

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!



Primary Election September 19 43rd Legislative District Democratic Candidates

The Floating Homes Association has been watching the 43rd Legislative District Primary race this fall with great interest. Since the turnover for legislators in this district tends to be low, the winner is likely to be our representative for quite a while. We asked each of the candidates if they wanted to send a message to our membership. Their responses are printed here.



Lynne Dodson

Dear Floating Homes Neighbors,

It is my honor to request your vote to serve as State Representative. I am a teacher at Seattle Central Community College, the past president of the faculty union for the colleges, former co-chair of WA State Jobs with Justice, and the parent of two wonderful, public school graduates. I've dedicated my life to public education and the fight for social justice.

Everyone talks about the importance of public education. Talk is not enough. We need a proven champion of public education in Olympia to build a seamless, high quality, early childhood through higher education system.

We must ensure that our vital state services are not shortchanged. It is a false choice to pit education against social services, or health care, or environmental stewardship. We must determine our priorities and fund them. Ensuring our state has the highest quality of life for all its residents means we must address the inequities in our tax structure.

Washington's reliance on sales taxes, on taxing gross revenue instead of profits for small businesses, and numerous, unaccountable tax breaks is very unfair to low wage earners and very unstable. Our state legislators must take the lead in finding long term solutions leading us to a stable and fair system while providing the revenue we need to meet our priorities.

With excellent leadership, organizing, and coalition building skills, I know how to bring diverse constituencies together to reach our goals. I am endorsed by the Women's Political Caucus, WA State Labor Council, WA Education Association, SEAMEC, and more current legislators than any other candidate. They know I will be effective in Olympia. I will work tirelessly to serve you.

My website, www.LynneToWin.org has information on my positions, endorsements, and how you can help send this teacher to Olympia!

Sincerely, Lynne Dodson

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Dick Kelly

Two things set me apart in this race. First, I am the only candidate with experience in State government, and the only one who has worked in the Legislature, helping create major legislation. Second, my experience has taught me that special interest campaign contributors have too much power in the Legislature. That is why I will introduce a bill creating an Arizona-style system of public financing of legislative campaigns. It is also why I refuse to accept any contribution over \$100 per person per election. Over 700 citizens have already contributed to this effort.

I grew up in Seattle, won a scholarship to Harvard, graduated with honors, then earned an MPA at UW specializing in transportation planning and a PhD in American Government. I taught at UW and elsewhere. I served as Deputy Mayor for Charles Royer, president of a small low-income housing organization, Chair of the State Shorelines Hearings Board and the Pollution Control Hearings Board, Growth Management negotiator for King County, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for Clinton, and Senior Policy Analyst for the House Democrats.

On the Shorelines Board, I fought for open water: to protect the public's views and access and keep one development after another from covering public waters. I am the only candidate who has made major State environmental decisions.

The power of big campaign contributors blocks needed action on many issues. A good example is cleaning up our lakes and the Sound. The special-interest power that blocks regulation of the chemicals that damage the Sound also gets a \$50 Million per year State tax subsidy for chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The only way to shift our taxes to education, the environment and other real needs is to reduce the power of big contributors to legislative campaigns.

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Jamie Pedersen

At 37, Jamie Pedersen is already an accomplished professional with a long history of community involvement. As a partner at Preston Gates & Ellis, he has helped businesses large and small solve tough legal problems. Jamie helped turn around PacMed Clinics, the old public health hospital on Beacon Hill, when it was in danger of failing financially. Jamie helped ensure that care is provided to the most vulnerable in our community and learned a tremendous amount about what we need to do to reform our health care system.

Jamie has also been a tireless volunteer leader. For almost 15 years, Jamie has been helping refugees fleeing persecution to win political asylum in the United States. When the funding for a feeding program at his church was cut, he helped to organize the Community Lunch on Capitol Hill, which provides meals to hundreds of people every week. Jamie helped to set up nonprofits to protect the environment in the Puyallup and Green/Duwamish watersheds. For the last 10 years, Jamie has been working on gay and lesbian civil rights. He chaired the national board of directors of Lambda Legal, the country's leading legal organization advocating for full equality for LGBT people. Jamie has served as Lambda Legal's lead volunteer attorney in three cases before our state Supreme Court, including the marriage case.

Jamie has knocked on over 10,000 doors of 43rd District voters – including nearly all the houseboats in Eastlake – listening to people talk about the challenges that we face in health care, public education, and transportation. He believes that we can solve these problems and wants to go to Olympia to fight for all people who live in the 43rd.

