



ICRP Newsletter - Sept 2024

Chairman's Brief



Nice job to all who helped with the dinner preparation and execution. I am always happy to see people getting involved. We are waiting on a couple of invoices, but we did well. The Keynote was excellent and the candidates made their pitches.

Now, we have to get out and help them win. I especially want to thank Damien Greene for stepping up to do a write in candidacy for Commissioner District 1. It's a huge undertaking and Damien is about the only person I know that can pull it off. He will need all of us to get out the word since it won't be on the ballot so get ahold of him or me and we can show you how.

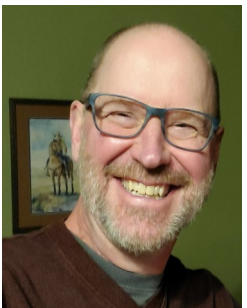
Our next meeting won't be until early October so watch your emails for details and help requests. Remember we need to fight, Fight, FIGHT! our way through the finish line.

Speaking of fight, Fight FIGHT!, we have more Trump signs on order so if you want one we are asking for a \$10.00 donation to help cover the costs.

If you are a new PCO getting ready to take your seat in December now is a great time to start getting involved! Ask Jim Spoltman, Tracy Abuhl, or me how.

Timothy Hazelo (USN Ret)
Chairman ICRP

Message from the editor



Well, the races are all set and running along. This month has a focus on Island County and turning out for the candidates that will most affect where we live.

There is a little bit of therapy for after the primaries if you didn't get the candidate you wanted.

Finally, a look ahead. This election will end and produce an outcome for good or ill for our priorities and concerns.

The next set of ICRP Central Committee meetings are critical to our success in Island County. To help with your planning here are the dates and locations:

- Oct 5th: 8820 Viking Way, Stanwood**
- Nov 2nd: Deer Lagoon Grange #846, 5142 Bayview Rd, Langley**
- Dec 7th: Elks Club, 155 NE Ernst St, Oak Harbor**

The December meeting is a big one. It is the reorganization meeting for the ICRP Central Committee. New PCOs start their term as of Dec 1st and are officially seated at the December meeting. Executive Board officers are elected, Bylaws are reviewed and approved and standing committees will need volunteers.

I will mention again that I am seeking to be the next Chair of the ICRP and am happy to chat with anyone who wants to know why and where I stand. Expect that I will be reaching out to all incoming PCOs in the next couple of months regarding the Chair.

Read on!

Jim Spoltman
Chair, ICRP Communications and Outreach

Candidate information

* - Endorsed by ICRP

Island County

Commissioner District 2

Jill Johnson* - [What I believe: – Re-Elect Jill Johnson \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Commissioner District 1

Damian Greene - [\(8\) Facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/islandcountycommissioner2020/>)

Legislative District 10

Senate: Ron Muzzall* - [Home | RON MUZZALL](#) (www.ronmuzzall.com)

House Pos 1:

Carrie Kennedy* - [Home - Carrie Kennedy for State Representative Office, LD-10 Position 1 \(carriekennedy4wa.net\)](#)

House Pos 2: Gary Wray - [Gary Wray for Washington \(garyforwa.com\)](#)

Congressional District 2

Representative: Cody Hart - <https://codyhart.org>

Statewide

Governor: Dave Reichert - [Dave Reichert for Governor of Washington](#) (reichertforgovernor.com)

Lt. Governor: Dan Matthews - [Dan Matthews for Lt. Governor | Lieutenant Governor Washington State \(electdanmatthews.com\)](#)

Attorney General: Pete Serrano* - [SERRANO FORAG – Protecting Washington’s Families; Safety, Service, Transparency](#) (serranoforag.com)

Secretary of State: Dale Whitaker* - [Dale Whitaker For Secretary Of State 2024 \(whitakerforwa.com\)](#)

State Treasurer: Sharon Hanek* - [Sharon Hanek Homepage](#) (www.sharonhanek.com)

State Auditor: Matt Hawkins* - [Matt Hawkins \(mchawkins.org\)](#)

State Supreme Court Pos 2 (NP): Dave Larson - [Dave Larson – For Justice. For All. \(larsonforwa.org\)](#)

Commissioner of Public Lands: Jaime Herrera Beutler - [Jaime for Lands \(jaimeforlands.com\)](#)

