

Meeting Minutes from Aug 24 meeting

Location: Sheila and Brian Brown's house
Diane Emerson, facilitator and note taker
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Bernie's Live Stream

Here is the link to Bernie's address that we watched:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzHSNjctOck> in case you wish to see it again, or share it with friends and family.

Here is what stuck with me:

Progress being made:

The idea of a \$15 an hour minimum wage is taking off around the country.

The debate has moved from *cutting* Social Security to *expanding* it, including Obama.

Even 54% of Republicans feel that people earning more than \$250,000 a year should pay more in taxes.

The country is moving away from having corporate prisons

Clinton is on record as supporting doubling the funding for community health care centers, including mental health counseling. This is the kind of health care center we will be getting here on Vashon soon, thank goodness.

Funding will be tripled for the National Health Service Corps, which provides debt relief for doctors and dentists who will work in underserved areas.

Our Revolution

Since the livestream was the first announcement of Our Revolution, there wasn't much available on the website on the 24th. There is plenty there now:

Issues: <https://ourrevolution.com/issues>

Primarily how to deal with wealth inequality

Candidates: <https://ourrevolution.com/candidates>

Nearly all people of color and women, including our own Pramila Jayapal, running for US Representative.

Ballot Initiatives: <https://ourrevolution.com/ballot-initiatives> One of them is our own I-735, which would urge a federal constitutional amendment that limits constitutional rights to people, not corporations.

Where Did the Money Go?

Roger Fulton kindly agreed to research where the leftover campaign funds went. From what he shared, Ballotpedia wrote:

Our Revolution was created with the remains of Sanders' presidential campaign. Donating to or creating a nonprofit is one option for politicians when using unused campaign funds. Charitable contributions are defined as donations to

groups described in section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. This includes contributions for use by the state, recognized nonprofit organizations, and other organizations not designed for private interests.[7] Barack Obama similarly turned his presidential campaign into a nonprofit with the establishment of Organizing for Action, as did Howard Dean with Democracy for America and Ron Paul with the Campaign for Liberty.[8][9]

Our Revolution Vashon

Currently, there is an active Facebook page for Our Revolution Vashon: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1412225722441044/> There are currently 398 members. Many of you are among them.

Website: David Godsey kindly offered to pay for hosting a website for us. I have drafted some info, and will meet with him soon to discuss details. My proposed name for the website is www.revolutionvashon.org. This is broad enough to incorporate anything we wish to do, and doesn't limit us to just the Our Revolution effort. We can incorporate efforts with the Green Party, and Brand New Congress, and other ideas as they arise over time. I hope you agree. If not, please let me know soon.

Jo Ann Herbert kindly agreed to notify the papers about our website once we have it up and running.

The Green Party

Mel Mackey outlined the 4 pillars of the Green party:

1. Ecological sustainability
2. Social and racial justice
3. Democracy – getting rid of Citizens United and election method reform
4. Nonviolence

He also shared how we could vote for Jill Stein without risking a Trump presidency, in WA state. We would need to keep an eye on the numbers at <http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/washington/>

If Hillary is clearly winning in Washington state, then a vote for Jill Stein would help the Green party receive 5% votes nationally, and keep Trump out of the oval office.

If you wish to be on the mailing list for the Green party, please contact Richard@richardpaulis.com

Next Meeting, Tuesday, Sept 20

Place: Sheila and Brian Brown's house, 19834 Vashon Hwy

Time: 5:15pm for socializing, eating

6:00 pm Livestream from Brand New Congress (see below)
with discussion as late as we wish afterward.

There is another group out there working on the revolution in our country: Brand New Congress. This group was formed several months ago by Bernie staffers after they were laid off from the campaign (when it became obvious that Bernie wasn't going to win the nomination). Their plan is to

recruit and run 400+ candidates for **2018** as a single, unified, presidential-style campaign. This allows for :

- Actually turn out millions more to vote in their midterm elections, which usually have extremely low turnout. One big campaign for a Brand New Congress will attract enough media attention, volunteers and grassroots donations to overwhelm those no-name, sold-out, unpopular incumbents.
- Focus the grassroots energy and funding into one, big goal. It is possible to defeat incumbents backed by a few wealthy individuals if we have millions of people working together, but only if those millions are concentrated.
- Gain huge economies of scale in advertising, direct mail, and staffing.
- Use one constantly-improving campaign infrastructure as we move from election to election.
- Have candidates without a lot of wealth and with no campaign experience run a sophisticated campaign by simply plugging into our well-oiled campaign machine.

Brand New Congress is having a livestream event on Sept 20 which will feature insights into the organization, their platform, and more. It will be a good way for us to compare this effort to Our Revolution.

See you then! We need a meeting facilitator and someone to take and post minutes. If no one else steps up, I will facilitate the discussion.

Diane Emerson