



**King County
Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.: 5	Date: 11 Jan 2010
Motion No.: 2010-0025	Prepared by: Nick Wagner

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2010-0025 (pp. 3-4 of these materials) would make an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state senator for the 41st Legislative District.

BACKGROUND

The 41st Legislative District includes Mercer Island, the City of Newcastle, the Town of Beaux Art Village, and parts of the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, and Renton. Fred Jarrett, the former state senator representing the 41st Legislative District, recently resigned to become deputy county executive in the administration of County Executive Dow Constantine. Senator Jarrett’s resignation has created a vacancy in the senate seat for the 41st Legislative District.

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 senate seat for the 41st Legislative District.

In accordance with the state constitution, the King County Democratic Central Committee (“KCDCC”) has nominated the following candidates to fill the current vacancy. The candidates are listed in order of preference, based on the number of votes that each received from the precinct committee officers (PCOs) of the 41st District Democratic Organization.

1. Randy Gordon (54 votes)
2. Aaron Belenky (9 votes)
3. George Pieper (8 votes)

This information was provided to the Council in a letter dated January 6 from Susan Sheary, chair of the King County Democratic Central Committee (included in these materials at p. 5), which formalized an email from Ms. Sheary dated January 5 (in these materials at p. 7).

Biographical information provided by the candidates is included in these materials at pp. 9-15.

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 candidates.

INVITEES

- 1. Aaron Belenky
- 2. Randy Gordon
- 3. George Pieper

ATTACHMENTS

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KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 6, 2010

Motion

Proposed No. 2010-0025.1

Sponsors Ferguson, Dunn and Hague

1 A MOTION making an appointment to fill the vacancy in
2 the 41st legislative district of the Washington State Senate.

3 WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of state senator for the 41st
4 legislative district due to the resignation of Senator Fred Jarrett effective December 18,
5 2009, as a result of his accepting the position of King County deputy executive; and

6 WHEREAS, the 41st legislative district Democrats have met to consider possible
7 replacements for this 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

12 from the 41st legislative district.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None



January 6, 2010

Mr. Robert Ferguson, Chair
King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 3rd Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Ferguson

Re: Randy Gordon Recommendation

Pursuant to the Charter and the Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party and to Amendment 52 of the Washington State Constitution, the King County Democrats conducted and ratified the following candidates in ranked order to replace Senator Fred Jarrett who resigned, December 18, 2010.

Special Session—January 5, 2010
Renton Carpenters Hall
231 Burnett Avenue North—Renton

Final Tabulation (second ballot)

1. Randy Gordon, 54 votes
2. Aaron Belenky, 9 votes
3. George Pieper, 8 votes

There were 73 Precinct Committee Officers of the 95 eligible who were credentialed and participated. The King County Democrats, conducted the session, and ratified the results.

Susan C. Sheary
KCDCC Chair

King County Democratic Central Committee

Post Office Box 58337—Renton, Washington 98058

Telephone 425.255.2679 / FAX 425.255.2164

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Wagner, Nick

From: Susan Sheary [kcdcc1@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 9:36 PM
To: Ferguson, Bob
Cc: Phillips, Larry; Gossett, Larry; Patterson, Julia; Jan Drago; Dunn, Reagan; Hague, Jane; Lambert, Kathy; von Reichbauer, Pete; dowconstantine@gmail.com; Wagner, Nick; Kendall Watson; kervin@seattletimes.com; Jeff Smith; Randy Gordon; Aaron Belenky; george@outsmartoffice.com; Sharon; Dwight Pelz
Subject: Results of 41st District Democratic Organization - Special Session

The 41st District Democratic Organization's PCOs met in special session,

Tuesday January 5, 2010 - 7:00 pm
 Renton Carpenters Hall
 231 Burnett Avenue North - Renton 98057

Seventy-three (73) of the eligible 95 PCOs were credentialed and participated in the meeting.

The first ballot taken was for five candidates:

Randy Gordon	51
George Pieper	10
Aaron Belenky	8
Michael Rosen	3
Heidi Behrens-Benedict	1
Total	73

The second ballot was for three candidates and is the ranked order for submission to the King County Council for your confirmation, please

1. Randy Gordon	54
2. Aaron Belenky	9
3. George Pieper	8
Total	71 (two did not vote)

With 76% of the vote, the 41st District has overwhelmingly selected Randy Gordon as their number one pick. We ask that you please confirm Randy at your earliest possibility.

Thank you,
 Susan Sheary
 KCDCC Chair
 425.255.2679

p.s. as requested by your staff, two of the three bios are attached. Mr. Pieper will send his tomorrow morning.