Superintendent of Public Instruction (NP): David Olson* - [Elect David Olson: Champion for Education - Olson for OSPI](#) (electdavidolson.com)

State Insurance Commissioner: Phil Fortunato* - [Home - Phil Fortunato for Insurance Commissioner \(votefortunato.org\)](#)

US Senate:

Raul Garcia* - [Garcia for WA U.S. Senate - Health, Leadership, Unity](#) (garciaforwa.com)

National

President: Donald J. Trump* - [Home | Donald J. Trump \(donaldjtrump.com\)](#)

Turning Island County Red

Damian Greene, County Commissioner District 1: Damian Greene is stepping up with a write-in campaign. It's a challenge, but Damian is clearly the best choice compared to the two Democrats. His platform builds on his 2020 campaign, focusing on streamlining permits, managing budgets effectively, improving the health of Maxwellton Creek, and pushing for better safety measures on our highways. Washington's 'Sore Loser' law means our two endorsed Republican candidates from the primary can't launch a write-in campaign, but Damian's experience and commitment give us a strong option. Let's show Island County voters how to pick Damian Greene on their ballot.

Jill Johnson, County Commissioner District 2: Jill came out of the primary strong and ready for the general election. She always votes for the issues that matter and defends her positions with integrity even when she knows she faces 2 to 1 odds. She closely watches policy and is the sole member on the Commission who understands the County Budget inside and out. Island County voters need to rally around Jill, who is from Oak Harbor and understands this role is a 24/7 position – not just a "side-hustle" as her uber-progressive, carpet-bagging challenger, Christina Elliott, says. She is everything we dislike about progressive candidates. Move to a place, raise a stink about things you don't understand, run for office for personal power.

Ron Muzzall, State Senate: : Ron has been a strong voice for our community, and now more than ever, he needs our support. Island County is one of the state's purple counties and our republicans do not turn out as we would like. Remind our neighbors why Ron is the right choice over Janet St. Claire – he secured \$27.5m for Oak Harbor Schools, \$600,000 for the historic Preservation of the Langley Library, \$200,000 for improvements to Island County Jail and additional funds for childcare programs on Camano Island. Even if you don't agree with every vote Ron has cast, he consistently works for balanced leadership. The alternative is far less likely to align with our values. In fact, St. Claire's Democratic primary opponent is backing Ron because he knows she's not the right fit for this seat. Let's keep Ron fighting for us in Olympia!

Carrie Kennedy, State House Pos 1: Carrie has a good shot in this race against Clyde Shavers. She stands firm on key issues that matter most and is not afraid to step up and defend those positions. Carrie's years of involvement with the ICRP have proven her commitment. Some may say she's a bit too outspoken, but that's exactly the bold leadership we need in the State House right now. When comparing the candidates, Carrie is the best choice to drive positive change for our district – especially against Lyin' Clyde.

Gary Wray, State House Pos 2: Although Gary has called himself a reluctant candidate, his commitment to serving our community is undeniable. He's up against a well-resourced incumbent, Dave Paul, but we know that Gary's experience as the past Chairman of the Building and Industry Association of Washington and dedication to local nonprofits will make him an outstanding representative. We all know Gary will do an excellent job in the State House and I feel that we should reward anyone who comes to this reluctantly by electing them to office.

Cody Hart, Congressional District 2: Cody Hart got the nod in the primary. He has a tough job challenging long time incumbent Rick Larsen. Cody is very much in the MAGA mold in the things that he believes in and supports. Let's do all we can to get him elected.

Initiatives: The commercials running in opposition to initiatives are working. I have seen ads against 2117 and 2124 as well as an ad critical of Brian Heywood. The bad news is I had to do a serious correction for both my mother and mother-in-law about voting FOR the initiatives. The commercial opposing 2117 says nothing about the initiative, just that it will destroy our environment, kill transit and make it impossible to fix our roads and bridges. The commercial opposing 2124 says that it will REPEAL the long term care coverage, which is an outright lie. It allows people to voluntarily opt out of the automatic payroll deductions. I saw one airing of a commercial that Brian Heywood is an evil billionaire. This is rich since the commercial against 2117 was paid for by Bill Gates and the Ballmers. Verify that all your friends and family know that the correct vote is YES for 2066, 2109, 2117 and 2124.

