



King County
Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.: 5	Date: 5 Nov 2007
Motion No.: 2007-0586	Prepared by: Nick Wagner

SUBJECT

Appointment to fill the vacancy in the seat representing the 34th legislative district in the Washington State House of Representatives.

BACKGROUND

The 34th state legislative district includes Burien, White Center, West Seattle, and Vashon and Maury Islands. The Council recently appointed former State Representative Joe McDermott to fill a vacancy in the seat representing the 34th district in the Washington State Senate. That appointment created a vacancy in the 34th district’s seat in the Washington State House of Representatives.

The Washington State Constitution provides in part, in article II, section 15:

VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party

As King County’s legislative authority, the Council is responsible for making an appointment to fill the vacancy in the seat representing the 34th legislative district.

Pursuant to the state constitution, the King County Democratic Central Committee (“KCDCC”) has nominated the following individuals, in order of preference, to fill the current vacancy:

1. Sharon Nelson
2. Toni Lysen
3. Greg Doss

(Attachment 2 to this staff report is a copy of the KCDCC letter transmitting the nominations; Attachment 3 is a copy of the minutes of the meeting referred to in the letter.)

Biographical information on Sharon Nelson and Greg Doss is contained in Attachments 4 and 5, respectively. Toni Lysen did not submit biographical information and has respectfully declined to attend the hearing on the motion; her letter to that effect is Attachment 6.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Proposed Motion 2007-0586 (Attachment 1) would fill the vacancy in the seat representing the 34th legislative district in the Washington State House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT

In its current form, the proposed motion has a blank for the name of the person to be appointed. It is anticipated that there will be an oral amendment to insert the name of one of the three nominees.

INVITEES

1. Sharon Nelson
2. Toni Lysen
3. Greg Doss

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2007-0586 Proposed Motion (p. 3 of these materials)
2. Letter from King County Democratic Central Committee (p. 5)
3. 34th District Democrats meeting minutes (p. 7)
4. Biographical information on Sharon Nelson (p. 9)
5. Biographical information on Greg Doss (p. 15)
6. Letter from Toni Lysen (p. 17)



Signature Report

November 2, 2007

Motion

Proposed No. 2007-0586.1

Sponsors Constantine

1 A MOTION making an appointment to fill the vacancy in
2 the 34th legislative district of the Washington state house
3 of representatives.
4

5 WHEREAS, a vacancy was created for the position of state representative for the
6 34th legislative district, due to the resignation of Joe McDermott, and

7 WHEREAS, the 34th legislative district Democrats have submitted the names of
8 nominees for the vacancy;

9
10
11
12

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
_____ is hereby appointed to the position of state representative from
the 34th legislative district.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Attachments None

King County Democratic Central Committee
Post Office Box 58337
Renton, Washington 98058



DATE: November 1, 2007

TO: Bob Ferguson, King County Council Member District 1
Larry Gossett, King County Council Chair District 2
Kathy Lambert, King County Council Member District 3
Larry Phillips, King County Council Member District 4
Julia Patterson, King County Council Member District 5
Jane Hague, King County Council Member District 6
Pete von Reichbauer, King County Council Member District 7
Dow Constantine, King County Council Member District 8
Reagan Dunn, King County Council Member District 9

FROM: Susan Sheary, Chair
King County Democratic Central Committee

RE: Nominees for the State Legislative Vacancy in the 34th Legislative District

Pursuant to the Charter and Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party, the Washington State Constitution, and the Revised Code of Washington, the King County Democratic Central Committee hereby presents the following individuals as nominees for the position of State Legislative Representative - Position 2, representing the 34th Legislative District:

1. The Honorable Sharon Nelson
2. The Honorable Toni Lysen
3. The Honorable Greg Doss

The candidates are presented in rank order as they were nominated by the 34th Legislative District Party organization and ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee this date. You should consider the ranking as the preferred order in which the Democratic Party would hope you to consider these candidates.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important appointment.

