



34th District Democrats-

It has been an honor to serve as your Chair for the past two years. Working with you all has given me great hope for our future. We have had many victories, but our fight continues to implement the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party and elect strong candidates up and down the ballot. I look forward to continuing this work with you all.

I am sad to say that we will not be able to celebrate our victories together in person this year. However, I hope you will join me in celebrating virtually at our holiday celebration on December 9, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Register [HERE](#) for our festive celebration.

Holiday Celebration Program

7:00pm – Welcome & Holiday Giving

As we approach the holiday season, we are saddened we cannot gather with family and friends to celebrate and to share in our traditional potluck meal together. Instead of preparing a potluck dish to share, consider making a donation to one of our four local food banks listed below.

Food Banks

[White Center Food Bank](#)

[Vashon Island Food Bank](#)

[West Seattle Food Bank](#)

[Highline Area Food Bank](#)

7:05pm – Mingle

Join us for breakout sessions as we mingle with fellow members, hear about holiday plans, and bring cheer to one another!

7:30pm – Annual Awards

Do you know someone who has made outstanding contributions to the 34th this year, a PCO who has gone above and beyond, or an elected official whose advocacy has inspired you? Nominate them for the 34th Democrats Annual Awards, to be announced at our virtual holiday party on December 9th. Read more about the awards and make nominations on this [form](#). Nominations are due by November 30th.

7:50pm – Candidate Speeches

In January we will be electing new officers for our organization. This is an opportunity to hear from the candidates who have declared they are running for an officer position. If you are interested in running or would like to declare your intention to run, please reach out to chair@34dems.org.

8:10pm – Depart

May you and your family enjoy all the warmth this season has to offer. Have a wonderful winter and a new year filled with hope and happiness.

Best wishes-

Gina Topp,

Chair

34th Legislative District Democrats

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Renew or Become a Member
click here

34dems.org

www.34dems.org/contribute

Executive Board

Elected Officers

Gina Topp | Chair
chair@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | First Vice Chair
vicechair1@34dems.org

Jesse Greene | Second Vice Chair
vicechair2@34dems.org

Chris Porter | State Committee Person 1
wsdccc@34dems.org

Ann Martin | State Committee Person 2
wsdccc@34dems.org

Max Brown | King Co. Committeeperson 1
kcdccm@34dems.org

Leah Griffin | King Co. Committeeperson 2
kcdccw@34dems.org

Ted Barker | King Co. Committee Alt. 1
kcdccma@34dems.org

Martha Koester | King Co. Committee Alt. 2
kcdccwa@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Secretary
secretary@34dems.org

Ben Reilly | Treasurer
treasurer@34dems.org

Committee Chairs

Art Chippendale | Bylaws
bylaws@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | Caucus and Elections
vicechair1@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Communications
digcomm@34dems.org

Jeff Sbaih | Social Justice & Equity
inclusion@34dems.org

Currently Vacant | Events
events@34dems.org

Dawn Rains | Finance
finance@34dems.org

DeLancey Lane | Fundraising
fundraising@34dems.org

Jesse Greene | Hospitality
hospitality@34dems.org

Les Treall | Leadership Development
future@34dems.org

Jordan Crawley | Legislative Action
lac@34dems.org

Dawn Rains | Membership
membership@34dems.org

Steve Butts & Karen Richter | Outreach
outreach@34dems.org

Nick Bonazza | PCO Coordination
pco@34dems.org

Gina Topp | Program
chair@34dems.org

Other Roles

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor
newsletter@34dems.org

Allan Munro | Parliamentarian

2020 Election Wrap Up

We can celebrate a largely successful election here in the 34th. Almost all our endorsed candidates came out on top, and the ballot measures we supported were passed. That elusive Secretary of State office, which has been deemed by the election gods to be perpetually in the hands of a Republican (since 1965), once again slipped through our grasp. Fortunately, our election laws are some of the most progressive in the country regardless.

We helped re-elect Kim Schrier by calling into the 8th CD. King County pulled it out for her, as the rest of the 8th runs through some gnarly red territory. Our assistance was not enough to flip a couple of State House seats in the 26th LD across the Sound, showing us that our work continues.

Congratulations to our KCDCC Committeeperson **Leah Griffin** who worked for the passage of R-90, which will now provide age appropriate sex education across the state as passed by our legislature. Congratulations are also due to **DeLancey Lane**, currently our Fundraising Chair. This year found her on the campaign trail in North Carolina where she managed the campaign of Brian Farkus, who successfully over-turned a state representative's seat in District 9.

