



King County
Metropolitan King County Council

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	44	Date:	16 Dec 2013
Proposed No.:	2013-0528	Prepared by:	Nick Wagner

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2013-0528 (Att. 1) would make an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state senator for the 43rd Legislative District.

BACKGROUND

The 43rd Legislative District includes all or parts of the communities of Ballard, Capitol Hill, the Central Area, Downtown Seattle, Fremont, Green Lake, Madison Park, Madrona, Phinney Ridge, the University District, Volunteer Park, and Wallingford, among others. The boundaries of the district are shown in the attached map (Att. 2).

The state senator for the 43rd Legislative District, Senator Ed Murray, has resigned effective 16 December 2013 to become the Mayor of Seattle (Att. 3). This has created a vacancy in the position of state senator for the 43rd District.

As King County's legislative authority, the Council is responsible for making an appointment to fill the vacancy. Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 4).

The appointee must be from "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." Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 4).

The Council must make the appointment "within sixty days after the vacancy occurs." Washington Constitution, art. II, § 15 (Att. 4). Since this vacancy will occur on 16 December 2013, the Council must act no later than Friday, 14 February 2014.

The person appointed by the Council will serve until certification of the election of a successor in November of 2014. RCW 29A.24.171 (Att. 5)

THE NOMINEES

The King County Democratic Central Committee ("KCDCC") has nominated the following candidates to fill the current vacancy:

1. James Pedersen (137 votes)
2. Linda Clifton (11 votes)
3. Ron Aley (2 votes)

The nominees are listed in order of preference, with each candidate's name followed by the number of Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) votes that he or she received. As described in a 4 December 2013 memorandum from Karl de Jong, chair of King County Democrats (Att. 6):

The candidates are presented in ranked order as they were voted for and nominated by the 43rd Legislative District Democratic Party organization and subsequently unanimously ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee. You should consider the ranking as the preferred order in which the Democratic Party would expect the Council to consider these candidates.

According to a blog post on the website of the 43rd District Democrats (Att. 7), “The second and third place candidates for each position have agreed to respect the will of the PCOs, and support appointment of Jamie Pedersen to the State Senate, and Brady Walkinshaw to State House, Position 1.”

Biographical information on Mr. Pedersen and Ms. Clifton is included in these materials as Attachments 8 and 9. Council staff was unable to obtain biographical information on Mr. Aley. Attachment 10 is a Seattle Times article on the nomination process.

AMENDMENT

In its current form, the proposed motion has a blank for the name of the person to be appointed. The blank will need to be filled in by amendment of the motion.

INVITEES

1. James Pedersen
2. Linda Clifton
3. Ron Aley

ATTACHMENTS

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KING COUNTY
Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

December 13, 2013

Motion

Proposed No. 2013-0528.1

Sponsors McDermott

1 A MOTION making an appointment to fill the vacancy in
2 the position of state senator for the 43rd legislative district.

3 WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of state senator for the 43rd
4 legislative district due to the resignation of Senator Ed Murray following his election as
5 Mayor of Seattle, and

6 WHEREAS, the 43rd legislative district Democratic precinct committee officers
7 have met to consider candidates for the position, and

8 WHEREAS, the King County Democratic Central Committee has submitted the
9 names of three nominees to fill the vacancy;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

11 _____ is hereby appointed to the position of state senator for

12 the 43rd legislative district.