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BIOGRAPHY FOR AARON BELENKY

1800 NE 40th St
Renton, WA
98056
425-271-8061
abelenky@alum.mit.edu

Aaron is a 36 year old computer programmer, originally born in Seattle. He grew up in Denver, CO, attending public schools before being admitted to MIT in 1992. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, along with a Minor in Political Science in 1996, and promptly returned to Bellevue.

Since 1996, Aaron has lived in Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah and Renton, working for high tech companies such as Microsoft, AOL, Tegic, Sagem-Morpho, Melodeo. He has spent the last four years as a technical consultant on the anti-trust case regarding Microsoft and the Department of Justice.

Aaron has been active politically since 2002 on a variety of federal, state and local races. He has been a long time PCO in RNT 41-0995, and served on the Board of the 41st Legislative District Democrats as a Member-at-Large, Representative to the King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC), and State Committeeman to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC). He is a former President of the Young Democrats of Washington (YDWA) and National Committeeman to the Young Democrats of America (YDA).

Aaron has been recognized with a Warren G. Magnuson Award in 2004 as a Rising Star in the Democratic Party, and as Young Democrats Man of the Year. He was a member of the Institute for a Democratic Future (IDF) class of 2005.

Aaron has also been President of his Condo Association in Renton since 2003, leading a board of five, and overseeing management of 62 condo units in 9 buildings with an annual budget of around \$250,000. Recreationally, Aaron is an avid sea kayaker and scuba diver, and has recently started as a student pilot flying Cessna 172's out of Boeing Field.

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BRIEF PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Randy Gordon has served as an Adjunct Professor at Seattle University School of Law since 1999, teaching Products Liability and Remedies, and was honored three times as commencement speaker for the law school graduating class and three times as a class marshal. Randy served as faculty sponsor for the National Women Law Student's Association. In 2003, he received the Outstanding Faculty Award at Seattle University School of Law. Randy Gordon graduated Phi Beta Kappa with High Honors and High Distinction from the University of Michigan in 1975, being honored as a James B. Angell Scholar and receiving both the Branstrom Freshman Prize and the prestigious Hopwood Committee's Bain-Swiggett Prize for poetry. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1978, where he founded the still-operating freshman orientation program, was elected to the Board of Student Advisors, and served on the CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW REVIEW.

Randy Gordon has been practicing law in Washington State since 1978, serving as on the Board of Trustees, Vice President and President of the East King County Bar Association, as a Trustee on the King County Bar Association for the Eastside district, and a Governor on the Board of both the Washington State Association for Justice (8th District, Governor, 2001-2003) and Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) (8th District, Governor, 2003-2005). After service on the Professional Responsibility Committee and six terms as Special District Counsel, Randy Gordon served as a Hearing Officer for the State Bar in disciplinary matters until his service on the Board of Governors.

In April 1996, Randy was appointed by then King County Executive Gary Locke to serve as legal community member on the King County Regional Justice Center Alternate Site Review Committee where he served for the duration of Committee through July 1996. In 1998, Randy Gordon was awarded Washington State Association for Justice's Public Justice Award for his decade long efforts on behalf of injured workers in Birklid v. Boeing, a 1995 en banc (9-0) decision of the state Supreme Court changing Washington State law regarding employer liability for "deliberate" injury to workers as a result of toxic exposures. In 2001, he was twice honored: with the President's Award from WSBA for his work on the President's Initiative Team and the Professionalism Award from Washington State Association for Justice. Randy helped conceive the "Indian Law" edition of the Bar News and, as a member of the WSBA Board moved for the addition of Indian Law on the bar exam. He continues to promote understanding of alternative remedies in tribal courts by including Indian law in his Remedies class.

Randy has been an activist in matters involving election integrity and campaign reform, serving as lead counsel in the case of Lehto, et al. vs. Snohomish County and Sequoia Election Systems, Inc. seeking to prevent Snohomish County from "outsourcing" our election process to electronic voting machine companies which provide unverifiable vote counting. He also has represented citizen groups in a successful mandamus action compelling King County to count petition signatures in accordance with controlling state law and in ballot initiative language challenges. He was active in referendum and initiative campaigns including the recent ratification of the Insurance Fair Conduct Act (R. 67) and the defeat of I-330, seeking to unbalance our civil justice system. Randy has testified before the legislature on numerous occasions in order to advance the rights of Washington citizens.

