

Profile - Jim Dougherty, Candidate, 2010 National Sierra Club Election

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND:

- Profession: environmental lawyer for 32 years, representing the Club, NRDC, NWF, anti-nuclear groups, Indian Tribes, endangered species, animal advocates, etc. Also professional landscape photographer - www.jimdougherty.net.

- Chapter/Group leader, 1984 - present (now Chapter Secretary, Fundraising and Legal Chairs; formerly Chair, Conservation Chair, Pizza Chair, others). Member since 1971; Life Member since 1990.

- National leader for 25 years (national Secretary; 2-term member of Board of Directors; Vice Chair, Conservation Governance Committee; Finance Governance Committee, Legal Committee, Youth Integration Task Force; Sierra Club Council, others).

- Former Chapter Outings Chair and professional wilderness guide; currently an avid backpacker.

- Endorsed in this or other years by the Angeles, San Francisco Bay, San Diego, Oregon, Missouri, New Jersey, Mother Lode, North Star, Tehipite, Virginia, Kansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Tennessee, and Santa Lucia Chapters.

SUMMARY OF PLATFORM:

- I am, at bottom, a grassroots leader and activist, now entering my fourth decade leading teams of Club volunteers in campaigns to protect National Park lands, fight bad projects, and enact progressive legislation. I've received several national Club awards for my grassroots advocacy and service: "Kerhleim" (1988), "Starr" (2001) and "Special Achievement" (2007).

In my view the Club doesn't do nearly enough to support and exalt our amazing and diverse array of grassroots volunteer advocacy programs coast-to-coast. This should become a national priority. We should hire a **Vice President for Grassroots Empowerment**, whose mission is focused solely on strengthening grassroots activism.

- As I have often stressed to the Board, we should be distressed at the 25% decline in the Club's membership since 2004. While there is no one perfect solution to this crisis, it is clear to me that **we must explore a dramatic expansion of our canvassing program.**

A canvass operation puts activists into communities, spreading the Club's message on the national and local levels. It provides a great way of grooming young people for later service in the environmental movement, and educates communities about the Club and what we do to address the range of environmental problems facing us. We have used a canvass, in a modest way, for over 20 years.

Recruiting new members via a canvass is extraordinarily cost-effective. Investing \$1 million in the canvass will produce roughly 200,000 new members; the traditional direct mail approach will yield only a tenth as many. None of the country's major environmental groups have in-house canvass operations, making this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Club to expand and consolidate its now dominant position as the foremost grassroots environmental organization in the country.

- I call for strengthening our Global Warming campaign to be more bold, visionary, values-based, and grassroots oriented. When in Copenhagen, I saw first hand how the lack of public demand for decisive action weakens the negotiating power of our leaders. This is doubly true in the Congress. The Club holds the keys to solving this problem.

EXPERIENCE WITH SIERRA CLUB, OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC ENTITIES

A. Principal activities and service within the Club

Chapter Positions (Potomac Chapter 1984-93, D.C. Chapter 1993-present):

Legal Chair 1985-89, 1994-present
Conservation Chair 1985-86, 1995-1996
Secretary 1985-86
Chair 2009 - 2010; 1986-88
Political Committee 1994-present
Excom 1984-89, 1994-97
Fundraising Chair 1985-88
Nominating Committee - 1993 - present

Group Positions:

Secretary 1985-86
Conservation Chair - 1983-89
Excom 1983-89

National Positions:

- Club Director 1989-1992, 2005 - 2008
- Sierra Club Council - member or alternate - 1984-89

Chair, Committee on Chapter and Groups 1988-89

- Chair, Membership Committee's Task Force on Low-Income Membership 1984-85

- Legal Committee and Litigation Subcommittee 1990-present

- Co-Director, Shareholder Action Task Force, 1990-92, 2002-2005

- Member, Youth Initiative Task Force, 2006 - present

- Conservation GovCom 2001- present
Vice Chair May 2004 - 2005

- Finance GovCom - 2006-2007

Leadership in Local/Regional Conservation Campaigns:

- Founder and co-leader, "Save Klinge Valley" campaign, 1994-present. See clip at right; also www.kinglevalley.org

- Drafted and led successful campaign for enactment of phosphate detergent ban - DC - 1986

- Co-led successful fight against \$150 million amusement park ("Children's Island") proposed for African-American neighborhood - DC - 1984-97

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

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THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

Redistricting battles shift to ANC lines

By CHRIS KAIN
Current Staff Writer

With the task of redistricting the city's electoral wards now completed and the job of drawing new boundaries for the District's advisory neighborhood commission seats now at hand, the battlegrounds in Ward 3 have shifted from Chevy Chase to Tenleytown, Woodley Park and Foxhall.