13

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Larry Gossett, Chair

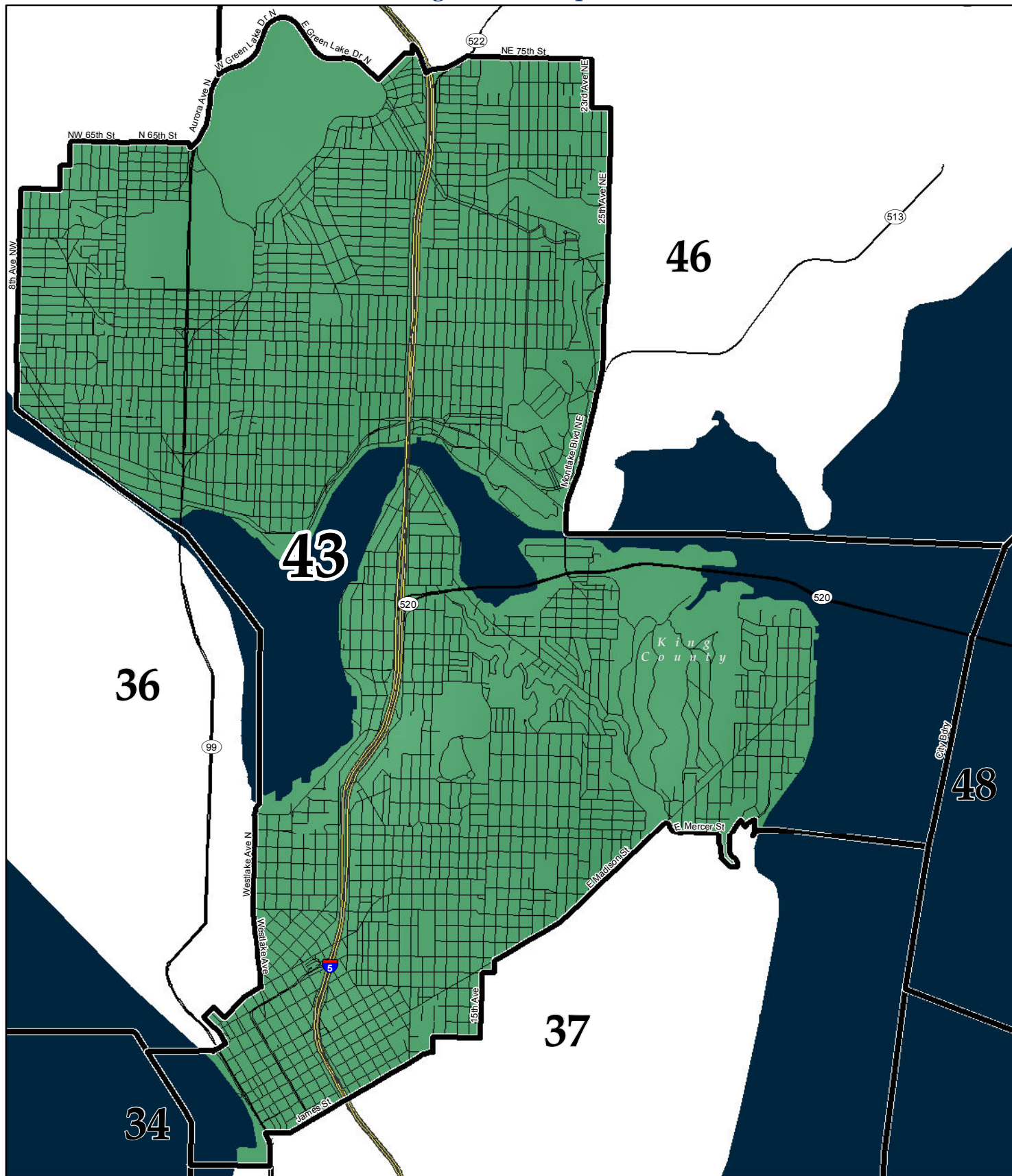
ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None



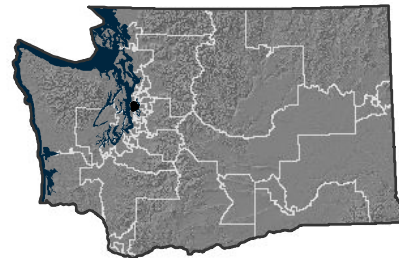
Legislative District 43



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Datum: North American 1983 Units: Foot US



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RECEIVED

2013 DEC 12 PM 1:35
Washington State Senate

CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL
Senator Edward B. Murray
~~Senate Democratic Leader~~
43rd Legislative District

Olympia Office:
316 Legislative Building
PO Box 40443
Olympia, WA 98504-0443

Telephone:
(360) 786-7628
FAX: (360) 786-1999
E-mail: edward.murray@leg.wa.gov

December 12, 2013

Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Ave., Rm. 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Metropolitan King County Councilmembers,

Due to my recent election as the next Mayor of Seattle, I am writing to you today submit my notice of resignation from the Legislature. The effective date of my resignation as the Senator of the 43th Legislative District will be at 12:00 p.m. on December 16, 2013.