This site has all the information you need to make a strong case in favor: [Let's Go Washington - Let's Go Washington \(letsgowashington.com\)](https://letsgowashington.com).

That sums up the issues that have a direct impact on Island County. There are other items on the ballot for the Whidbey Hospital District and South Whidbey EMS that folks affected by those decisions will need to pay attention and urge people to vote accordingly.

Election outcome therapy



I felt this section was necessary based on some of the comments I have heard about the outcomes in the primary elections.

Starting off with the PCO races, congratulations to Wendi Monnie on her win by dice toss to secure the 306 seat and to Dennis Block in his 307 win. With those, the 2025/26 Central Committee is set.

There were a LOT of contested races this year, which I think is great. However, having a contested race means that someone had to lose. For the folks that lost your bid to become a PCO or retain your seat, do not disengage from the party, we still need you. There are any number of ways to participate in the process without being a PCO. I did this for many years working on committees and representing at the County and State Conventions all without being a PCO because I liked my PCO and felt no need to run against them.

There is nothing in the ICRP ByLaws that requires Exec Board members or Committee chairs and members to be a PCO. As a matter of fact, it would be useful to get the Standing committees fleshed out with people who are NOT PCOs so those folks can focus on the outreach that comes with being a PCO.

If you lost, work with your new PCO and challenge again in two years if you're dissatisfied with their performance. Voters are fickle. Do not walk away from the fight because the election didn't go your way. Show them they made a mistake not picking you by working hard and making a difference.

I also want to take a moment to reflect on the Governor's race. I know that this subject has been discussed a lot. There are hard feelings about how things unfolded, and I share those frustrations. There are however lessons to be learned.

There was so much potential to secure a Republican Governorship this year. If the campaigns had focused on Ferguson and run against him in the primary instead of against each other they could have locked Ferguson out. Alas, failure to understand how the top-two primary in our state works sabotaged any chance of taking Ferguson out during the primary. **Lesson:** Focus on the true adversary and remove them from the game early.

Let me address the outcome for Semi Bird. I think he would have made an outstanding Governor and I wanted to see him succeed. Unfortunately, he appeared unprepared for the political machine in such a high caliber race. **Lesson:** If you run for high office, dig through your history and prepare for the most obnoxious and embarrassing things you've even done to surface and be used against you. Prepare a response ahead of time. Use it, immediately, when those items appear. That's the reality of politics—it's tough, and it can be brutal. It's important to understand this because things will not change any time soon.

I am, like many, disappointed in the way Dave Reichert has run his campaign, especially how he and his surrogates behaved at the Convention in April. The disparaging remarks about the convention made in the press were inaccurate and uncalled for. We can't let emotions dictate our votes. **Lesson:** Don't play divide and conquer with your potential allies.

We need to be clear about what's at stake. Bob Ferguson is a serious threat to the future of our state. His vision includes dangerous overreach, like establishing a human rights commission to monitor political speech, which should alarm all of us. If Ferguson wins, the ability to promote and protect our core values will become much harder. We cannot allow that to happen. We must be strategic. Reichert is a far better option than Ferguson, and he will serve Washington well as Governor. Do not leave the box next to Dave Reichert's name on the ballot blank.

To have any chance of standing up against the far-left agenda in Washington State, we must vote for Reichert, and we must secure wins for Pete Serrano for Attorney General and Dale Whitaker for Secretary of State. These races are critical, and we need to fight for our future in Washington.

Fight, Fight, FIGHT! indeed.—Editor

Looking ahead...

It's never too early to discuss where things head after the election.

We have our work cut out for us in the next couple years. The new Central Committee will need to work on outreach to voters who are discouraged and no longer vote, those fed up with the status quo in Washington state and want to see another option and those who can be persuaded to follow our lead.

