

# Vashon Progressive Alliance Minutes 6/19/2018

Attendees: Sheila Brown (Host), Jennifer Zeisig (Minutes) Diane Emerson (Facilitator), Michael Laurie, Margaret Mackey, Terry Sullivan, May Gerstle, Joe Labrum, Diane Labrum, Melvin Mackey, Christopher Van Putten, Judy White, Steve Rubicz, Roxanne Thayer, Vicky deMonterey Richoux, Art Chippendale, Jo Ann Herbert

## 1. Review of Proposed Agenda and May Minutes

Action from last meeting: Sheila Brown followed up with Amy Morrison from Backbone to discuss organizing a health care panel/discussion event, but that is not currently in the works.

## 2. Announcements

BALLOT INITIATIVES: Current WA State ballot initiatives being promoted on island: All Initiative signature gathering must be completed by the end of June.

I-1600 Universal Health Care (<http://www.wholewashington.org>); Single payer health care. Contact Roxanne Thayer: roxanne070@outlook.com, Steve Rubicz: srrubicz@gmail.com, Sheila Brown: sheilatree@comcast.net, or Jennifer Zeisig. Petitions are also available to sign at local merchants including Vashon Print and Design.

I-1631 Clean Air Clean Energy (<http://www.yeson1631.org>); carbon fee levied against large producers. See Steve Rubicz, Jennifer Zeisig: catrinx2007@aol.com

I-1639 Safe Schools, Safe Communities (<http://www.gunresponsibility.org>); assault weapon law reform. See Jo Ann Herbert: deergrazingbymoonlite@yahoo.com, or Jennifer Zeisig: catrinx2007@aol.com

I-1644 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (<http://www.yeson1644.org>; One Washington Diversity campaign); affirmative action in education, jobs, and government contracting. See Jennifer Zeisig: catrinx2007@aol.com

Roxanne Thayer and Steve Rubicz discussed the importance of I-1600 and distributed signup sheets for signature gathering on the ferries.

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## SALMON

Sheila Brown introduced information about the Upper Columbia River impacts from the Grand Coulee Dam on salmon populations and NW regional tribes. This was based on the recent Meaningful Movies presentation: United by Water (produced by UCUT, Upper Columbia United Tribes). Current U.S./Canadian Columbia River Treaty negotiations regarding the Upper Columbia do not include the

affected indigenous nations and do not include eco-system concerns (refer to Save Our Wild Salmon; wildsalmon.org; <http://www.wildsalmon.org/projects/modernizing-the-columbia-river-treaty/modernizing-the-columbia-river-treaty.html>).

Action on this item: Call our Senators in opposition to H.R. 3144 (has passed the House; Rep. Jayapal voted no)

Patty Murray: 202.224.2621 or 206-553-5545  
Maria Cantwell: 202.224.3441 or 206-220-6400

HR 3144, the Federal Columbia River Power System Operations bill, sponsored by Cathy McMorris Rogers and Dan Newhouse, has passed in the House and now moves to the Senate. It severely restricts the ability to monitor spills necessary for the preservation of salmon, steelhead, and other fish species critical to our economy and ecosystem. The bill states that “No structural modification, action, study, or engineering plan that restricts electrical generation at any FCRPS hydroelectric dam, or that limits navigation on the Snake River in the State of Washington, Oregon, or Idaho, shall proceed unless such proposal is specifically and expressly authorized by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.” - Okanogan Action Coalition

Sen. Murray has stated her opposition: <https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/4/senator-murray-reaffirms-strong-opposition-to-h-r-3144>

Sen. Cantwell has been very involved in calling for modernization of the treaty. Emphasize to both senators the need to include indigenous nations in the negotiations.

Related: New “WHOOSHH” technology for safer salmon transport through dam systems:  
<https://www.whooshh.com/>

One win for salmon: Supreme Court tie decision meant tribes’ suit against WA State wins and culverts must be cleared for salmon passage. <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/divided-supreme-court-reaffirms-salmon-culvert-decision>

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## IMPEACHMENT, IMMIGRATION

Steve Rubicz attended Tom Steyer’s Seattle town hall, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and reported on his continued efforts to impeach Trump.

Mass Mobilization against the Trump Administration’s immigration policy called for June 30<sup>th</sup>, nationwide. ([www.familiesbelongtogether.org](http://www.familiesbelongtogether.org)). SeaTac Detention Prison Protest 11:00-3:00; 2425 S. 200<sup>th</sup> St., SeaTac, WA. **Jennifer will post this, and additional events as they are confirmed, on the Resistance Calendar on the VPA website.**

Tues. June 26<sup>th</sup>, rally in support of activist Maru Mora Villalpando, at her 2<sup>nd</sup> deportation hearing before the ICE court: ICE headquarters, 1000 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. @ 12:30. Meet with Seattle Indivisible and other groups first @ the Federal Building, 915 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., by 12:15.

