*](https://www.lwvwa.org/speakup)
* Calendar. Although there is some state level demographic data available and map making tools available, the official data from the Census will not be available until August and the Commission must make its recommendation by Mid October. We are waiting for the schedule on conducting hearings around the state.
* Biggest Issues dear to 23rd LD that I am tracking so far:
  + Keep 23rd only on the west side of the Puget Sound.
  + End the split of Bremerton into 3 LDs.
  + Remove splits in Yakima and Colville tribal areas.

**Environmental and Climate Change Caucus -** I have joined the ECC. Note that membership in State Democratic Caucuses is NOT limited to State Committee members, it is open to all paid-up Democrats.

* Mission: to assure that environmental issues, and in particular climate disruption, is addressed in policies, platform positions, resolutions, and endorsements of the Democratic Party of Washington State.
* Next Meeting: 20 May 7PM
* Progress. One virtual meeting so far this session. Mostly introductions.
  + <https://eccwa.wordpress.com/>

**Local State Committee Person Group –**

* Purpose. This is a new informal group meeting virtually so far. It includes the eight State Committeepersons from Kitsap County and the three LDs that overlap with Kitsap, the 23rd, 26th and 35th. Some of us are long time Committeepersons and some, like me, are brand new. We are sharing information on processes, local issues and learning more about each of the committees that the eight of us are on.