

# Mixed Greens

An assortment of fresh tossed ideas.

## 006 Educating your candidates

Candidate workshops smooth the way by Lynette Thornton

More happy candidates by Michelle Ackers

Heroes wanted by Amanda Meyer

### Candidate workshops smooth the way

Thurston County typically holds candidate workshops in odd year election cycles. We decided to hold one this *even* year to review candidate filing, the Top 2 Primary, and a large number of open county seats. Invitations were sent to our local political parties, current incumbents, and those that have filed with the PDC. In addition, we contacted the media and had information on our website. Our workshop contained three components.

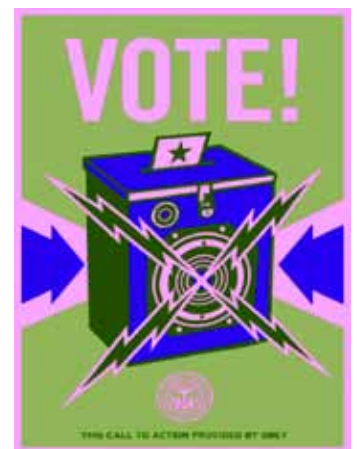
**Candidate Guide** This guide contains important information for candidates, such as important dates, filing week information, where to file, open offices and qualifications, voter pamphlet administrative rules, state/county/city ordinances for campaign signs, information on how to register voters, how to request voter data, and ballot drop box information.

**Online Candidate Filing Module** We reviewed online candidate filing step by step. We introduced the fact that we would be allowing candidates who file online to pay with a credit card. We really want our candidates to submit their statements and photos using the WEI, so we also took them through this section step by step. We sold this by expressing the convenience of the system, the automatic email updates, and not having to make a trip to our courthouse (at times parking is very hard to find).

**Public Disclosure Commission** A PDC representative gave a presentation and answered many questions about PDC filings.

We closed the session with a tour of our Ballot Processing Center. Everyone was very pleased with the presentations and the amount of information they received. We had 22 attendants and believe that the workshop gave them the information they were looking for. The workshop benefits the candidates and helps our office to have a smooth filing week.

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## More happy candidates

“Excellent coverage of the important topics”,  
“Great organization”, “Enjoyed breakouts versus being in a large group”, “Very good. Nice, helpful staff!”, “A lot of info but well organized”

This is just a sampling of the comments made by the approximately 50 participants of our candidate’s workshop. They enjoyed a general session about online candidate filing followed by four - 20 minute breakout sessions. There were presentations regarding PDC, Voters’ Pamphlet requirements, website information, voter registration data, and a vendor fair. We were pleased to have Russell Kasselmann in attendance to help with any online candidate filing questions as we are new to WEI this year. The evening ended with prize drawings supplied by vendors.

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Candidate workshop in Pierce County

## Heroes wanted

Wouldn't it be nice if elections officials, voters, candidates and jurisdictions understood each other perfectly and everyone followed the correct procedures and met every deadline with days to spare?

That doesn't always happen, does it?

Voters, candidates and jurisdictions rely on you, esteemed elections official, to provide them with the information they need to participate in their democracy. As an elections official, you can help people help themselves. In fact, people rely on you.

But you might not always be the keeper of the best solutions for every situation.

That is where this publication comes in. Mixed Greens, presents you with ideas and experiences to help you educate and reach out to your voters, candidates, jurisdictions, county commissioners—anyone and everyone that relies on you for information about elections and voting. We hope you enjoy the casual tone and helpful information.

It is decision time: do you nod in mild agreement and go back to reading? Or do you pledge to think hard about what you do best, what your county has learned, your fabulous informational program, etc, and share it with others?

You have something to share with your fellow election workers across the state, don't be shy. Be a hero; we depend on you to share your expertise with the rest of us. Email Amanda Meyer with your ideas today. Next time it might be your charming mug smiling up from the little box below.

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