Washington County Democratic Central Committee
May 28, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting started at 7:03pm via zoom. Officers present were: Martita Meier (Chair), Garrett Fleenor, (1st Vice Chair) did credentialing, Lars Ludeking (Treasurer) and Victoria Long (Recording Secretary). Suze Engbretson, (2nd Vice Chair) was absent.

- The prepared CC Meeting Agenda for May 28, 2025, was approved by acclimation.
- The CC Meeting Minutes for April 23, 2025, were approved by acclimation.

○ Introduction of First-Time Attendees and Democratic Elected Officials

○ Second Vice Chair (Credentials) report was presented by Garrett Fleenor. There were 51 PCPs in attendance; a quorum was met.

- Treasurer's Report was presented by Lars Ludeking; this report is on file with Treasurer. Report on Special Nominating Conventions in Appendix 1.

○ Chair's Report was made by Chair Martita Meier on the SD13 / HD26 results and May Election results.

2. Workgroup Reports:

○ Community Outreach Workgroup — Sue Cocking reported June 7th is Hillsboro Pride (12-5pm); Juneteenth is June 14 (12-6:30pm) at the Orenco Jerry Willey Plaza; June 29th is the Beaverton Pride Festival (11-5pm); and the Washco Fair Volunteer Sign-Up link will be on the website soon.
https://www.washingtoncountychamberor.com/juneteenthcelebration/

○ Office Workgroup — Connie Chen reported that help is still needed to fill all open shifts. Email Connie at office_chair@washcodems.org. The Office is collecting yard signs at the office and will try to return them to candidates. Please call the Office at 503-626-7018 or stop by to pick up your signs. Office hours are M-F (10am-4pm) & Saturdays (10am-2pm).

○ Campaign Workgroup — Diane Doctor reported. Voter turnout stands at 21.92% and 3 more updates coming. Turnout at over 39% due to NLP. See Appendix 2.

○ Training Workgroup— Barry Johnson Smith reported. See Appendix 3

○ Finance Workgroup— Martha Rampton reported on 3rd Annual Wine Tasting event at Duck Pond Winery, 4-7pm with a flight of 5 wines, a charcuterie board and a full glass of

wine, nestled on a lovely deck under a great oak tree.
https://washcodems.org/2025/05/13/duck-pond-wine-tasting-saturday-may-31st/

○ Direct Action Workgroup — Callie Peters reported. See Appendix 4

3. HD26 appointment Candidates

○ The HD26 Representative Appointment candidates (who were voted by HD26 PCPs to move forward to the Washington County Commission for the HD26 Representative appointment on June 6th) made comments.

1. Sue Rieke-Smith made comments.
2. Chelsea King made comments.
3. Mary Pettenger made comments.

4. Caucuses & Special Groups Updates:

○ Education Caucus— Maureen Barnhart reported. DPO Education Caucus met with Exec. Committee for Goals 2026. On local level – focus is on local ballot measures. National focus is on administration promoting school vouchers. June 5th Rally in Support of Public Education.

○ Young Dems Caucus— Spencer Lindquist is absent. Callie Peters reported the Young Dems Caucus is looking for members 34 years and younger. Pacific U – looking to co-host event. Park Movie Night Showing is cancelled. Pie and Ice Cream Social coming in September. https://washcodems.org/young-democrats-caucus/ Young Democrats Discord: https://discord.com/invite/rehyQ5bU52

○ East Washington County Democrats — Carol Greenough reported. Unaffiliated with WashCo Dems. Meet 1st Thurs of every month. We the People gathering on Hwy 99 (9:30-11am). For details refer to Carol. https://washcodems.org/young-democrats-caucus/We the People rally : https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/788030/

5. Reports from Parliamentary Committees

○ Policy and Resolution — Chris Armstrong read the two Second Readings listed below and recommended passage. See Appendix 5

➢ Resolution # 2025-01 - Regarding Special Education Funding in Oregon Public Schools

Carol Greenough moved to amend # 2025-01 to add #4 “We propose that the cap for special education funding be increased by 1% a year until it meets need. Support for this increase of special education funding should be added to the base state school fund.” Derrick Ragan seconded. Debate. Vote: Ayes-24 / Nays-20 - Amendment motion passes.

