

# Northwest Democrats News

**26 YEARS  
And  
Still Kicking**



JULY, 2018  
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## July 21<sup>st</sup> PROGRAM:

### November Referendums

Christian Archer will be here to discuss the 3 referendums proposed by SA Firefighters that will be voted on in the November election. Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am, Luby's at Huebner and Floyd Curl.

## JULY and AUGUST SPECIAL PROJECT:

# Stuff the



## School supplies or \$\$\$

Checks are made to Communities in Schools and monetary donations will be accepted at the meeting. Contact Gene Marck, 210-273-9201, if you have any questions.

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To submit an article or other info, email Brenda Middleton at:  
bkdmiddleton@yahoo.com

## A Few JOYCE Words will return later

Now that it's official that among the myriad of races this November, at least 3 charter amendments will be on the ballot. I have some questions and at the very least some concerns about those amendments.

But first, let's remind ourselves what each would do:

- 1) Limit the salary of the city manager to 10 times the lowest-paid full-time employee. Cap the city manager's tenure at 8 years
- 2) If the fire union and the city can't agree on a contract, only the fire union would be allowed to say it has reached an impasse in negotiations and that binding arbitration is the only option
- 3) Lower the number of signatures required for referendum from about 75,000 to 20,000 and extend the time allowed for obtaining those signatures. Plus, allow future referendums on issues such as council appropriations, tax levies, and utility

The first amendment only regards City Manager Sheryl Sculley. No matter what you may think of the current city manager, what I really don't like about this amendment is that IT DOESN'T AFFECT Sheryl Sculley. Why are you going after future city managers because of your animosity towards the current one? If you don't like Sculley then support candidates for city council who share that point of view. For Democrats, this first amendment is straight out of the Republican Party playbook. Because you couldn't get your way in the elections you decide to change the rules. In 2015 Democrats obtained a majority on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. When the court struck down the Republican gerrymander this year, Republican state legislators considered bills to impeach the court and remove the justices from office. Republicans in North Carolina are trying to add seats to the state supreme court because they're down 4-3 and they're afraid of losing even more in the November elections. If they can't win at the ballot box, change the rules later (that's the Republican way).

For the second amendment, not much needs to be said. So only one side gets to determine when there is an impasse? And that part about binding arbitration? That's exactly one of the problems we've read about in the corporate world. People are constantly being denied their access to the courts because they sign a contract that only allows binding arbitration. If you try to sue a company because of their wrongfulness, well too bad. You signed a contract and now you're only option is arbitration.

Of the three amendments, the third is probably the worst and the most dangerous. If I don't like something the council appropriated money for, all I

have to do is gather 20,000 signatures and take it to a vote. So what if the council appropriated money for a new park in say the deep west side or southside of San Antonio. And what if I happened to live on the northside of San Antonio. I'm likely never going to use that park, so why should my tax money go to pay for a park I'm never going to use? Or vice versa. Maybe I live on the far southside and the council appropriates money for Hardberger Park. Why should my money go for a park on the far northside, they already get enough amenities.

Can you easily see how amendment three could easily divide this city, pitting one part of the city against the other?

In addition, this amendment would turn us into California. As Democrats, we'd love to live a state with Democrats in every statewide office and supermajorities in the Legislature. But one aspect not to love about California is its Initiative and Referendum. Anyone or any group with a little backing can get almost anything put on the ballot to be voted on statewide. Depending on the type of referendum, a group need only obtain either 365,000 or 585,000 signatures. Think about that. A state as that has over 19 million registered voters only requires between 2 – 3 percent of registered voters sign petition to place an item on the ballot. Taken even further, there's over 39 million people in California. So barely 1 percent of registered voters can determine the future of the largest state.

And to say the effect on referendum can be long lasting is an understatement. California is still living with the consequences of Proposition 13 that passed in 1978. It was a property tax amendment that put a cap on annual increases of assessed property value. In addition, it tied the hands of the legislature by requiring two-thirds majority to approve tax increases.

For anyone out there saying, geographical warfare won't happen, you know what else wasn't supposed to happen? President Trump. Do know what was supposed to happen? Supreme Court Justice Merrick Garland. Don't tell me it won't happen.

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## **Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner August 9, 2018**

Contributions can be accepted through our website at [www.northwestdemocrats.org](http://www.northwestdemocrats.org) using Act Blue. Simply click on the "Events" button located on our homepage and fill in the requested information. You can also mail your check to

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### **IMPORTANT DATES**

July 16-27	Early voting begins (St. Senate District 19)
July 21	Northwest Democrats meeting
July 31	Election day
August 9, 2018	Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner
August 18	Northwest Democrats meeting