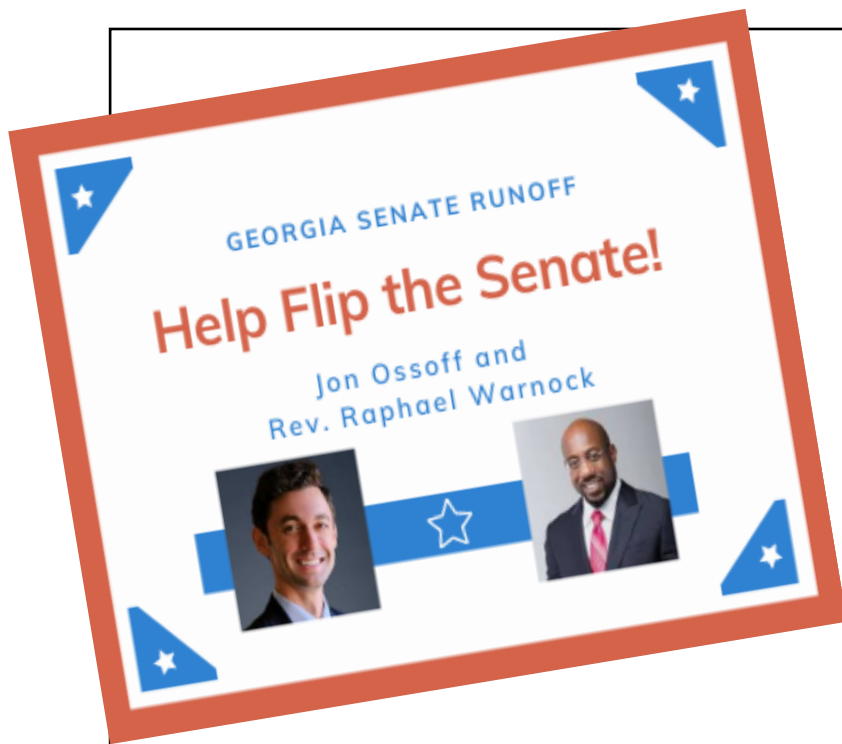
Many of us took part in phone banking. While that means of voter contact may not have been the favorite of some, that was our major method of GOTV in this year shaped by pandemic and the resultant social distancing we needed to practice. We were led by a strong group of leads, the PCO Committee. They trained us, giving us tips on how to successfully talk with voters. Others in our organization preferred to take on other campaign techniques, opting to text voters in battleground states, or sending them friendly postcards reminding Democrats to vote. This was the year we needed to win, and the 34th District Democrats answered the call!



The PCO Committee Helped us GOTV. Top Row: Leah Griffin, Carla Rogers and Cat Floate (our King County Regional Field Organizer). Middle Row: Colleen Hinton, Max Brown and Committee Chair Nick Bonazza. Bottom Row: 34th Dems Chair Gina Topp and Jeff Sbaih



Governor Jay Inslee and Washington Democratic Chair Tina Podlodowski spoke words of encouragement to the volunteers assembled to make calls to get out those last votes on election day



Just when you think that the 2020 election is over..... Here comes a critical runoff election for **2 critical Senate seats in Georgia!** Below are links to several different organizations who are accepting volunteers who want to support the work in Georgia. There are also efforts in other states where volunteers are needed. Sign up for a shift or two today and be a part of history!

VOTE FORWARD

Writing letters to voters is one of the most effective ways to help increase election turnout. And you can do it right from home! [Learn more and sign up!](#)

RECLAIM OUR VOTE

Reclaim our Vote is a volunteer-driven, nonpartisan voter outreach campaign to help empower voters of color and fight voter suppression, especially in the South. [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

GEORGIA DEMOCRATS

Participate in Remote Ballot Curing for the Georgia Dems. Make sure every vote is counted to secure the state for Biden/Harris! [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

CODE BLUE WASHINGTON

Code Blue's core mission is to rebuild a progressive voting majority in federal, state and local government. Their actions are organized through [their facebook page](#) and users post all sorts of opportunities for volunteers. You have to join their group in order to participate. Visit their event page to see current opportunities.

BLACK VOTES MATTER

This organization works to build power in the community. Effective voting allows a community to determine its own destiny. This group is text banking and phone banking. [Learn more and sign up to volunteer.](#)