Vote on Resolution #2025-01 with Amendment included: Ayes 43 None opposed. Motion passes.

- Resolution # 2025-02 – Debate. See Appendix 5. Vote: Ayes 8 / Nays 36 – Resolution does not pass.
- Garret Fleenor moved to extend the CC meeting until 9:30pm. Seconded by Brenda Buratti. Vote: Ayes 40 / Nays 2 – Motion passes.

○ Rules — Garrett Fleenor moved to change the bylaws as presented in Appendix 6 to formalize work of the Ad Hoc Direct Action Workgroup. No debate. Vote: Ayes 43 / Nays 0

6. Delegation Updates

○ First Congressional District Committee Delegation Report — Meeting at 7pm on Zoom- If you are interested in any of the DPO committee positions, contact vicechair1@washcodems.org

○ Sixth Congressional District Committee Delegation Report — Carl Fisher was absent.

○ State Central Committee Delegation Report — Derrick Ragan reported. Please register for SCC meetings, please register on the DPO website. scc_chair@washcodems.org https://dpo.org/scc/

○ Sign-ups for the DPO Platform Convention - August 15-17th – Monmouth, OR – Statewide event - (small fee to attend/3-day event/housing about $15 a night) — Garrett Fleenor moved the WashCo Dems approve any Democrat registered in Washington County that signs up to be a delegate to the DPO platform convention. No Debate. Vote: Ayes 39 / Nays 0

- ○ Open positions votes for SCC Alternates and CD1 Alternates — Garrett Fleenor moved to elect Rhys Wallace for 1 Non-Binary Alternate for SCC. No debate. Vote approved by unanimous consent.
- Non-Binary alternate for CD1

7. Provisional Election of New Precinct Committee Persons – This CC Meeting's appointed PCPs are provisionally appointed until verified by the County Elections Office, and a precinct is assigned.

- Victoria Long moved that Cynthia Munoz, Myrna Munoz, and Hugh Finnerty be appointed as PCPs. No second required. No debate. Vote: Approved by Unanimous Consent. Motion passes.

8. New Business & Announcements –

- Brenda Buratti made comments on opposition protests/bogus conspiracy theories. Show up at the County Commissioner's meeting and possibly testify.

- Veronica Williams made comments about the WashCo Dems HOPS event August 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36aringpm

Recorded by:

Victoria Long

Victoria Long
Recording Secretary
Washington County Democrats, May 28, 2025
Next CC Meeting at PCC in person on 6/25/2025

Appendix 1

Report on Special Nominating Conventions by Lars Ludeking

SD 13 Nominating Convention

Democratic Party of Oregon Mourns the Loss of State Senator Aaron Woods, Sets Date to Fill Vacancy.

PCPS in Senate District 13th met in Wilsonville on Sunday, May 4th, selected the following 3 nominees to fill the vacancy in SD 13, and ranked them in the following order of preference:

1. Courtney Neron - (Selected by Commissioners)
2. Jeanette Shaw
3. David Backen

Washington County PCPs: 20 (vote weight 1335)
Clackamas County PCPs: 24 (vote weight 201)
Yamhill County PCPs: NONE

HD 26 Nominating Convention

PCPS in House District 26 met in Wilsonville on Sunday, May 18th and selected the following 3 nominees to fill the vacancy in HD 26, and ranked them in the following order of preference:

4. Sue Rieke Smith
5. Mary Pettenger
6. Chelsea King

Washington County PCPs: 7 (vote weight 1335)

Clackamas County PCPs: 31 (vote weight 201)
Yamhill County PCPs: NONE

Appendix 2
Campaign/May Election Results Report by Diane Doctor

The May election produced great results for Washington County Democrats. Democratic School Board members retained their seats throughout the County and new Dems were added to School Boards in Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Sherwood.

The Tigard-Tualatin School District levy, the King City Police and Public Safety measure, and the Forest Grove Police Facility Bond all passed.