Respectfully yours,

—original signed by—
Susan C. Sheary, Chair
King County Democratic Central Committee

www.kcdems.org / kingcountymocrats@msn.com / 206.622.9157

34th District Democrats

Special Meeting to fill Vacancy in the 34th Legislative District

State Legislator, Position 2

November 1, 2007 – 7:00 pm
The Hall at Fauntleroy
9131 California Avenue SW
Seattle, Washington 98136

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Statement of purpose was made -- Special meeting to fill legislative vacancy created by Senator Joe McDermott having moved into the Senate from the House of Representatives.

The KCDCC Chair Susan Sheary appointed Wendy Morgan as Secretary; Tally Committee of Chuck Laney, Javier Valdez, and Gurine Nordby; Chuck Laney as Timer, and Stephen Lamphear as Parliamentarian.

The number of PCOs eligible to vote was 159, with 134 credentialed and present.

Susan introduced the candidates: Greg Doss 3, Toni Lysen 2, Sharon Nelson 1, Lucy Krakowiak 5, and Kim Beckland 4. Drawing was made for order of presentation (the number by each candidate's name indicates drawing result). Each candidate was then given five minutes of presentation to be used in the manner they saw fit. After the candidate presentations, the first ballot was taken. Results of 134 PCOs voting were:

Lucy Krakowiak	2
Kim Beckland	3
Greg Doss	13
Toni Lysen	39
Sharon Nelson	77

A second ballot was taken for the top three: Sharon Nelson, Toni Lysen, and Greg Doss.

The results of the second ballot with 129 PCOs voting were:

1. Sharon Nelson	78
2. Toni Lysen	39
3. Greg Doss	12

Results were read and after a standing ovation, Sharon Nelson addressed the group. The Chair related that confirmation would take place on Monday November 5, 2007 at the next full meeting of the King County Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Morgan, Recording Secretary

Welcome

Dear Fellow 34th District Democrats,

When I heard about Erik Poulsen's decision to leave the State Senate it was quite a surprise for me. He has served the 34th District well and I have enjoyed working with Erik for over a decade on the environment, transportation and many other issues.

Erik's decision has created an interesting time for the 34th District as our precinct committee officers (PCOs) debate on future representation for our district. As I announced at the October meeting, I want to serve the 34th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives. I have asked the PCOs for their consideration and hope to have the opportunity to meet individually with each of them during the upcoming weeks.

If I am granted the honor of the House appointment, I will work every day to serve the interests of all the communities of the 34th District. We have a diverse district that includes Burien, White Center, West Seattle, and Vashon and Maury Islands. Each of our communities has its unique issues. Yet, as Democrats, we share so many common interests, including improved transportation, protections for the environment, universal health care, and the best possible education for our children and grandchildren.

If you have questions, concerns, or issues you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care,

Sharon K. Nelson

COMMUNITY MATTERS MOST

Education

As a mother of two grown daughters, I am committed to making our state's public education system one of the best in the United States. It is the State's paramount duty to educate our children. Their future and our economic future depend upon investing in our public schools. I support reducing class sizes, investing in state-of-the-art vocational programs, early assessments for whether our elementary students have basic reading, writing and math skills, and improving the access our children have to higher education.

This past session we added 2,000 slots in early childhood programs, added \$60 million to school districts which have high enrollments of special needs students and funded 9,700 more slots in our universities and community colleges. However, we still rank 46th out of 50 states in our investment in schools.

We must do better and if I am in Olympia as the State Representative for the 34th District I will fight for additional investment in education.

Transportation

We must invest in transit and roads now. Every community in the 34th District is impacted by traffic congestion and the lack of sufficient transit alternatives. I have worked hard in my current role to protect and expand the West Seattle Water Taxi, but that is not a permanent solution to our unique mobility needs. The Regional Transit Investment Package and Sound Transit package are not perfect. However, they do provide funds for extending SR509, the Lander Street overpass, the Spokane Street offramp, and funding to study light rail options in the future to West Seattle and Burien. I believe we cannot delay further in investing in our transit and roads infrastructure.