These are the people who will make up the Central Committee for 2025/26:

Precinct	PCO	District	Precinct	PCO	District	Precinct	PCO	District
151	Carrie R. Kennedy	1	203	Dana Ledford	2	306	Wendi Monnie	3
153	Scott Thomas Austin	1	204	Sandi Peterson	2	307	Dennis Block	3
154	Shannon Hansen	1	206	Nicole Vartanian	2	310	Tracy Abuhl	3
156	Gary Wray	1	207	Joyce H Amatuzzo	2	311	Jason Kovatch	3
157	Jonathan Ross	1	217	James Meany	2	314	Beth Munson	3
160	Leif Johnson	1	252	Dave Smith	2	315	Travis Lee Roberts	3
162	Matt Hamblen	1	253	Phil Collier	2	316	Kelly Mauck	3
163	Jim Adsley	1	253	William G (Bill) Burnett	2	320	Anna Tremblay	3
164	Bruce Williams-Burden	1	259	Ted J Mansikka	2	351	Timothy S Hazelo	3
165	Jim Henderson	1				352	Frederick Wilmot	3
166	Maria Cabla	1				354	Jim Spoltman	3
167	Todd Parrick	1				355	Jacki Jacukowicz	3
169	Damian Greene	1				356	Janea Waage	3
170	William E. Thompson	1				357	Kelsey Tennison	3
171	June Shellene	1				357	Michele Pulley	3
176	Laura Rookstool	1				359	Terresa Hobbs	3
177	Robert Howse	1						
178	Eric Freise	1						
179	Stina Wenzek	1						

The Central Committee will generally meet once a month, usually on the first Saturday, rotating the meeting location between Stanwood, Langley and Oak Harbor since the County is spread out geographically. That way, each PCO can make at least one meeting each quarter and be involved in the decision making process. Ideally, we should try to be at all of them, but life comes first.

We also hold at least one dinner each year for fundraising and community building and host booths at the various fairs and events as it makes sense during the spring and summer. This all requires volunteers. Be sure set aside some time to participate as you are able. The Exec Board will be working on a proposed calendar for the next year to help plan your time and understand the commitment required.

Hopefully, everyone listed above is already thinking about how to get more folks involved in the party and how to make the case that we have the best candidates and best solutions for Island County. I like to emphasize that we are the Island County Republican Party since we should be focused on securing power in our county first and look to the State and National issues afterwards.

There are standing committees within the Central Committee that are open to those interested: Audit, Bylaws and Standing Rules, Campaigns and Issues, Finance and Fundraising and Membership. There will be other committees as well usually targeted at the Caucus and Convention, Communication and Outreach, Nominating and Events. Other committees will come and go as the need arises.

Become familiar with the boards and commissions that exist in Island County.

[Boards & Commissions | Island County, WA \(islandcountywa.gov\)](https://www.islandcountywa.gov/boards-commissions)

Look for a place that you or someone you know can fit in and make a difference. Most of the representation is more than a little left of center on these boards, so we should be trying to balance them out with people aligned with our priorities and goals. The positions are all appointed so getting on a board can be tough without support from within the county government.

If you or someone you know aspires to higher office, start talking to the party now so we can help shape the message for those we want to influence and take it broad to win elections. We need a good bench of people who communicate well and present a solid plan for the future if we're going to start winning offices in Island County.

There is hard work ahead, but there is no reason we can't make it fun as well. I am sure there will be disagreements and possibly some heated arguments as the session moves along. We need to figure out how to work together in spite of this as division only enables our adversaries to take advantage of us when we are distracted.

State Committee Report



We have little to report this month on the State Committee.

The WAGOP is working to stand up a website that will have materials helpful to PCOs as well as something for the State Committee members to help with their efforts to grow support for the party.

There was an annual dinner as well, but neither of us were able to attend.

The upcoming election is taking everyone's attention which is right and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Spoltman

Nicole Vartanian

ICRP State Committeeman

ICRP State Committeewoman (proxy)



Useful Links

ICRP Homepage: [Island County GOP | Island County Republican Party | Oak Harbor](https://www.islandcountygop.net/)

(<https://www.islandcountygop.net/>)

ICRP Facebook Page: [Go Here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/islandcountygop/?__tn__=%3C)

(https://www.facebook.com/groups/islandcountygop/?__tn__=%3C)

Voter Interests Project: [Voter Interests Project | Exploring the topics on the minds of voters](https://voterinterests.com/)

(<https://voterinterests.com/>)

Let's Go Washington: [Let's Go Washington \(letsgowashington.com\)](https://letsgowashington.com/)