According to the most recent update by the Washington County Elections division, voter turnout among all parties stands at 21.92%. Three more updates to election results will occur between now and the official certification on June 16.

Turnout among Democratic voters when contacted by a Neighborhood Leader averages 39.94%. This represents an increase of 20% in voter turnout as a results of the Program. A few Neighborhood Leaders had voter turnout on their turfs of more than 70% and one long-time NL had turnout of 88% on his turf. These numbers will continue to go up as more votes are recorded by the Secretary of State.

We had signed up 36 new volunteer Neighborhood Leaders this cycle. A total of 523 volunteers reached a total of 13,374 Democrats. We are always looking for more Neighborhood Leaders and have already signed up a few new volunteers for November 2026. If you're interested in joining the program, it's easy to do. Just fill out the contact form at washcodems.org/neighborhood-leader and your respective House District Leader will be in touch.

Appendix 3
Training and Education Report by Barry Johnson-Smith

Training and Education Meeting had the "How the Central Committee Works" workshop on May 10th. We had 6 people show up and I want to give a shout out to the following people: Dan Cushing, Jack Huttig, Callie Peters, Lauri Maixner, Bob McCormick, and Kathy Greene. Thanks for attending.

We are having the “How to Engage with Local Government 101” will be on May 31st from 10:30am-12:30pm at the Community Room in the Brookwood Library in Hillsboro. Workshop covers the structure of the different levels of local government and how to engage with them. As well we review what ordinances and laws are and how to advocate for them. Elected officials will be at the event explaining how to engage with them and their history in politics. If you are interested in joining, please email Barry Johnson-Smith at training_chair@washcodems.org.

Washington County Black Advisory Business Council will have its 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 14th at Jerry Willey Plaza from 12:30pm-4:30pm. This event will celebrate and highlight the Black businesses in our local area as well as other businesses in the community. The council is looking for volunteers to help with the event. If interested in volunteering please email Barry Johnson-Smith at barryjohnsonsmith23@gmail.com

Appendix 4

Direct Action Workgroup Report by Callie Peters

Members of Direct Action are attending Board of County Commissioner Meetings to combat claims of election fraud and calls for ending mail in ballots. Brenda Brugatti and I made public comment on May 6th. I read portions of Chapter 10, Believe in Truth, from *The Book on Tyranny.*

May 21st held a Vigil for Democracy starting with sign waving at 7:30 PM then the Vigil at 8:15 PM. We read statements from Senator Wyden, Representative Salinas, and OR Senators Reynolds and Campos. It was a great opportunity to network and spread the word about Direct Action.

Direct Action Open House on June 3rd during the Art Walk from 5-8PM. We plan to canvass downtown w/ flyers. The office will be open for sign making and rock painting with the upcoming protest in mind.

June 14th No Kings. No Oligarchy planning in its final stages! Join us at Beaverton City Park. Start time is 2:30 PM with speeches from public service members from the city govt to the federal govt. There will be a march to City Hall with plenty of activities at the park including tables from local activism orgs, labor orgs, immigration right orgs, and possibly a veteran’s organization.

Direct Action will join the WashCo Dems for the 4th of July Parade.

Meetings are every other Thursday from 7-9PM at the office. Next meeting is June 5th.. Please spread the word!

Callie Peters - contact information is ccmunson04@pm.me Cell phone is 417-825-6767

Appendix 5

A Resolution of the Washington County Democratic Central Committee
Resolution # 2025-01
Regarding Special Education Funding in Oregon Public Schools

(A) Whereas, students with special education needs deserve opportunities in public education to grow, learn, and contribute to society;

(B) Whereas, special education funding in Oregon's state school fund has been capped at supporting 11% of the total public school population since 1991;

(C) Whereas, the portion of students receiving special education services statewide is nearly 15% with some districts significantly higher;

(D) Whereas, federal support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which was originally designed to be supported by 40% federal dollars continues to decline and was less than 14% in FY2020;

(E) Whereas, federal support for IDEA funding is increasingly threatened by the current administration's efforts to remove federal support for education;

(F) Whereas, Oregon Department of Education data presented to lawmakers shows that the current cap results in around 20,000 Oregon students not receiving state funding for the services they need;

(G) Whereas, Oregon HB 2953 will eliminate the state funding cap of 11%, allowing more students to receive special education funding and provide a more equitable funding model by removing an outdated artificial cap that impacts districts with the greatest need;

(H) Whereas, Passage of HB 2953 will be an important step in fortifying special education funding and reducing the risk to individual districts of dramatic changes to federal IDEA funding;

THEREFORE, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. We support funding improvements for special education students and educators.