Randy has published numerous articles including, most recently, as principal author examining efforts to change the civil justice system in the context of health care liability in the SEATTLE JOURNAL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, (Spring-Summer 2006): "A Tale of Two Initiatives: Where Propaganda Meets Fact in The Debate Over America's Health Care." He has been a frequent writer on professionalism issues, including his article, "The Lawyer as Hero: A Pride of Lions, a Justice of Lawyers," Washington State Bar News, June 1999. Randy has been a volunteer at the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, providing no cost legal services to members of the community, since its

inception in 1991. In addition to his teaching and writing, he currently serves as General Counsel for the USA-National Karate-do Federation (pro bono), the USOC-recognized national governing body for the sport and oversaw the redrafting of the Bylaws to incorporate paralympic competitions, and spearheaded the recent restructuring of the Federation under the auspices of the United States Olympic Committee. For this work and other matters, Randy was awarded the Federation's 2008 "Person of the Year" Award. Locally, Randy has been involved working with and instructing youth at the Washington State Karate Association. Randy is a member of the Bellevue, WA law firm of GORDON EDMUNDS ELDER PLLC with an active mediation, arbitration and trial practice.

Randy has been active in his community, including service as a leader of the Parent-Child Program at the YMCA and advisor to a Boy Scout's Law Explorer Post, instructor and counselor for the Washington Karate Association, pro bono work for the Lake Bellevue Water Quality Committee, and as elected Precinct Committee Officer and 41st Legislative District parliamentarian. In 2005, Randy was honored as a "Rising Star of the Party" by the King County Democrats. In addition, Randy has done pro bono work and fundraising for the U-W Multiethnic Alumni Partnership and the Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. He has also assisted MAP with facilitation of its Board work and with the two highest fundraising efforts at the MAP Breakfasts in 2008 and 2009. Randy was the founder and chief executive office of BLUE ST8 PAC, which focused on early support for Democratic candidates in the 8th Congressional District and contributed to the success of nearly 2 dozen candidates at all levels of government. He has supported candidates for public office and causes as a volunteer.

Randy has included mediation and arbitration and completed mediation training in 1991 with the Pacific Mediation Institute. Since that time he has been involved in mediations and arbitrations involving hundreds of parties, recently assisting the 41st Legislative District in facilitation efforts on a volunteer basis.

George Pieper

2120 123rd Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98005

Biography Brief for 41st LD Senate Appointment

George grew up in the foothills of Southern California in the suburbs of Los Angeles. At the age of 19 he moved to Washington State to begin a new life as a young adult. Very independent, George worked hard and put himself through College. Locally he attended both the University of Washington focusing on Business and Liberal Arts and then Antioch University - Seattle with a focused study in Whole Systems Sustainability. From his youth George has always been creative, industrious and socially conscience. These characteristic have followed George in everything that he has accomplished in the last 20 years.

When George first moved to the Seattle area while working in the accounting department at the Warwick Hotel he saw an opportunity for the hotel to save a great deal of money and do it's part to save the environment. George established a recycling program taking recyclables and food scraps out of the hotels waste stream saving \$24,000 within the first year from disposal costs. George then joined the Business and Industry Recycling Venture (BIRV), a collaboration between local business, Metro-King County and Waste Management, where he volunteered as a Business Waste Auditor establishing programs in many of the other downtown hotels and high waste businesses.

On a recommendation George followed a dream in 1998 to work for an environment non-profit organization that was forming to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Earth Day. George helped establish the Earth Day Network setting up offices in Seattle and Washington D.C. George quickly established himself as the go-to-guy gaining oversight of all operational functions including administration, human resources and accounting. The small non-profit raised 4 million dollars and grew to a staff of 55 coordinating Earth Day 2000 events all over the United States and in 164 other countries. The Earth Day Network held the Seattle event and the main event on the Mall in Washington D.C. holding the largest single environmental event with a record 750,000 people in attendance.

After the Earth Day 2000 Campaign was over as resourceful as ever George and a business partner formed EntreStart, LLC liquidating the furniture and computer assets from the campaign. EntreStart helped start-up companies during the dot-com boom establish physical offices by 2002 the boom was over and George established Corporate Surplus an office liquidation company.

Through George's community and volunteer work he joined the Board of the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) which is the second largest chamber of commerce in Washington State and the largest national primarily LGBT business association. In 2003 the GSBA was asked to join newly forming National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). George spear-headed the effort and became one of the first nationally certified LGBT business enterprises in their Supplier Diversity Initiative. Through the NGLCC George met Dawn Ackerman another certified business owner and they formed OutSmart Office Solutions offering nationwide office furniture and supply sales to compete for growing market opportunities in fortune 500 companies that are increasingly including LGBT in their supplier diversity contracting programs and procurement.