It was my intention to resign earlier but the possibility of a vote on a transportation package prompted me to delay my resignation. Representing one of the most transit-dependent districts in our state, I am always mindful of how critical transportation and transit needs are to my constituents and those who work here. With the prospect of this important vote, I could not take the chance that the 43rd District would be left without a voice in the Senate. However, I am confident that this will provide adequate time and opportunity for the Metropolitan King County Council to confirm—prior to the 2014 regular legislative session—one of the three candidates chosen by the 43rd District Democrats.

I look forward to keeping open lines of communication with you and with the Legislature in my new capacity as Mayor of Seattle, and to working collaboratively and productively to make progress on behalf of residents all across the great state of Washington.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray

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2013 DEC 12 PM 1:35
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

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Washington State Constitution, 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,*** and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment ***within sixty days after the vacancy occurs,*** the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and ***the person so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is elected at the next general election, and has qualified:*** Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring after the general election in a year that the office appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected: Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county legislative authorities of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [AMENDMENT 96, 2003 House Joint Resolution No. 4206, p 2819. Approved November 4, 2003.] [Emphasis added.]

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RCW 29A.24.171

Vacancies in office.

(1) If, prior to the first day of the regular filing period, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, leaving an unexpired term for which a successor must be elected at the next general election, filings for that office shall be accepted during the regular filing period. The filing officer shall provide notice of the vacancy and filing period to newspapers, radio, and television in the county, and online. The position shall appear on the primary and general election ballots unless no primary is required or unless a candidate for superior court judge is entitled to a certificate of election pursuant to Article 4 [IV], section 29 of the state Constitution.

(2) If, on the first day of the regular filing period or later, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, leaving an unexpired term, the election of the successor shall occur at the next succeeding general election that the office is allowed by law to have an election.

[2011 c 349 § 10; 2006 c 344 § 7; 2004 c 271 § 165.]

Notes:

Effective date -- 2011 c 349 §§ 10-12, 27, 28, and 30: "Sections 10 through 12, 27, 28, and 30 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 16, 2011]." [2011 c 349 § 34.]

Effective date -- 2006 c 344 §§ 1-16 and 18-40: See note following RCW [29A.04.311](#).

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COUNCIL MEMBER
LARRY GOSSETT

DEC 04 2013

RECEIVED
DISTRICT TWO

DATE: December 4, 2013

TO: Council Chair Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember District 2
Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember District 1
Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember District 3
Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember District 4
Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember District 5
Jane Hague, King County Councilmember District 6
Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember District 7
Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember District 8
Reagan Dunn, King County Councilmember District 9

FROM: Karl de Jong, Chair King County Democratic Central Committee

RE: Nominees for the State Senate Vacancy in the 43rd 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 State Senate representing the 43rd Legislative District:

1. The Honorable Mr. James Pedersen
2. The Honorable Ms. Linda Clifton
3. The Honorable Mr. Ron Aley

The candidates are presented in ranked order as they were voted for and nominated by the 43rd Legislative District Democratic Party organization and subsequently unanimously ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee. You should consider the ranking as the preferred order in which the Democratic Party would expect the Council to consider these candidates.

The following votes were taken on the evening of December 3rd by 152 Democratic precinct committee officers (PCOs) in the 43rd Legislative District Democratic Party.

First Ballot:

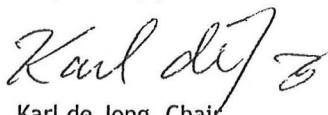
James Pedersen	137
Linda Clifton	11
Ron Aley	2
Spoiled Ballots	2

The King County Democratic Central Committee subsequently voted unanimously to forward the top three names in ranked order to the King County Council.

I, accordingly, am sending you the three names as selected by the duly elected and appointed PCOs of the 43rd Legislative District Democratic Party and ratified by the King County Democratic Central Committee as required by the Washington State Constitution, state statute and the state Democratic Party charter and bylaws.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important appointment.

Respectfully yours,



Karl de Jong, Chair
King County Democratic Central Committee

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NEWS

The Results of the 43rd PCO Caucus Are In!