2. We endorse Oregon HB 2953 which will eliminate the percentage cap on the

amount of monies that are distributed from the State School Fund for special education.

3. We will make support of this bill known to our legislative delegation, the OR Dept of Ed and Education Association, and unions supportive of education.

4. We propose that the cap for special education funding be increased by 1% a year until it meets need. Support for this increase of special education funding should be added to the base state school fund.

References:
OPB article (Feb. 24, 2025): https://www.opb.org/article/2025/02/24/why-eliminate oregon-special-ed-funding-cap/
Oregon Education Association summary: https://oregoned.org/advocating-for change/action-center/letters-testimony/hb-2953-removing-cap-special-education
Oregon State Legislature page: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB2953

A Resolution of the Washington County Democratic Central Committee
Resolution # 2025-01
Regarding Democratic Leadership in the U.S. Senate

Whereas, a functioning democracy requires open discussion, legislative compromise, and public visibility of Congressional budget actions;

THEREFORE, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1) Censure Chuck Schumer with regard to his acceptance of the terms of the continuing budget resolution H.Con.Res.14

2) Instruct our CD-6 and CD-1 delegates to put this forward to the state platform for discussion at the state platform committee meeting

Appendix 6

Rules Changes to the Washington County Democrats Bylaws
Report by Garrett Fleenor
www.washcodems.org/wp-content/uploads

Washington County, Clackamas County and Yamhill county commissioners will hold an appointment meeting on Friday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m. to interview candidates and select a replacement for the State House District 26(Link is external) open position.

At the request of the new Direct Action workgroup,
Amend Bylaws Article 13, Section 1, adding 'Direct Action' to the list
Amend the Bylaws Article 13, Section 4, adding a new #9 (and making the current #9 a #10):

The Direct Action Workgroup Chair shall:

a. Organize volunteers to plan or attend non-fundraising Direct Action events, such as protests

b. Organize volunteers to attend civic meetings, such as city council meetings, county commission meetings, representative town halls, and state legislature testimony sessions

c. Work with the Communications Workgroup on the advertising and media interfacing for organized events

d. Coordinate with the Office workgroup for mutual aid activities, such as food drives or other donation drives.

e. Work with other, non-party organizations that align with our values to organize or attend events

This bylaws' change establishes the Direct Action workgroup, adding it to our bylaws as a standing workgroup committee. This workgroup has been extremely active in the last two months, planning protests and activating democrats to get out and protest Trump's actions. It's a highly engaged group, and has already mobilized a few thousand folks.

The rules proposed are very straightforward, simply adding a new workgroup and ensuring that it doesn't step on the toes of any other workgroup we have, such as Outreach and Finance. It also provides guidelines to ensure that the Direct Action workgroup is communicating through our Communications committee, to make sure our message is unified and has reach.

The Rules Committee forwards this bylaws change with a Do Pass recommendation.

Appendix 7 – Letter from Alan Bennett

Resolution 2025-02 to remove Chuck Schumer as minority Senate Leader

Hello, my name is Alan Bennett, NLP and Precinct Committeeman for the 434 precinct and a five-year resident of Aloha. I was born on the banks of the Arkansas River, in Finney County Kansas. Our family homestead in Scott County was 640 acres on the Ogallala Aquifer. We raised seed crops and were proud to say we were land rich and dirt poor. When grandpa died my Uncle Wayne took over running the Farm and raised cattle, pigs, nutria, and cats. He shipped all

the livestock alive to market and abhorred killing anything. We had a picnic at the old abandoned one room schoolhouse when all the cousins were back on the homestead to share memories. Rosie found a rattler under the front porch, and it got real defensive. Uncle Wayne had to take a 2" X 4" and crush its head. He turned real white and walked around the corner of the school building and threw up. Our family valued life of all kinds!