### 3. New Business

#### EMERGENCY ENDORSEMENT OF SHANNON BRADDOCK AND JOE NGUYEN

Melvin Mackey proposed an emergency endorsement in support of the 34<sup>th</sup> Democrats' endorsement of Shannon Braddock and Joe Nguyen, candidates for WA State Senate, to replace retiring Sharon Nelson. Melvin argued the endorsement was time sensitive due to the need to concentrate the large, Democratic candidate field prior to the August "top two", open primary, to more likely ensure at least one Dem makes it through to the November general election ballot. After some discussion, the proposed "emergency" designation was unanimously approved, and subsequently, a unanimous vote also approved Braddock and Nguyen for VPA endorsement. Refer to the endorsement statement below;

I move the Vashon Progressive Alliance make an emergency dual endorsement of Shannon Braddock and Joe Nguyen for the 34th District Senate Primary election in 2018. **The VPA will post our endorsement on the VPA website (Diane), submit it to both the Beachcomber and the Loop (Melvin), and send copies to both candidates, David Ginsberg (the Chair of the 34th District Democrats), and Fuse Washington (Melvin).** The suggested endorsement wording, subject to amendments, follows:

The Vashon Progressive Alliance dual endorses Shannon Braddock and Joe Nguyen for the 34th District Senate Primary election in 2018. We do this for the following reasons:

- 1) Shannon Braddock and Joe Nguyen are both good progressive candidates who will represent the 34th district's priorities well.
- 2) With eleven candidates filed for this position, our Top Two Primary has the potential to select two Republicans for the General election in November with as little as 10% of the vote each. The Democratic, Independent, and "No Party" vote could be evenly split among nine candidates with approximately 9% of the vote for each candidate.
- 3) Currently, there are two ways to prevent this loss of majority rule — obtain agreement from two or more Democrats to drop out of the race, or get progressive organizations to agree to endorse the same two or three candidates. To date no one has dropped out.
- 4) The 34th District Democrats have endorsed Shannon Braddock and Joe Nguyen at their June meeting. The Vashon Progressive Alliance finds it in everyone's best interest to endorse the same candidates. If most progressives vote for one of these two endorsed candidates, it will ensure that at least one Democrat will make it to the General election in November.

Submitted by Melvin Mackey

#### EMERGENCY ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

Following this successful vote, discussion ensued about the "emergency endorsement" procedure itself, currently requiring unanimity among all present, and whether there should be allowance for abstentions or not, especially for first time attendees. Suggestions for considering voting guidelines

included the “80%” rule; consensus vs. majority vs. unanimity. **Sheila Brown and Diane Emerson formed a subcommittee to work on and draft a proposal for future consideration.**

#### UNIFYING FOR DEMOCRACY

May Gerstle and others (Christopher, Art, and Terry), involved in the organizing efforts for Unifying for Democracy, reflected on the second meeting of Unifying for Democracy. Misunderstandings had been “put to bed” so that the unifying goal could move forward. Talking about values is what brought everyone together. The organizers are considering opportunities to continue engagement with this and other communities. There will be additional events this fall. One idea is Youth/Adult dialogues.

#### 2018 WA STATE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Art Chippendale attended the June 15<sup>th</sup> WA State Democratic Convention and reported on the 2018 platform, highlighting planks related to corporate power (corporations are not people), living wage and tax fairness, and single payer health care, among many others. Refer to: <https://www.wa-democrats.org/about/documents>.

Art has also posted the link on the VPA website, along with links to candidates in the 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district: <http://www.vashonprogressivealliance.org/wa-state>

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT RACE

The 8<sup>th</sup> District congressional race was also mentioned. It is an important race because we have a chance to flip it from Republican to Democrat. A number of candidates are running, but Jason Ritterer is the only one who supports universal healthcare. <https://www.jasonrittereiser.com/>

#### VASHON PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE – IDEAS FOR OUR ROLE AND VISIBILITY

Additional discussion was opened by Michael Laurie about whether VPA participants want to more concisely self-define as a support group for activists and/or improve “productivity” with more focused action. Art proposed concentration on elections; Christopher offered his availability for multigenerational networking; there was some agreement that if “projects” were agreed upon, they be time limited/finite. There was discussion of publicizing VPA more (May G.), to increase participation, and **Terry offered to include mention of VPA in a future column in The Loop**. Art suggested we utilize the Unifying for Democracy template, but no details on the template were mentioned. It was recognized that increasing participation will probably require a move to a different venue for our meetings. **Diane will add this topic to the agenda for July.**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 17, at Sheila and Brian Brown’s home.  
6:00 pm doors open, 6:30 pm meeting begins