FAIR FIGHT

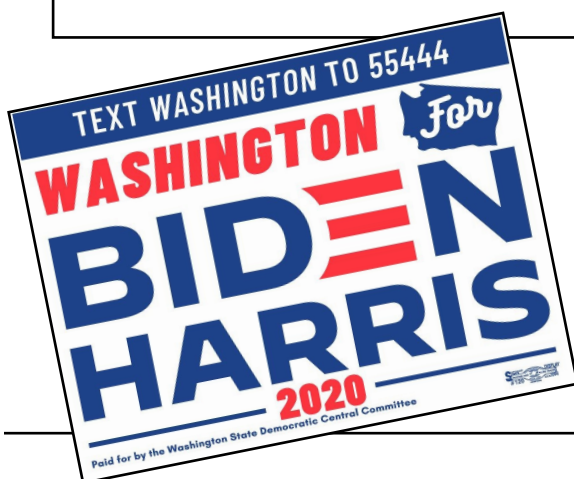
This is powerhouse Stacey Abrams organization. **Fair Fight** works to promote fair elections in Georgia and around the country, encourage voter participation in elections, and educate voters about elections and their voting rights. **Fair Fight** brings awareness to the public on election reform, advocates for election reform at all levels, and engages in other voter education programs and communications. [Get involved with Fair Fight.](#)

CANDIDATE CAMPAIGNS: JON OSSOFF

Jon Ossoff is challenging David Perdue. [Sign up to phone bank for the Ossoff campaign.](#)

CANDIDATE CAMPAIGNS: REV. RAPHAEL WARNOCK

Raphael Warnock is in a runoff against Senator Kelly Loeffler. [Sign up to volunteer for the Warnock campaign.](#)



Become a PCO!

Precinct Committee Officers are the backbone of our party, connecting us to our community. Consider taking on this vital role as either an appointed or acting PCO.

Contact **Nick Bonazza** at
pco@34dems.org

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator

Joe Nguyen

Human Services,
Reentry & Rehabilitation (Vice
Chair), Environment, Energy &
Technology
Rules
Transportation

213 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40434
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7667



Representative Eileen Cody

Chair, Health and Wellness
Appropriations

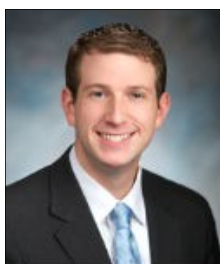
303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7978



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Environment & Energy (Chair)
Appropriations
Rural Development,
Agriculture, & Natural
Resources

305 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7952



Letters and Submitted Articles

We are Democrats, and like most Democrats we have strong opinions and like to express them. We welcome letters and articles.

All submissions are subject to editing. If submissions need to be shortened, you will be given the option of editing your own work.

Photos and notices of upcoming events are always welcome.

**The deadline for the Januaru newsletter will be
Thursday, December 31, 2020**

Mail to Steve Butts,
10254 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146
or email to newsletter@34dems.org

In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting...

Our November meeting saw **Gina Topp** preside over her last business meeting of her tenure as our Chair. We were relieved and looking forward to a new era with the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris...in stark contrast to the gloom we felt after the election in 2016. Gina greeted us as we logged on to the meeting with these questions. How do you feel about the election? What did you do Election Day?

Colleen Hinton spoke about ballot curing she was doing in North Carolina, and explained how the process worked from long distance. **Nick Bonazza** was ballot curing here in Washington State. Ann Martin observed the pick-up at one of the local drop boxes. She also did a shift as an observer at King County Elections.

Michael Parker remarked about the news of Loren Culp losing his job when the City of Republic "defunded" their one-person police department. **Rebecca Wells** pointed out that Kim Wyman is now the only Republican holding state-wide office on the West Coast. **Carla Rogers** mentioned the buzz that Jay Inslee could be a candidate for a role in the Biden Administration and wondered how his replacement would play out, to which Rep. **Eileen Cody** explained to us that Denny Heck would become Governor for the year, with an election next November. However, she said, that rumor has it that he isn't going to accept a job.

The meeting fell on Veterans Day, and we gave acknowledgement to those who have served in the armed forces. Veteran **Chris Porter** gave us a history lesson about how Veterans Day came to be, through its beginnings as Armistice Day following World War I. **Ben Reilly** and **Rob Saka** also shared their thoughts about the day and of their service. Saka (who was part of the King County Amendment Task Force) noted that all 7 of the recommended amendments passed...and that the amendment to protect veterans from job and contract discrimination led the way with the most support at 84% voter approval.

We heard from **Dow Constantine** who was thankful that Prop. 1, Harborview Health for All, passed to modernize and expand our regional public hospital and trauma center. He was also happy with the Presidential Election outcome. "It's not an overstatement to say that the fate of our Democracy was in the



Rob Saka shares a photo of himself and his father, both in uniform.



Chair Gina Topp presides over her last business meeting.

balance”. We now have a partner in the federal government, rather than the adversarial relationship this state has been forced to constantly litigate against.

Chris Porter, in his King Conservation District Board Member mode, told us that the [KCD's native bareroot plant sale](#) starts this month. Now is a good time to plan plantings to support pollinators. There is also a board position election in February, which will be announced in late December. Chris says that the board is in real need of reform and that desperately needs another progressive member.