In Chevy Chase, the three council members closest to the issue — Ward 3's Kathy Patterson, Ward 4's Adrian Fenty and at-large member Phil Mendelson, head of the redistricting subcommittee — have already vowed to support a cross-ward advisory neighborhood commission for the area.

"It was almost considered a fait accompli," said Chevy Chase commissioner Robert Gordon of the lack of discussion at last week's initial meeting Ward 3 redistricting task force. "There was no objection."

Allen Beach, who represents parts of Chevy Chase now in Ward 4, reported a similar dynamic at the Ward 4 task force meeting, with Fenty saying he had agreed to maintain a single Chevy Chase commission.

"I definitely support that," Fenty said in an interview. "That is the only condition we gave our task force."

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BRANCHING OUT



Bill Petros/The Current

Sierra Club member Jim Dougherty, dressed as a tree, hands out a flier supporting the permanent closing of Klinge Road to at-large Council member Carol Schwartz last week. The club is part of a coalition working with the Klinge Valley Park Association, which now has the support of Ward 7 Council member Kevin Chavous. Opponents who want the street reopened recently gained support from former Mayor Walter Washington and former Council member Bill Lightfoot.

Zoning plan nod to AU

By CHRIS KAIN
Current Staff Writer

The D.C. Zoning Commission voted last week to approve a 10-year development plan for American University, including a revised arts center proposal that bridged original divisions among the commissioners.

The latest plans for the Katzen Arts Center, to be located on a narrow parcel on Massachusetts Avenue opposite the university's main gate, sought to make the build-

Porter Street 'calming' m

By ELIZABETH WIENER
Current Staff Writer

City transportation officials are proposing an innovative series of traffic-calming measures for Porter Street, a major cross-town route that some residents say has become a dangerous speedway.

The measures planned by Wil DerMinassian, associate director of the city's Division of Transportation, make up what he calls "an intelligent transportation system." They include a speed-activated traffic light and the first very low speed humps — called speed tables — installed by the city in a long time.

DerMinassian, in an interview,

- Co-led successful opposition to construction of road through Glover-Archbold Park - DC - 1986-87 (received D.C. City Council good citizenship award, 1990)

- Co-led successful fight against \$200 million federal highway (“Barney Circle”) project through African-American neighborhood - DC 1991-98

- Led successful campaign to restore curbside recycling collections - DC - 1995-97

- Led successful campaign to initiate internal recycling and green procurement by DC Government, 1999-2002

- Co-led campaign to stop cell phone tower construction in Rock Creek Park - DC - 1998-99

- Drafted and co-led successful campaign for enactment of tree protection ordinance - DC - 2002

I have been active in several other past local campaigns, e.g., the 1987 bottle bill initiative campaign, several road/highway fights, local appropriations, and am now active in other campaigns, e.g., protecting national park land on the Anacostia River from development.

I’m the Chapter’s lead activist on a six-year campaign to keep deadly chemical train cargoes out of town, in order to prevent terrorist attacks that could kill 150,000. I drafted a first-in-the-nation bill that was passed by the City Council in 2004 and I’ve taken a lot of photos (see above right) that have gotten national play. I represent the Club in the railroad’s federal-court constitutional challenge to the law.



JD and Mayor Williams at press conference announcing bill signing February, 2005



JD and colleague on a recycling dumpster dive



Affiliations with other organizations:

Member, Mayor’s Environmental Advisory Committee 1999-2006;

Member, Advisory Committee, League of Conservation Voters 1991-93

Member, D.C. Environmental Planning Commission 1995-98

Member, Board of Directors, Friends of the National Zoo 1993-98

Member, Board of Trustees, Committee of 100 on the Federal City 1996-2001

Member, Parks Committee, Washington Parks and People, 2006-present

Vice Chair, GreenHome 1996-1999 (building environmentally advanced housing for Habitat for Humanity)

Co-founder of D.C. Environmental Network, 1996

OCCUPATION AND BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

I have been an environmental lawyer since 1977; a sole practitioner since 1995. I've represented the Club in a half-dozen cases, including successful U.S. Supreme Court litigation over oil drilling off the shores of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and an on-going successful campaign to block a proposed \$6 billion coal-hauling railroad that was hyped by the Cheney Energy Task Force as a coal source for 100 new power plants. I'm now challenging, on the Club's behalf, the Department of Energy's proposed "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors." I've done a lot of legal work dealing with sea turtles and pig poop.