I attribute everything worthwhile that I learned was in a one-room schoolhouse my grandfather (who only got to eighth grade) and his eight brothers built from trees they cut down and skidded on the snow to the one acre of land my grandpa donated from his homestead. Most of his five children and seventeen grandchildren completed college.

I got through the University of Washington on the GI Bill and received my MPA in 1973. So I can claim that I understand and speak English well. But I am not good at "wordsmithing"! I believe this word is a play on blacksmithing. My grandpa was a jack-of-all-trades so of course he was a blacksmith, and I have seen him take an iron bar and pound it into a horseshoe. And this is where my political argument starts. So I want to get some words down for the record and how I intend to use them.

Acquiesce is passive acceptance or submission.

Abdication is an act of abandoning or discarding a right, responsibility, etc. an abdication of Authority.

Capitulate to accept something or agree to do something unwillingly: The sports minister today capitulated to calls for his resignation.

Collaboration is the process of two or more people, entities or organizations working together to complete a task or achieve a goal. (The French had collaborators in WWII with Nazi Germany; how did that turn out?).

Communism is a sociopolitical, philosophical, and economic ideology within the socialist movement, whose goal is the creation of a communist society, a socioeconomic order centered on common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange that allocates products in society based on need.

Compromise is an agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions. (Grandpa's opinion was "when you lay down with dogs you have to expect to get up with fleas!)

Conciliation is a process used to resolve disputes by reducing hostility, improving communication, and finding mutually acceptable solutions between parties involved in disagreement.

Democracy is a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives. (Winston Churchill said: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others"

Dictatorship is an autocratic form of government which is characterized by a leader, or a group

of leaders, who hold governmental powers with few to no limitations.
Fascism is a populist political philosophy, movement, or regime (such as that of the Fascisti) that exalts the nation and often race above the individual, that is associated with a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, and that is characterized by severe economic and social regimentation and by forcible suppression of opposition.
Meritocracy is the notion of a political system in which economic goods or political power are vested in individual people based on ability and talent, rather than wealth or social class. Advancement in such a system is based on performance, as measured through examination or demonstrated achievement.
Patriarchy is a system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the Family, and descent is traced through the male line.
Socialism is an economic and political philosophy encompassing diverse economic and social systems characterized by social ownership of the means of production, as opposed to private ownership. It describes the economic, political, and social theories and movements associated with the implementation of such systems.
States' Rights are political powers held for the state governments rather than the federal government according to the United States Constitution, reflecting especially the enumerated powers of Congress and the Tenth Amendment.
Strict constructionism believes in interpreting legal texts, like the Constitution, with a narrow or literal meaning, focusing primarily on the words as they are written and avoiding broad interpretations or inferences. This philosophy is often associated with conservatism and a desire to limit government power (Nixon cited the Dred Scott decision as a good example).
Saul Alinsky advised us: "Politics is the art of deciding who gets what, when, where and how: It is amoral". It is just the arena where ideas and policies can be discussed, retooled and voted on. The Republicans engaged it partisanship when the passed the continuing resolution for the national budget. Democrats wee not allowed to make any suggestions, let alone amendments. It was not a political process because Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer, acquiesced to fear (that the American people would blame Democrats if the government shut down?? BULLSHIT!!!
The Republicans gave no opportunity for compromise. Schumer abdicated his leadership, pure and simple. He folded to a tyrant in compliance with the patriarchy that is the US Senate, a "good old boy" of gray beards who use wordsmithing to swap favors across the isle and fail to call out "their good colleague" for acts of tyranny. And, shamefully, senior members of that "good old boy club" collaborated!! THIS WAS CAPITULATION!
I endorse and recommend the Washington County Democratic Party approve resolution 2025-02

End of Appendices