December 4, 2013

On December 3, 2013, Democratic Precinct Committee Officers in the 43rd Legislative District voted to forward the following candidates, in ranked order, to the King County Council for consideration and appointment to the State Senate seat being vacated by Mayor-Elect Ed Murray:

1. Jamie Pedersen
2. Linda Clifton
3. Ron Aley

In anticipation of a vacancy occurring in the State House once Rep. Pedersen is appointed to be our next State Senator, PCOs also voted to forward the following candidates, in ranked order, to the King County Council for consideration and appointment to the State House:

1. Brady Walkinshaw
2. Scott Forbes
3. Cristina Gonzalez

The second and third place candidates for each position have agreed to respect the will of the PCOs, and support appointment of Jamie Pedersen to the State Senate, and Brady Walkinshaw to State House, Position 1. Congratulations to all of the candidates, and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the caucus and forum a successful event!

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ARCHIVES

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I want to help change that dynamic in the Senate. With my years of successfully building coalitions on a variety of issues in the House, I will enter the Senate with the legislative skills and relationships necessary to get good things done.

I will bring a sense of urgency to education funding, tax reform, and other progressive change. My husband Eric and I are proud to have our oldest son in kindergarten at Stevens Elementary on Capitol Hill. His three younger brothers will start there in two years. They - and 51,000 other kids in Seattle Public Schools - deserve our help now. They need a stellar education to get the great jobs that will build our economy. They also need our action now to combat climate change. To accomplish those changes, we need to reform our antiquated tax system to make it fairer, more progressive, and adequate to meet our state's need to invest in its people.

Representing this district has been a huge privilege. I appreciate the chance to continue to work for you to build a better state that we can be proud to leave to our kids and grandkids.

Best wishes,

Jamie



Paid for by People for Pedersen
815 First Ave #111 - Seattle, WA 98104
jamie@peopleforpedersen.org (<mailto:jamie@peopleforpedersen.org>)
(206) 832-8174

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Jamie Pedersen: A Fourth-Generation Washingtonian Committed to Public Service

My Norwegian great-grandparents homesteaded in Washington Territory in the 1880s, farming oysters and fishing for salmon. I grew up in Puyallup, graduated from Puyallup High School and worked at McDonald's to help put myself through Yale College, where I studied Russian and history and graduated summa cum laude.

After spending a year living in Russia and collecting oral histories of Soviet Afghan war veterans, I attended Yale Law School. I clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and then returned to Seattle - and Capitol Hill - in 1995 to practice law at K&L Gates. In May 2012, I became Vice President and General Counsel at McKinstry (<http://www.mckinstry.com/>), a Seattle-based construction and engineering firm that employs hundreds of union workers and specializes in energy efficient building. My husband is Eric Pedersen, who worked in public education for 17 years and is now at home taking care of our four sons, Trygve, Leif, Erik, and Anders.



I was brought up through Boy Scouts, church, and the example of my public-school-teacher parents to value community

service. Since returning to Seattle, I have been actively involved in many community and nonprofit organizations. I am the past President and current Treasurer of Central Lutheran Church (<http://www.loveiscentral.org/>) on Capitol Hill, where I helped to establish a nonprofit to run a community lunch program that feeds hundreds of people each week.

I chaired the board of the national civil rights organization Lambda Legal (<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>) from 2003-2005, and served as Lambda's lead volunteer lawyer on our state's marriage equality case. Since 2005, I have served as chair of Lambda's National Leadership Council. I have sung in the Seattle Men's Chorus (<http://www.flyinghouse.org>) for 18 years and helped to craft the vision of the Chorus: *to create a world that values and accepts its gay and lesbian citizens.*

And I provide free legal services to a variety of nonprofits, such as Pride Foundation (<http://www.pridefoundation.org/>), Social Venture Partners (<http://www.svpseattle.org/>), Seattle Girls Choir (<http://www.seattlegirlschoir.org/>), and Lambert House (<http://www.lamberthouse.org/>).

Having worked for many years as a volunteer and a lawyer on issues important to the district, such as health care, transportation and civil rights, I am putting my experience, skills and commitment to use for you and our district on the many important issues facing the Legislature.

I am doing my best to work collaboratively, respectfully and with integrity to help solve our state's challenges and ensure that the citizens of the 43rd District are well-served in Olympia.



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Legislative Accomplishments

Since I was first elected in 2006, the Legislature has made great progress on health care (providing for health coverage for all Washington kids, mental health parity, and setting up our state for smooth implementation of federal health care reform in 2014); public education (passing simple majority approval for school levies and redefining K-12 "basic education"); the environment (including significant funding for the cleanup of Puget Sound, a plan for the shutdown of the last coal-burning power plant in the state, and bans on toxic flame retardants, toxic toys, bisphenol A, copper brake pads, and phosphorus in fertilizer); and civil rights (including creation and expansion of a statewide domestic partner registry to protect same-sex couples and their families and the historic passage of marriage equality in the 2012 session).



