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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **MARCH**  **CONSERVATIVES FLOCK TO GRASSROOTS GOP POSITIONS TO PUSH PARTY REFORM!**       Conservatives across the country are applying for local Republican official  positions in a bid to reform the party. Some feel a major part of the party  establishment consists of “Republicans in name only,” or RINOs, who no  longer represent their voter base.       The movement aims to fill the many vacant positions of P **recinct Committee** **Officers**. Those involved in the effort estimate that roughly 400,000 of these jobs exist nationwide, with half or more empty, although the precise number is hard to determine since the GOP doesn’t publish overall data.  These grassroots positions wield significant power and influence. Either  directly or through electors and delegates, they elect state GOP leaders as  well as a state’s delegation to the Republican National Committee (RNC),  which then elects the national party leadership. They are also commonly  drawn upon to fill election oversight positions, such as poll observers and  ballot signature verification monitors. Some local party committees also  endorse primary candidates and may organize get-out-the-vote efforts for a  particular candidate.       Interest in the committee positions surged in recent weeks after the topic  was picked up by several conservative writers and personalities, and began  to spread on social media.       The general sentiment of the movement is that Republicans need to get  more actively involved in politics and demand that their party and its  candidates faithfully represent their values.If you are interested in becoming a **Precinct Committee Officer** please respond [here](mailto:birwinvite@gmail.com?subject=Yes,++am+interested+in+more+information+on+the+PCO+positions+that+are+available+in+Kitsap+County.).   You can read the complete article below:   [https://www.theepochtimes.com/conservatives-flock-to-grassroots-gop-positions-to-push-party-reform\_3699351.html](https://translate.google.com/website?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https://www.theepochtimes.com/conservatives-flock-to-grassroots-gop-positions-to-push-party-reform_3699351.html)<[https://www.theepochtimes.com/conservatives-flock-to-grassroots-gop-positions-to-push-party-reform\_3699351.html](https://translate.google.com/website?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https://www.theepochtimes.com/conservatives-flock-to-grassroots-gop-positions-to-push-party-reform_3699351.html)>    The **Washington State Republican Party** supports this grassroots effort of getting involved from the bottom up, particularly local government and more importantly our School Boards.  Please take the time to read the latest on the Bainbridge Island City Council and their plight to handle the bad decisions they made in purchasing the Harrison Building for the new Police Department and Court Building.  Two weeks ago a survey was distributed to a broad spectrum of Bainbridge Residents and asked for opinions including the following:   **“SHOULD THE CITY FULLY INVESTIGATE WHY COBI PAID $8,975,000 FOR HARRISON WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN ONLY WORTH $3,000,000 - OR MORE THAN $5,000,000 TOO MUCH”?**   512 people responded.  84% either agreed or strongly agreed we should investigate. That is exactly what we want City Council to do.   The survey was anonymous. To make sure Council votes to investigate we need to submit a petition.   To that end, would you complete this petition. You can include any comments which will be presented, unabridged, to Council. [PETITION HERE [Click]](https://translate.google.com/website?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAybYPSVp2uU5x9jgshx_xqwxHM51ca_utmzqYQvTN11zcCg/viewform)   If you are not up to speed on the Police Station issue, read this [[Click].](https://translate.google.com/website?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https://www.dropbox.com/s/kp6vz5i0by6e4ah/Bainbridge%2520Police%2520Station%2520one%2520page%2520chronology.pdf?dl%3D0)   If you do not get the Bainbridge Review you might be interested in the  January 1, 2021 Article  or the February 19, 2021 Article   Remember, it takes four Councilmen to vote YES on any action item.   The Police Station / Harrison Project is on the Agenda Tuesday, March 9, 2021 City Council meeting. Watch the video of that meeting [here.](https://translate.google.com/website?sl=auto&tl=en&u=http://bainbridgewa.granicus.com/player/clip/636?view_id%3D1%26redirect%3Dtrue) It will be on the Agenda again on March 23rd. Let's hold them accountable for making questionable decisions   Thank you for participating and  caring about how your tax dollars are spent and holding our City Council responsible for their actions. Your voice does matter.     