

## Vashon Progressive Alliance

Meeting Minutes Oct 16, 2018

### Attendees:

Debby Jackson(minutes) Sheila Brown (note taker for announcements), Diane Emerson (facilitator), Kevin Jones, Art Chippendale, Steve Rubicz, Melvin Mackey, Judy White, Jennifer Zeisig, Noah Roselander, Brian Brown, Mair Alight

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ballots are being mailed soon. Please refrain from completing ballots until you see the debate on October 22 and read our Vashon Progressive Voter's Guide in the November 1 issue of the Beachcomber.
- October 20 and every Sunday until election day: phone banking, texting and canvassing to get out the vote. Noah Roselander 269-218-0501
- October 21, Land Trust, 3-5 SURJ presents ""Prisons for Profit; when freedom isn't free". concerning racial justice and its relationship to the prison industrial complex. Four different speakers. Donations accepted and everyone is welcome.
- October 22, Monday, Vashon High School Theater, Unifying for Democracy debate between the two candidates to replace Sharon Nelson in WA State Senate. Also a discussion of the Initiatives on the November ballot. In the lobby, music, food and beverages for sale and a raffle basket all organized by the Riptide students.
  - **5:30 pm** - Riptide Journalism Fundraiser to send ten promising student journalists to Columbia Scholastic Press Association in NYC. Food and beverages available.
  - **6:45 pm** - Initiatives -pros and cons present on stage
  - **8:00 pm** - Shannon Braddock and Joe Nguyen debate on stage moderated by Craig Beles and two senior Riptide editors.

Contact for more info: Art Chippendale, arthur.chippendale@gmail.com

- October 28, Sunday canvassing at port Orchard. Unique opportunity to turn a red district blue. Carpooling available! Organized by Jennifer Zeisig and Kevin Jones. Jennifer Zeisig (catrinx2007@aol.com ) and Kevin Jones (kevinjonvash@gmail.com)
- October 29 Monday, Rally 10-12 at Federal Court house, Seattle. Support Our Children's Trust judicial approved lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of the planet around issue of Climate Crisis. There will be rallies across the country.
- October 30, Tuesday, public hearing, Rialto Theater 2-5 pm and 6:30-10 pm. Issue is PSE and the Liquid "natural" gas (LNG) plant being built on tidal flats in Tacoma. Potential effects of this infrastructure are devastating. Carpooling available. Contact Suzanne Greenberg 206-226-3779 or suzannegreenberg@gmail.com

- Until the end of December, Jennifer Zeisig (206-463-6445) will be coordinating signature gathering for the Initiative I 1000 petition to the legislature " allowing the state to implement affirmative action, without the use of quotas or preferential treatment, in public education, employment and contracting." Call if able to help gather signatures.
- Vashon Island is well on its way to being glyphosate-free in all stores. Island Home Center and Lumber removed all Roundup and other glyphosate products, rapidly followed by Thriftway. Ace Hardware is the only remaining store carrying this toxic pesticide. Stop in and ask John Yates, co-owner, to stop selling Roundup. Contact: Diane Emerson, [dianeemerson@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeemerson@yahoo.com) 206-567-5492

The Minutes from Sept 18 were distributed and comments made:

Kevin was at the AG Bob Ferguson event, and noted that AG Ferguson commented that the "attack on the objective truth" is the greatest threat to our democracy. Melvin commented that fake audio/video that look authentic are big problems.

Action Item update: Melvin reported that he took the I-1631 VPA endorsement to the Loop (accepted), the Beachcomber (they were short of space and asked him to write a letter, which he said "No" to), and he sent it to the VHS Riptide.

**New Action Item: Melvin said he would send the VPA endorsement to the I-1631 campaign.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### Progressive Voter's Guide:

The recommendations in the guide were reviewed and voted on by those present at the meeting. We did not have a ballot to work from, and used the Fuse Voter's Guide for the 34<sup>th</sup> District.

### WA State Measures:

- I-1631 (carbon fee) – Vashon Progressive Alliance (VPA) recommends a YES vote.
- I-1634 (eliminate the soda tax) – VPA recommends a NO vote.
- I-1639 (gun safety) – VPA recommends a YES vote.
- I-940 (police training) – VPA recommends a YES vote.
- Advisory #19 (funding for oil spill prevention) – VPA recommends a vote to MAINTAIN this tax

### Candidates:

- US Senate – VPA recommends voting for MARIA CANTWELL
- 34th Legislative District – VPA endorsed both candidates, SHANNON BRADDOCK and JOE NGUYEN, prior to the primary and recommends Islanders decide for themselves who to vote for after attending the candidate debate at 8-9pm at the Ballot Palooza event on Mon, Oct 22 @ 5-9:30pm at VHS.
- 34th District State Representative, position 1 – VPA recommends voting for EILEEN CODY (unopposed)
- 34th District State Representative, position 2 – VPA recommends voting for JOE FITZGIBBON (unopposed)