I am proud to have been the prime sponsor of 34 bills that have been signed into law by the Governor in my seven sessions in the House. Those included:

- Establishing a housing voucher program for foster youth when they turn 18 to make sure they do not become homeless;
- Significantly expanding the state's domestic partner registry to provide financial security for domestic partners;
- Updating our parentage law to protect same-sex couples and their children;
- Revising our involuntary commitment laws to make it easier for violent mentally ill offenders to be kept off of the

streets and given the treatment that they need;

- Creating a new type of corporation, the "social purpose corporation," to allow for-profit businesses to consider social or environmental good, and not just profit, in corporate decisions;
- Protecting victims of domestic violence from contact with their abusers;
- Recognizing Juneteenth, the day on which the last slaves in the United States were freed, as a statewide day of remembrance;
- Modernizing the rules regarding the investment and spending of endowment funds by nonprofits and educational institutions; and
- Protecting our unique and historic houseboat communities.

For the last five years, I have served as chair of the House Judiciary Committee (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/committees/JUDI/Pages/default.aspx>), which has broad jurisdiction over family law issues such as marriage, adoption and child support; commercial law; landlord/tenant issues; real estate; intellectual property; domestic violence; consumer protection; constitutional rights; and the court system. I also serve as the representative for the House Democrats on the Legislative Ethics Board, the Office of Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee, and the Joint Select Committee on Article IX Litigation (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/jointcommittees/AIXLJSC/Pages/default.aspx>). I was appointed by Governor Gregoire in 2010 to serve on the Uniform Law Commission (<http://ulc.wa.gov/>).

I have also been working hard to change the conversation in our state about tax reform. In 2011, I helped organize and was a plaintiff in a lawsuit to overturn the two-thirds supermajority requirement for increasing taxes imposed by Tim Eyman's Initiatives 960, 1053 and 1185. On February 28, 2013, the Washington Supreme Court struck down (<http://www.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?fa=controller.managefiles&filePath=Opinions&fileName=87425-5%20opinion.pdf>) the supermajority requirement and reinstated majority rule on tax policy in the Washington Legislature. This was a tremendous victory for the citizens of our state. We put the decision to immediate use in passing over \$300 million in new revenue for the 2013-15 budget. In the longer term, I look forward to having a fair chance to enact significant and progressive tax reform.

You can visit my homepage (<http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-jamie-pedersen/>) on the House Democrats (<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/>) site at and look at a list of bills (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/Representatives/Pages/BillSponsorship.aspx?m=pedersen>) that I have sponsored to benefit the 43rd district and our state.



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2012 Campaign Endorsements

Organizations

- 43rd District Democrats
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Children's Campaign Fund
- Equal Rights Washington
- Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46
- King County Democrats
- League of Education Voters
- League of Humane Voters
- Mental Health PAC
- NARAL Pro-Choice Washington
- Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest
- Seattle Fire Fighters Union, Local 27
- Seattle-King County REALTORS
- SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
- SEIU Local 925
- Sierra Club
- Washington Alliance for Humane Legislation
- Washington Conservation Voters
- Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs
- Washington Education Association
- Washington Fire Chiefs
- Washington State Patrol Troopers Association



Washington State Psychological Association
Washington State REALTORS
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
Young Democrats at the University of Washington
Young Democrats of Washington

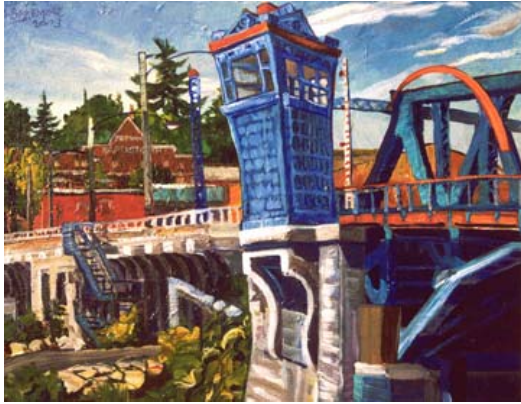
Ratings

Municipal League: Outstanding
NARAL Pro-Choice Washington: 100%
SEAMEC: Highest Rating



