

Vashon Progressive Alliance Minutes – 7/17/18

Attendees:

Diane Emerson
Terry Sullivan
Noah Roselander
Kevin Jones
Melvin Mackey
Art Chippendale
Debby Jackson
Jennifer Zeisig
Christopher Van Putten
Sheila Brown
Brian Brown
Margaret Mackey
Judy White
Delancy Lane
Shannon Braddock

Announcements:

- Candidate Forum – July 25, Ober Park, 6PM Music & Speakers, 6:30 – 8PM Candidate forum moderated by Susan McCabe.
 - o Volunteers wanted – contact Art Chippendale - Arthur.chippendale@gmail.com or 206-375-4270.
- Immigration / Refugee Workgroup poetry reading – August 2, Fundraiser for NW Immigrants' Rights Project, Vashon Bookshop.
- Vashon Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is marching in the Strawberry Festival. Here is the invite on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2159454404314264/>
- Strawberry Festival:
 - o Voter registration at 34th Democrats booth
 - o Vashon Gun Safety Coalition booth will hand out gun safety literature & gun locks
 - o The Beachcomber has a map of all the booths at Strawberry Festival, so you can find your favorites
- Vashon Heritage Museum display of Japanese history on Vashon

Meeting Minutes review:

- Concern was expressed by Lisa Devereaux over candidate endorsement for 34th Legislative District Senate seat, specifically that she had not been interviewed by VPA. Melvin explained to Lisa that none of the candidates had been interviewed. Potential future endorsement opportunities are being discussed.
- All actions from last meeting have been completed.

New Business:

- Shannon Braddock – candidate for Washington 34th Legislative District Senate
 - Shannon provided her background and motivation for running as the most progressive candidate on the ballot.
 - She is a single working mother with three children and a very supportive ex-husband, confident that her home responsibilities give her unique insights that no other current Washington State legislator has.
 - A key strategy to address the current Trump administration is to keep Washington a strong progressive and successful state.
 - She is the only candidate for this seat endorsed by the Alliance for Gun Responsibility
 - Shannon has personal experience and a commitment to address LGBTQ and Immigrant issues because these issues have impacted her children.
 - Other key platform issues:
 - Focus on early childhood education
 - Universal access to health care
 - Environment and our oil dependent economy
 - Homelessness and income inequality, which is tied to our regressive tax system
 - Capital gains tax and closing corporate loopholes
 - She has legislative experience gained through her work for both Dow Constantine and Joe McDermott
 - Q&A:
 - Q: Your opinion on charter schools? A: She does not support state dollars going to charter schools, which represents a failure of our public schools (vouchers are even worse).
 - Q: How do you put a progressive income tax on the table? A: Must demonstrate some success, like with a capital gains tax, and alleviate some other taxes (like property tax). This approach will build trust with voters that will allow us to incrementally introduce more progressive tax systems.
 - Q: Regarding the Supreme Court Janus case ruling, what will you do to alleviate the problems that this ruling will create in Washington state? A: Expect a lawsuit will challenge this ruling (she has more labor endorsements than any other candidate). One approach is to raise awareness of the value of unions to gain additional support. She will also work with her union endorsers to solicit ideas to address this threat.
 - Q: I-1600, Universal Health Care, which failed. Where do you stand on use of the initiative process to get to single payer healthcare? A: Universal Access is her chosen language because we don't yet know the details of the various health care proposals. She does support Health

Care for All. She will work with others and promote steps to achieve that outcome.

- Q: Would you support some sort of sex education in schools, beginning at a younger age, so that kids get a chance to understand how to establish a more equal parity between genders? A: Yes, that sounds like a valuable approach to address the gender inequality issue.
- Q: What can the state do to reduce immigration problems? A: First of all, let's not provide assistance to ICE (reference the Department of Licensing director issue). Next, we need to understand where we are inadvertently setting up barriers that exclude immigrants from participating in our society, such as public health care delivery to immigrant communities. In each of these areas, look at options to make sure these activities do not become opportunities for ICE raids.
- Q: What ideas do you have to assure, after two failed attempts, to get a carbon tax in Washington? A: Keep at it. Specifically, regarding I-1631, we need to continue working with labor to improve their support for a carbon fee. Look for other opportunities to restrict fossil fuels as well.
- Q: Would you consider purchasing development rights or some other approach to take housing out of the commodity market? A: Yes, because I am open to any solution that does not go against my values. This is an incredibly challenging problem with a large number of stakeholders that all need to participate in the solution.

- New VPA Endorsement Procedure:

Diane Emerson and Sheila Brown proposed a new endorsement procedure that does not require unanimous votes, and allows for people to abstain from voting, if they wish.

Here is a link to the proposed new endorsement procedure:

<http://www.vashonprogressivealliance.org/Proposed%20New%20Endorsements%20Procedure%20for%20Aug%20meeting.pdf>

Discussion of the proposal followed:

- It was suggested that something less than 80% of voters be required to put an endorsement on the next month's agenda (step 4).
- It was suggested that emergency endorsements should meet a higher standard than 80% of those willing to vote (step 7c).
- It was suggested that we should allow endorsement votes by mail.
- The vote to put the recommendation on the August agenda was 12 for and 0 against, which means the motion passed.
- **Diane will put this issue on the August agenda, and the proposed new procedure on the website so all can read it, plus Facebook.**

- Actions to Elect More Progressives: Kevin Jones and Noah Roselander

We have been resisting Trump for 551 days as of today. There have been many wins, but also many losses. The only way we will be able to stop resisting is when we have candidates in office that respect our values. Each Republican majority replaced is one more battleground that no longer threatens our morals, our values and our democracy. We cannot stop resisting, but we must include time in our busy days to elect progressive candidates – Democrats, Independent or Green party candidates. Progressives who understand, enable and fight for our values. This is really the only long term successful strategy.

We are all asked to commit to at least one canvassing event or one get out the vote phonebank or one get out the vote text event or one candidate fundraiser.

Indivisible Vashon is focused locally on Dave Reichart's 8th Congressional District, which will add one more Democrat in the US House of Representatives. That district also includes the Washington State 30th Legislative District in Federal Way, where former Democrat (now Republican) Mark Miloscia can be unseated. We have also signed up to support Senate races in Arizona, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee and Texas. We need a Democrat controlled US Senate to stop Trump's appointment of ultra-right-wing conservative judges.

Kevin and team will arrange car pools, phone bank / texting parties and fundraisers. They could use your help and need your participation.

Our goal is to put an end to the fighting by electing progressive candidates to office. Let's stem the damage done by conservative politicians and Trump sycophants once and for all. Let's create a government that meets our moral litmus test. A government that prizes and advances democracy. A government that embraces our nation of immigrants. A government that respects the planet, the environment and the people, plants and animals that share our only home. A government that sides with international allies of good standing, not dictators who ignore the rule of law.

Contact Suzanne Greenberg (suzanneggreenberg@gmail.com), Noah Roselander (noah.roselander@gmail.com) or Kevin Jones (kevinjonvash@gmail.com) to help us achieve this outcome.

- Vashon Sustainability Festival – Insufficient time to address this topic. Held over.
- Ideas for VPA role / visibility on Vashon - Insufficient time to address this topic. Held over to August.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 21, at Sheila and Brian Brown's home, 19834 Vashon Hwy. Doors open at 6pm, meeting begins at 6:30.