As we continue to debate the future of the viaduct, I will be asking our State, County, City and local leaders to sit down and to develop a plan together. Before another significant earthquake rocks this region, we must work together to provide solutions – not just for the viaduct but for those communities and commuters affected by the replacement project. Waterborne transit, dedicated bus lanes, and more transit should be part of that discussion and it is what our communities want. Let's work together as Democrats to move this State forward!

The Environment

Ten years ago I organized my neighbors and founded an organization to protect Puget Sound from an multinational mining operation. I am passionate about protecting our water, air, and forests. With global warming, the listing of our beloved orcas as an endangered species, and with the information we have today about the condition of Puget Sound, we must take a stronger stand for the environment. Last year a simple bill run by

Senator Poulsen, which would have made sure our aquatic reserve program protects versus damages valuable tidelands, failed to pass the House..

The environmental community today is “allowed” four bills per year. This certainly encourages environmental organizations to collaborate on their priorities, however, it also provides an opportunity for environmental leaders in the House and Senate to fight for more environmental legislation rather than limit such valuable work. It is time for a change and with Erik Poulsen leaving the Senate, I will step in to champion environmental causes and will be a strong and persistent voice.

Public Financing of Campaigns

If I am privileged to serve in the House of Representatives, I will work to pass legislation which requires public financing of campaigns at all levels of government in our state. I firmly believe that this is critical to our democratic process and that it will provide opportunities for new citizens to enter the political arena. When special interests and well-connected political players fill campaign coffers, elected officials are less independent. It is time for public campaign financing.

Annexation

The Growth Management Act has placed White Center in a situation where the community must decide whether they will annex to Burien, Seattle or attempt to stay as part of King County. This has been a difficult situation not just for White Center, but for Burien and the City of Seattle.

As the annexation debate is being driven by the State’s Growth Management Act, I will pursue providing funding to assist whichever jurisdiction is selected to annex the unincorporated areas of White Center. The state created the mandate to annex and, therefore, needs to assist impacted citizens and cities.

More about Sharon's Background

- **Environmental Leader**
- **Advocate for Consumer Protection**
- **Experienced in Finance and Public Policy**
- **A Strong Voice for the 34th District**

Sharon Nelson has been involved in her community and in working for citizens in the 34th Legislative District for over a decade. She is a proven leader in efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound, and at the County Council she has fought to improve our quality of life, protect open space, and provide funding for projects which help homeless and low income citizens.

For the past five years, Sharon has worked on a broad range of public policy, including complex land use legislation. Working on the County's \$4 billion budget, she has advocated to improve public safety, invest in transit, protect the environment, and provide funding for important 34th District projects such as the West Seattle Food Bank, the Southwest Boys & Girls Club in White Center, the Environmental Science Center in Burien, and the Vashon-Maury Island Youth and Family Services and Senior Center. Sharon understands our communities' needs and, in Olympia, will be a strong voice for the 34th District.

Sharon is also the founding president of Preserve Our Islands, a group that has led the fight against Glacier Northwest's effort to expand a massive mine on Maury Island. Under her leadership the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve was established by Commissioner of Public Lands Jennifer Belcher – protecting valuable shorelines on Vashon and Maury Islands. Due to Sharon's leadership, People for Puget Sound and Washington Environmental Council joined in the efforts to stop the Maury Island gravel mine.

Sharon grew up as a "military brat". Her father was a Chief Yeoman in the Navy and was stationed primarily at Pearl Harbor. Sharon's first lesson in politics was a heated debate at the dinner table with her father supporting John Kennedy and her mother supporting Richard Nixon. Today, like Sharon, her mother is a Democrat.