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Jamie Pedersen: He'll Fight for What's Right

• Our Future Depends on Public Education

My mom, dad, aunt, uncle, cousins and husband have all dedicated their lives to teaching in our state's public schools. For them to succeed, our state must commit to fund education amply and provide the innovation necessary to help our next generation. That means lowering class sizes, providing all-day



kindergarten and making pre-school affordable for everyone. Since I was elected, I have visited every public school in the 43rd District and have worked closely with the Seattle Public Schools on providing them the support they need in Olympia. Having a kindergartener at Stevens Elementary and three more on the way gives new meaning to the term "paramount duty!"

• **Improve Transportation and the Environment**

The 43rd District is at the center of many of our transportation infrastructure challenges. I am proud to have helped pass the plan to replace the SR 99 Viaduct with a deep-bore tunnel and am working hard on a solution for SR 520 that optimizes transit use and protects the neighborhoods of our district. I have also been watching closely as Sound Transit builds the light rail tunnel through the heart of our district and am working to make sure that that project connects with the SR 520 project. I believe that the state should give counties more and better tools to support buses and light rail. And, as a bike commuter for 18 years, I have been working on bicycle safety issues as well.

• **Everyone Deserves the Same Rights**

As a gay man, I have faced discrimination. As a civil rights attorney, I have helped people about to lose the family home, a loved one's inheritance or custody of children because gay men and lesbians aren't treated equally under the law. But we can't and shouldn't have to protect our community one family at a time. As one of the main advocates of our LGBT civil rights in Olympia, I am proud to be hard at work on changing the law so that all families are valued and respected equally.

• **Public Safety**

As Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, I have worked to reform and fund our mental health and involuntary commitment system. We need to work harder to make sure that our communities are safe and that people with mental illness get the treatment that they need. In the 2013 session, I was also the prime sponsor of the bill to require background checks on all firearm purchases. The failure of that measure, in the wake of tragic shootings in our district and our country, has helped awaken a broad coalition supporting common-sense measures to reduce gun violence.



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Jamie Pedersen

Vice President & General Counsel at McKinstry

Seattle, Washington Construction

- Current McKinstry, Washington State House
- Previous K&L Gates, US Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
- Education Yale Law School

Send Jamie InMail

311 connections

www.linkedin.com/pub/jamie-pedersen/53/78/6a0

Background

Experience

Vice President & General Counsel

McKinstry
 May 2012
 - Present
 (1 year 8 months)



State Representative

Washington State House
 November 2006
 - Present
 (7 years 2 months)

Partner, Of Counsel

K&L Gates
 October 1995
 - May 2012
 (16 years 8 months)



Law Clerk, Judge Stephen Williams

US Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
 August 1994
 - August 1995
 (1 year 1 month)

Education

Yale Law School

J.D.
 1991
 - 1994



People Also Viewed



Marc Ramme
 Corporate Counsel



Kristen Rogers
 Director, Government Relations - WA at Providence Health & Services



Sean O'Bannon
 Accounting Trainer at Costco Wholesale



Edward Murray
 State Senator at Washington State Senate



Louise Chernin
 CEO of Greater Seattle Business Association



Bob Frey
 VP Corporate Sales & Client Development at McKinstry



Kelsie Woodhouse
 Recruiting Specialist at McKinstry



William T. Buckley
 Attorney at Buckley Law P.C.



Lynn Sereda
 Civic & Social Organization Professional



Zander Doroski
 Director

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- 1990

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Jamie Pedersen

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jamie Pedersen (born September 9, 1968) is an American lawyer and politician from the state of Washington who has served as a member of the Washington State Legislature since January 2007. He currently represents the 43rd District in the Washington House of Representatives.

In December 2013, he was selected to succeed Ed Murray in the Washington State Senate.^[1] He will be sworn into the new position in early January 2014, and will be succeeded in the House of Representatives by Brady Walkinshaw.^[1]

He chairs the House Judiciary Committee.