Jamie lives on Capitol Hill with his partner, Eric Cochran, a high school English teacher. For more information, please visit www.peopleforpedersen.org.

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Stephanie Pure

PURE for a Change Have you had enough of corporate lobbyists and right-wing church activists determining what is best for our schools, our health care and our families? Have you had enough of seeing headlines outlining yet another abuse of power by our current administration? Government has a responsibility to protect those with little or no voice. In this current political environment, state legislatures are the last hope for protecting us from the abuse of power and the neglect we see nationally. We need a legislature that fights for our progressive values. My values are your values - standing up for kids and families, fighting for equality and helping our citizens and small, independent businesses thrive. I am running for state representative because I have the vision, the energy and the experience to deliver results for our district and for Washington State.

Standing Up For Kids and Families Right now, Washington State ranks near the bottom in public education spending and the drop-out rate in Seattle Public Schools is 22 percent. I will work tirelessly to advance my top three education spending priorities: strengthening teachers' professional development, decreasing class size and increasing teacher pay. We must attract more teachers and give them the tools they need to successfully educate students.

Fighting for Fairness and Equality It isn't enough to say you support equality and fairness for everyone - you have to stand ready to fight for those protections. Whether it's fighting for marriage equality or fighting against racial profiling, I will stand and protect the dignity of all of our citizens.

Thrive, Not Just Survive A healthy workforce is a productive workforce. A productive workforce is a thriving business. Over 600,000 people in Washington State still lack health insurance. Most small businesses want to provide benefits to their employees, yet most cannot find the resources to do so. I will work to organize small businesses to set group rates on health insurance in order to cover more people. Since 55 percent of Washington's employees work for businesses with 100 workers or fewer, this is key to making a dent in the number of those uninsured.

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Bill Sherman

Seattle deserves a champion for clean water, clean air, strong public schools, and a community that protects people and rights. I have worked on these issues for over 16 years, as conservationist, community leader, prosecutor, and father – and will bring my passion, determination, and ability to the legislature.

On environmental protection, we live in a critical time. The federal government has nearly abandoned its duty to protect our natural world, and so it's up to us at the state level to get the job done. But our legislature has balked at banning toxic flame retardants, moved only tentatively to prevent major oil spills, and has yet to face the implications of global warming. I have written oil spill regulations, worked as an aide to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt during the Clinton Administration, and served on the legal team holding Exxon accountable for the Valdez oil spill. As the only candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club and Washington Conservation Voters, I will make it a priority to clean up Puget Sound, improve air quality, and develop an economy of renewable energy.

When it comes to education, it's personal – I have a three-year-old, and a six-year-old who just finished Kindergarten in the Seattle Public Schools. We need someone free of special interests, but dedicated to our kids – ready to both champion our schools and speak bluntly to the Seattle School Board.

Finally, my experience as a prosecutor working on domestic violence cases has taught me that we need a voice for the most vulnerable in our community. I will bring common sense and experience to the battle against domestic violence, and will fight for true equality for all people – including the right to marry.

I welcome your questions or comments at www.billsherman.org.

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Jim Street

Jim has been endorsed by nearly every major environmental leader in the region. No wonder! He was and will be the region's recognized leader in establishing strong policies to maintain the quality of our cities' urban environment while protecting our farmlands and forests. Jim was the first President of the Puget Sound Regional Council, and as a member of the Metro Transit governing board, Jim was a champion for light rail; he initiated bicycle racks on the outside and poetry on the inside of buses. If elected, Jim intends to serve on the House Transportation Committee where he will be our key advocate for transit and cycling.

Jim has also been and will be a champion for children. He proposed and chaired the City Council's first Committee on public education which led directly to the Family and Education levy. And over the last five years Jim has raised over \$4 million from 8 foundations and 16 local governments to support the shift of juvenile justice priorities from incarceration to family focused prevention. Jim will seek a seat on the Education Committee where he will be a champion for lower class size and education system reform. He is determined to address the educational needs of the kids who start behind, stay behind and drop out – with consequences that affect all of us.

During his tenure on the City Council Jim Street was a champion for the Houseboat community's causes. He oversaw major improvements in the city's shoreline zoning including expansion of public access, protection of public views and regulation of environmentally damaging practices (while protecting water dependent uses). Jim's work remains a crucial component of the broader legal environment which protects the houseboat community today. Jim will be sensitive to houseboat issues at the state level.

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