In 1973 Sharon graduated from Whitman College with a B.A. in Psychology. Even with having worked summers and throughout the school year, Sharon graduated summa cum laude. She knows how important work study and scholarship programs are to our college students. Sharon strongly believes that our state's future depends upon our investment in education.

From 1973 to 1984, Sharon was employed in the world of finance. From her original job as a night data entry clerk, she worked her way up to become a Vice-President at Seafirst Bank. She was with Seafirst when the bank's energy portfolio brought the bank to the

brink of collapse. Senior managers who approved the disastrous loan policies were rewarded with golden parachutes -- while the average laid-off worker left hoping to find another job. Sharon hasn't forgotten this "corporate lesson".

On January 1, 1984, Sharon married John Nelson and in September of that year their first daughter, Amy, was born. Lyssa Ann joined her older sister three years later. For the next ten years Sharon focused on her children and community service. She knows the value of community and family.

In 1995 Sharon and John built a home on Maury Island and nine months later their front yard was soaked in sewage from an improperly designed septic system. Frustrated by the lack of accountability, Sharon decided to "fix the law" and joined a state committee examining the septic industry. In 1997, due to her work as a consumer protection advocate, new State legislation was enacted to protect future consumers.

This past year, Sharon spent the Legislative session in Olympia working hand in hand with Senator Erik Poulsen on a law that would have stopped the gravel mine and protected Maury Island. She saw, during the session, that our super majority of Democrats were not always progressive on the Maury Island issue and other issues.

Today, Sharon seeks to return to Olympia as the State Representative for our District. Her core values are those of the 34th District Democrat's Platform which she pledges to promote if she serves in the State House of Representatives:

- ✓ Economic justice for America's working families.
- ✓ Education is the paramount duty of the State and we must invest in our schools.
- ✓ We must have a commitment to civil, equal and human rights.
- ✓ Health care should be available to every citizen.
- ✓ Protection and restoration of our environment is critical to our future.
- ✓ Each citizen has a right to privacy and individual freedom.
- ✓ Our foreign policies must reflect the values of the American people not an administration.
- ✓ A progressive tax system must be instituted by our state and the federal government.
- ✓ Elections must be open and honest and public financing is critical to our democracy.

Greg Doss

Experience and achievements that qualify me for the State Representative position:

State Legislative Experience:

- 7 years experience working for the Washington State Legislature
- Staff Analyst / Policy Advisor to the Senate Transportation Committee
- Author of Transportation Efficient Act
- Author of Transportation Accountability Act, which created an Audit Board to hold agencies accountable for projects.
- Authored dozens of bills and contributed to state-wide referendum
- Responsible for \$1 Billion of authority in the State Transportation Budget

Local Experience:

- 4 years as a Strategic Advisor to Mayor Nickels on public safety issues
- Oversee \$200 million Police Department Budget for the Executive Branch
- Helped develop a proposal to add 105 new police officers to Seattle's streets
- Developed a plan to convert SPD's non-pursuit fleet to hybrid vehicles. Currently working on SPD's

November 2, 2007

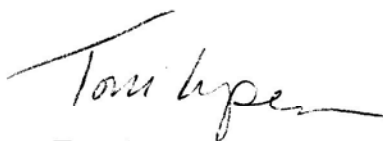
Councilmember Julia Patterson
Chair, Committee of the Whole
1200 King County Council
516 3rd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Councilmember Patterson:

I have been invited to attend the King County Council's Committee of the Whole meeting Monday, November 4th at 9am for the purpose of being interviewed by the committee members pursuant to the council making the appointment to the Legislature for the 34th LD, House Position 2 vacancy created with the resignation of Representative Joe McDermott.

I respectfully decline to attend this meeting. It is my understanding that the King County Council traditionally appoints the candidate receiving the highest number of votes from the precinct committee officers. And, since the person receiving the highest number of votes, Sharon Nelson, is also Councilman Constantine's staff member, I believe Ms. Nelson will receive the appointment. My presence would only be a formality and unnecessary to this process.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Lysen
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