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- 5 External links

Early life and education

Pedersen grew up in Puyallup, Washington and attended Puyallup High School. He graduated summa cum laude in American Studies from Yale and received his law degree from Yale Law School. Pedersen was an active member of the Yale Russian Chorus while an undergraduate and law student, and remains active in the alumni of the Yale Russian Chorus. He clerked for Judge Stephen Williams on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Career

Law Practice

Jamie Pedersen



Member of the Washington House of Representatives from the 43rd district
Incumbent
Assumed office
 January 2007

Preceded by Ed Murray

Member of the Washington Senate from the 43rd district
Taking office
 January 2014

Succeeding Ed Murray

Personal details

Born September 9, 1968
Political party Democratic
Spouse(s) Eric Cochran Pedersen
Residence Seattle, Washington
Alma mater Yale (B.A.)
 Yale (J.D.)
Profession attorney
Religion Lutheran
Website peopleforpedersen.org
 (http://www.peopleforpedersen.org/)

Pedersen joined Preston Gates & Ellis in 1995, working on corporate mergers.^[2] His pro bono work during this time focused on gay rights issues and he was Lambda Legal's lead attorney on the state's same-sex marriage case – *Andersen v. King County*. In 2012 he was hired by McKinstry, a Seattle-headquartered construction firm, as General Counsel.^[3]

Washington State Legislature

Pedersen was elected to the Washington House of Representatives from Washington's 43rd legislative district in downtown Seattle in 2006. He won a very competitive six-way Democratic primary election on September 19, 2006 with 23-percent of the vote. His nearest competitor, former Seattle City Council President Jim Street, was only 229 votes behind with 22-percent. The race was the most expensive House contest in Washington state history, with the six Democratic candidates raising almost \$500,000 among them. His election campaign won the support of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which provided financial and strategic assistance. In the general election, he faced only nominal Republican opposition, defeating his opponent by a margin of more than four-to-one. He was re-elected unopposed in 2008,^[4] 2010^[5] and 2012.^[6]

Pedersen was one of a number of Washington legislators who were briefly the subject of controversy in 2013 over expense claims uncovered in an Associated Press investigation. Pedersen had used \$384 in tax funds to purchase art for his office during a period when the state was struggling to balance its budget. At the time Pedersen explained that legislators receive an allowance for furnishing their offices and he had, typically, not used his entire allotment.^[7]

Political Positions

Pedersen has been a supporter of increased firearms regulation in Washington. In 2013 he introduced legislation that would require private gun dealers to request a background check from a local law-enforcement agency.^[8]

In the legislature, Pedersen has been a key proponent for the replacement of the Evergreen Point floating bridge and has introduced legislation to block the state's department of transportation from capping spending on the project.^[9]

In 2012 Pedersen publicly endorsed both Washington Initiative 502 and Washington Referendum 74, which legalized the retail sale of marijuana and same-sex marriage, respectively.^[10]

Personal life

Pedersen is openly gay and is one of six LGBT members of the Washington State Legislature, alongside Sen. Ed Murray (D–Seattle) and Reps. Jim Moeller (D–Vancouver), Dave Upthegrove (D–Des Moines), Laurie Jinkins (D–Tacoma) and Marko Liias (D–Mukilteo).

Pedersen is married to Eric Cochran Pedersen, a high-school assistant principal^[11] whom he met in 2004 while attending Seattle's Central Lutheran Church.^[12] Pedersen and his husband have four sons: Trygve Cochran Pedersen and a set of triplets - Leif, Anders, and Erik - born in early 2009.^[13] The children were all given traditional Norwegian names by Pedersen who is ethnically Norwegian.

References

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- ⁵ "November 2, 2010 General Election" (<http://your.kingcounty.gov/elections/elections/201011/Respage11.aspx>). *King County Elections*. Retrieved 19 November 2013.
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- ¹¹ "Rep. Jamie Pedersen" (<http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/pedersen/index.asp>). *Washington House Democrats*. Retrieved 2007-11-30
- ¹² Sanders, Eli (19 November 2013). "Boring, Traditional, Religious Marriage" (<http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/boring-traditionalreligious-marriage/Content?oid=13970276>). *The Stranger* (Seattle). Retrieved 16 November 2013.
- ¹³ "Two Men having a Baby" (http://www.sgn.org/sgnnews35_33/page3.cfm). *Seattle Gay News*. Retrieved 2008-08-18.