In George's eight years on the board of the Greater Seattle Business Association and through his leadership as Vice President he worked to build the organization from having a \$200,000 annual budget with no staff to now having a million dollar annual budget with an office and a staff of 6. Additionally through his establishing the Government Affairs Committee now the Public Policy Task Force he worked to build the GSBA as a progressive business lobbying voice in Olympia, at the County, in City Hall and at the Port. In his efforts with the organizations philanthropic arm the GSBA Scholarship program has become so successful that just in this past November that it raised one quarter of a million dollars at one night's event and in its twenty year history has given over a million dollars in scholarships to Washington students.

As the Vice Chair and 6th District Commissioner serving on the King County Civil Rights Commission George has had the honor to work on civil rights issues in our community and with the King County Executive and County Council promoting the County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative as well working on the Economic Development Committee pursuing ways to open up county contracting opportunities for small, minority, woman owned and disadvantages businesses, to keep money for public works right here in our own community contributing to our local economic sustainability and vibrancy.

Independently George has worked with the Port of Seattle's Office of Social Responsibility to develop relationships with municipalities and the state to share local business rosters for public works projects. The establishment of transparent and collaborative roster sharing would create efficiencies in government and ease of use for local small business wanting to grow through government procurement contracts.

Holding true to his path over the last 20 years George has lobbied, testified, written letters and lent his voice to a broad range of issues from Mental Health Parity to the Clean Air Act to more personal issues like to Anderson Murray Civil Rights Bill and Domestic Partnership. He has worked on many campaigns from Senator Patty Murray's back in 1992 to Representative Judy Clibborn's in 2002 to approving Referendum 71 this last year. George first became an acting PCO in the 41st Legislative District back in 2002 and was appointed PCO for his precinct in 2008 when I also ran as a presidential delegate going all the way to the state conference.

George lives in Bellevue with his partner Rusty Lemon. Rusty is the Director of International Operations and Development for Tully's Coffee and as such they have a second home in Singapore and have enjoyed extensive travel throughout Asia over the past year. George loves to stay connected and keep busy and in his spare time enjoys gardening and exploring the natural beauty of Washington State. George is an amateur geologist and enjoys rock hounding and hiking with his dogs in the Cascades.



George Pieper *for Legislative Appointment*

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

I believe that welcoming support for green technologies and industry innovations will create jobs and continue to build a diverse and strong economy, supported by a robust education system, social safety net, and a solid infrastructure. I am driven to work collaboratively and creatively to build sustainable economic development, enhance cultural and environmental integrity and open up equitable opportunities for all of us to thrive in Washington State.

PUBLIC SERVICE & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- 2008 – Current, 6th District Commissioner, King County Civil Rights Commission (KCCRC)
 - 2010, Vice Chair, Executive Committee
 - 2009, Secretary, Executive Committee
 - 2008 - Current, Member, Economic Development Committee
- 2004 – Current, Founding Member, Opercula Working Group (OWG)
 - 2008 – 2009, Member, Pilot Project Committee
 - 2004 – 2007, Member, Art & Nature Curriculum Development Committee
- 2001 – 2009, Board Member, Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA)
 - 2009, Vice President, Executive Committee
 - 2007 – Current, Member, Public Policy Task Force
 - 2007 – 2009, 2nd VP, Secretary, Executive Committee
 - 2006 – 2007, Member, Strategic Planning Committee
 - 2003 – 2006, Chair, Government Affairs Committee
- 1998 – 2000, Operations Manager, Earth Day Network
 - On leadership team that held Earth Day 2000 Event on Mall in Washington, DC for 750,000 people
- 1996 – 1998, Fundraising Support, Providence Annual O'Christmas Trees Event
- 1992 – 1993, Fundraising Support, KCTS Channel 9 Public Television
- 1991 – 1992, Business Surveyor, Business & Industry Recycling Venture (BIRV)
- 1998 – 1990, Chair, The Blanket Project Annual Food & Clothing Drive for Homeless Woman & Children

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2007 – Current, CEO/Co-founder, Outsmart Office Solutions, Inc.
- 2000 – Current, Owner, Corporate Surplus, LLC
- 1998 – 2000, Operations Manager, Earth Day Network (EDN)
- 1995 – 1998, Executive Assistant to the Chief Medical Officer, Medalia Healthcare & Providence Hospital

EDUCATION:

- 1996 – 2000, Focus in Whole Systems Sustainability, Antioch University Seattle
- 1993 – 1996, Focus in Business & Liberal Arts, University of Washington
- 1989 – 1990, Focus in Political Science, Citrus College

PERSONAL:

Washingtonian 20 years, Bellevue homeowner 13 years, Partnered 6 ½ years, no children, but 2 wonderful dogs