- King County Attorney – VPA voted not to recommend DAN SATTERBERG, noting that his opponent Daron Morris, though still on the ballot, has withdrawn.
- State Supreme Court, position 2 – VPA recommends SUSAN OWENS
- State Supreme Court, position 8 – VPA recommends STEVE GONZALEZ
- State Supreme Court, position 9 – VPA recommends SHERYL GORDON MCCLLOUD
- US House of Representatives – VPA recommends voting for PRAMILA JAYAPAL
- Court of Appeals, Division 1, District 1, position 4 – VPA recommends M. ANDRUS
- Court of Appeals, Division 1, District 1, position 7 – VPA recommends MARLIN APPLEWICK

We decided to distribute the Vashon Progressive Voter’s Guide in 1) the meeting minutes, 2) post on VPA facebook page, and 3) put a box ad in the Beachcomber (including a reference to the VPA website). VPA currently has \$135 in its bank account, including \$20 earmarked for the website expansion. We can use \$100 for the PVG ad. Sheila offered a donation to make the amount available for the ad \$150, and others contributed \$25 cash at the meeting.

**Action Item: Sheila and Diane will contact the Beachcomber about placing an ad regarding the Progressive Voter’s Guide. Diane will share on Facebook.**

Endorsements:

Jennifer Zeisig proposed that VPA endorse I-1000. She provided a handout which, among many other facts, states that “I-1000 is a statewide initiative to the WA Legislature promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for women, minorities, people with disabilities, and honorably discharged veterans in public employment, education, and contracting, by reinstating Affirmative Action, without quotas or preferential treatment, in public policy.”

Jennifer noted that 300,000 signatures are needed by the end of Dec. If that occurs, the Legislature can either 1) accept the initiative as is, 2) accept the initiative with amendments, and both versions would go on the 2019 ballot, or 3) reject the initiative, and it would go on the 2019 ballot.

**Action Item: VPA members present voted to put the proposal to endorse I-1000 on the agenda to be voted on for endorsement at VPA’s Nov meeting.**

On-line Texting Demonstration:

Noah Roselander presented a demonstration of the on-line texting system, which is being used to connect with voters (especially progressives) to urge them to vote in the mid-term elections. Sheila remarked that she just recently used this system and felt very positive about how it worked and her ability to connect and have a conversation with other citizens.

Texts can be sent from a laptop, tablet, or smart phone. Generally, blocks of 500 texts are sent at one time, which takes about 10 minutes. Responses to texts are received over time. Some texts collect data, others rally for action, eg, get out the vote.

Noah demonstrated the steps in texting using his computer:

- Go to [indivisiblevashon.org](http://indivisiblevashon.org).
- Click on Click Here for Texting and Phone Banking Resources.
- Then click on Click here for Texting Resources.

- Scroll down the page and click on the group you want to text through (eg, ACLU, MoveOn, NRDC Action Fund, etc).
- Be sure to read the directions, then fill out the form provided by the group, and do their training.
- You will get email with shifts when you can do texting, and other information—these vary with the group chosen.

Noah noted that there are support resources for texters to help in working with responders. There is also a communication platform called Slack for texters and organizers, so that it is easy to ask questions and get information you might need when responding to people's replies. Generally, you are texting just Democrats and the interactions are very positive. Only occasionally will you encounter a Republican or other person who may not be as receptive—just be positive and helpful. These names can be omitted from future texts.

Regarding numbers of responders, Kevin noted that out of 1,000 texts he sent out, he got 8-10 responses right away, then the replies dribbled in over the next couple hours, and some maybe even a day later, for a total of about 36 replies. The goal is for texters to respond within 90 minutes to replies.

Art recommended that anyone interested in texting get familiar with the above and set-up an account, then attend a texting event at Noah Roselander and Suzanne Greenberg's home on Soper Road, offered every Sunday (contact info@indivisiblevashon.org or Noah Roselander at 269-218-0501 for further information).

#### Future Meetings:

Next meeting - Tue, Nov 20, 6:30pm at Vashon Library (doors open at 6pm to set up tables & chairs, and for socializing--please bring a snack to share, if you are able).

Dec meeting - Diane will be out of town on the 3rd Tue. No one volunteered to facilitate the meeting in her absence, so we voted to cancel the regular meeting. **Action Item: Sheila Brown invited everyone to her house for an end-of-year party on Tue, Dec 18, time TBD.**

Minutes submitted by Debby Jackson (Oct 18, 2018)