External links

- Elect Jamie Pedersen (<http://www.peopleforpedersen.org/>) **official campaign website**
- Washington State Legislature - Rep. Jamie Pedersen (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/pages/pedersen.aspx>) **official WA House website**
- Project Vote Smart - Representative Jamie Pedersen (WA) (http://www.votesmart.org/bio.php?can_id=66760) profile
- Follow the Money* - Jamie D. Pedersen
 - [1] (<http://www.followthemoney.org/database/StateGlance/candidate.phtml?c=107790>) 2008 campaign contributions

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jamie_Pedersen&oldid=585317950"

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Statement submitted by Linda Clifton

Linda J. Clifton currently represents the 43rd District Democrats on the King County Democrats' Platform, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee and is the 43rd District's Alternate King County Committeewoman. On the 43rd's Executive Board for at least 10 years, she has been a KCDCC Committeewoman and a PCO. She works on neighborhood issues with the Fremont Neighborhood Council board, and helped create the mural under Aurora Avenue at N. 46th as secretary of the 46th Street Mural Project Steering Committee. Previously, Linda chaired the Central Washington University Board of Trustees and ran for the legislature when she taught in Eastern Washington's Columbia Basin. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Washington where she directed the Puget Sound Writing Project, working with teachers across the state to improve the teaching of writing. A poet and founding editor of the literary magazine CRAB CREEK REVIEW, Linda currently advises private clients as a developmental editor at Clifton Consulting [All About Writing <http://www.clifton-consulting.com>]. Linda lives with her life partner, John Coelho, in the Upper Fremont neighborhood of Seattle. Linda is honored to have been included on the list for this post, and she is delighted to support the first choice of the PCOs, Representative Jamie Pedersen, as the next Senator for the 43rd District of Washington.

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Brady Walkinshaw | Politics Northwest | Seattle Times

Friday, December 13 2013, 7:04 AM

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December 4, 2013 at 7:00 AM

Pedersen likely to fill Murray's state Senate seat; Walkinshaw in line for House

Posted by [Jim Brunner](#)

Local Democratic activists met Tuesday night to fill vacancies in a couple of Seattle-area legislative seats.

Ed Murray's election as Seattle mayor last month left his 43rd Legislative District state Senate seat up for grabs.

State Rep. Jamie Pedersen will slide over to that position, as he ran essentially unopposed at a meeting Tuesday night of the 43rd District Democrats. Hundreds of Democratic precinct-committee officers gathered in a South Lake Union meeting hall for the vote.

Under the state constitution, legislative vacancies are filled via appointments by the local county council, which must choose a replacement from the same political party from a list of three names submitted by the local party organization. In practice, the Metropolitan King County Council typically picks the top choice from the list forwarded by the party.

So as a formality, the council will have two other names to choose from besides Pedersen, but both those alternative "candidates" made it clear Tuesday night they back Pedersen and have no intention of serving.

Pedersen, an attorney, was elected to the state House in 2006 and has served as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

After Pedersen's selection, the real drama Tuesday night was over the appointment to fill Pedersen's state House seat.

After a couple rounds of voting, the nod for that position went to Brady Walkinshaw, a program officer with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Walkinshaw is Cuban-American and gay, living on Capitol Hill with his partner, who works for the state Department of Natural Resources.

Walkinshaw bested Scott Forbes, the chairman of the 43rd District Democrats, and Cristina Gonzalez, a budget analyst for King County Executive Dow Constantine's office. While all three names will be

sent to the County Council, party etiquette says the runners-up will back Walkinshaw as the first choice.

The 43rd District runs through the liberal heart of Seattle (including Capitol Hill, Fremont, Wallingford and the University District) and at last night's meeting of nearly 200 precinct-committee officers (PCOs), the three candidates sounded virtually identical calls for new tax revenue for schools, strengthened civil-rights protections for minorities and increased transit funding.

Forbes called it a choice between "an excellent progressive candidate, an excellent progressive candidate, and an excellent progressive candidate."

So it came down to who had rallied enough PCOs to show up on a Tuesday night to vote. And Walkinshaw, who repeatedly boasted of his many endorsements from party leaders and state legislators, including Pedersen, won the ground game.

Meanwhile, in the 33rd Legislative District south of Seattle, Democrats selected Kent City Councilmember Elizabeth Albertson to fill the state House seat being vacated because of Dave Upthegrove's election to the Metropolitan King County Council.

The 33rd District covers Kent, SeaTac, Des Moines and Normandy Park.

All the appointees will serve one year and will have to stand for election to full terms in 2014.

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