Dick Haugan, for Citizens for a Fiscally Responsible Bainbridge Island   Our group of nineteen Bainbridge residents is comprised of architects, contractors, appraisers, firemen, financial advisors, past Bainbridge City Councilmen, lawyers, Realtors, Business men/women and just regular citizens. Some of us have never met in person because of Covid-19 but we do Zoom. We came together by “working the problem” and investigating why the Police Station project is so expensive and without any oversight. I volunteered to post my name for the group.  .   **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT**        **GOVERNOR INSLEE**announced the much-anticipated **Phase 3**of the Healthy Washington recovery plan on Thursday, which allows the state to reopen more of the economy.  The entire state will advance to **Phase 3** on **Monday, March 22.** To read on click below:  [https://mynorthwest.com/2676960/washignton-phase-3-reopening-sports-new-metrics/](https://translate.google.com/website?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https://mynorthwest.com/2676960/washignton-phase-3-reopening-sports-new-metrics/)  This is particularly good news for BIRW for it means we will be able to meet as a group, hopefully next month.  Please keep Wednesday, April 14th open. I will keep you all informed. Meanwhile, our Lunch Salons have been going well.  So far I have hosted four lunches with a total of 16 ladies in attendance.  The food is great but the conversations and camaraderie are even better.  Sometimes lasting until dinner.  Please respond [here](mailto:birwinvite@gmail.com?subject=Ys,+I+would+like+to+attend+the+next+available+lunch+salon.) if you want to attend the next Lunch Salon.         As the **legislative session** is scheduled to end on **April 25th**. Lawmakers are now turning their attention to state budget and transportation measures, and committees will be busy reviewing the bills they were sent from the opposite house. The next cut off deadline is **March 26th**, the last day bills from the opposite chamber can be passed out of a policy committee. Fiscal and transportation committees have more time, until **April 2nd,** to pass bills out of committee.       Both the House and Senate met this weekend for extended floor sessions. Senate lawmakers spent most of the day Saturday working through more than two dozen proposed amendments to SB 5096, a controversial measure to impose a state income tax on capital gains.  Washington currently has no state income tax.  The bill is controversial, because Washington’s state constitution prohibits the kind of graduated tax on income the bill would impose.       Proponents have maintained that the tax would not be on income but would be an excise, or “transaction” tax, despite that clear findings by the IRS and all 50 states show that capital gains are income. Much of the debate and some of the proposed amendments centered on this issue, with some Senators questioning, for example, why taxpayers would have to submit a federal income tax return to file a state capital gains tax return if it is not, in fact, an income tax.      Opponents, including some Democrats, also argued that the new tax is not needed right now, because **expected revenue projections,**to be released on**March 17th**, anticipate a greater than expected increase in state tax collections for this biennium. In any event, they said, there is no urgency to pass this bill, and Sen. Steve Hobbs (D-Lake Stevens) proposed an amendment to remove the emergency clause from the bill, to allow a possible vote on the measure by the people. The amendment passed, but it is unclear whether the House will re-insert the emergency clause and block a vote by the people when it considers the bill.       Following hours of debate, SB 5096 narrowly passed the Senate by a 25-24 vote, with all Republicans and four Democrats voting against the measure. The bill was sent to the House Finance Committee for further consideration.       If the bill passes the legislature and is signed by Gov. Inslee, it is clear that it will be headed for a court challenge. Most observers in Olympia agree that a court challenge is the underlying intent of passing this bill, with proponents hoping for a state supreme court decision that would overturn previous court rulings that such an income tax is unconstitutional, thus opening the door for general state and local income taxes.        In closing, please stay informed and participate whenever you can.  Here's hoping we can get together next month!   Warm regards,  Teri Sinclair  President, BIRW | | | |