Chair Gina talks about the election. Among the successes was the Sex education referendum R-90, which our board member Leah Griffin worked especially hard on. Our slate of endorsements all passed... except for the Office of Secretary of State which will see another 4 years added to the 55 years of GOP control. We were also unable to flip the 2 State Representative seats in the 26th LD. There remains work to be done.

A virtual legislative townhall with our state representatives was introduced by LAC Chair **Jordan Crawley** and co-moderated by **Dawn Rains** and **Rachel Glass**. Reps. **Eileen Cody** and **Joe Fitzgibbon**, and Senator **Joe Nguyen**. They gave their thoughts on the election the previous week and relayed what they thought the 2021 session will look like in the atmosphere of COVID and a session completely done via Zoom.

Democrats will hold the same majorities in the House and Senate as this year: 57 in the House, and 28 in the Senate (excluding Tim Shelton, who caucuses with the GOP). Fitzgibbon said he was disappointed in the outcome

nationwide, where Democrats failed to gain control over state bodies that looked promising targets to flip. Yet the overall margins of Biden Inslee show that voters support our agenda. Democrats must improve on messaging, as the party finds itself fighting against attacks from conservatives demonizing BIPOC issues, such as the “Defund” movement. We must continue to promote popular items that have had success in all areas that Democrats have championed for years, like the minimum wage.

Cody warned that due to the remote session, we were told to expect less in the way of legislation, probably only a third of a what it might be in a normal year. And while hearings on Zoom may be easier for constituent participation and testifying in front of committees, the “Active Speaker” mode will make it difficult to read the room by observing the reactions of others. Any new programs requiring new funding are probably not going to make it because of the costs of the pandemic.

Each of the Reps are planning to have the same committee roles. Nguyen is taking on the issue of increasing progressive funding means and to fight calls for an austerity budget. Cody will continue to work on issues related to health care, and Fitzgibbon will be concentrating on fighting climate change. He may be handing off his duties in support of the House Democratic campaign committee, work he has done for the past three elections.

We passed a “Resolution to Remove the Name Maury from Maury Island and Vashon-Maury Island” put forth by former Chair **Marcee Stone-Vekich** and member **Max Vekich**. WL Maury, an officer in the Confederate Navy, is the namesake for that portion of the island. Memorials and site names honoring the Confederacy are being removed across the country, and the resolution asks that a working group be established to evaluate removal of the name Maury from the Islands.

In a follow-up to a suggestion made by member **Donna Christianson** at our October meeting, we approved a donation of \$500 to Chris Reykdahl (Superintendent of Public Instruction) to help with his campaign’s final expenses.

We are starting to plan for our reorganization in January, and it is hoped that members will step forward to take on larger roles in the organization. All members are welcome to run for office. The current officers and committee chairs present described their roles and the duties they carry out.



Jordan Crawley



Dawn Rains



Rachel Glass

Get More Involved...Run for Officer in the 34th District Democrats

Every 2 years the Washington State Democratic Party reorganizes itself from the grassroots up. This is your chance to get involved, to help shape the future of the Democratic Party. **Anyone may run – the only qualification needed for office is a desire to help.** We welcome and encourage you to think about ways you can serve.

How you can help the 34th District Democrats realize our hopes and dreams?

PCOs elected in the August Primary will vote for Chair, Vice Chairs, Party Delegates and Alternates. Any member in good standing (e.g. an active member for 2021) may vote for Secretary and Treasurer.

Elected Officers of the 34th

Chair- leads the Board, presides over all meetings, is the chief executive officer of the organization, is the spokesperson for the organization, is an ex-officio member of all committees, may appoint ad hoc committees and their chairs, delegates to other organizations deemed appropriate, and any other duties as implied by the title. Represents the district as a member of the KCDCC executive board.

First Vice Chair - succeeds the Chair in the event that s/he resigns or is removed from office until a special election is held; and presides over all meetings at the direction of, or absence by, the Chair; acts as a spokesperson for the organization at the direction of the Chair; provides any administrative duties as deemed appropriate by the Chair; serves as an alternate delegate for the Chair on the KCDCC Executive Board; and any other duties as implied by this title.

Second Vice Chair - succeeds the First Vice Chair in the event that s/he becomes the Chair; performs any administrative duties deemed appropriate by the Chair, and any other duties as implied by this title.

Secretary - responsible for the minutes, any administrative duty deemed appropriate by the Chair, and any other duties implied by this title.

Treasurer - chief financial officer of the organization and shall receive and disburse all funds of the organization, shall maintain proper financial records, including filing of PDC reports, submitting a financial report each month for distribution to the membership, and submitting an annual financial report in a timely fashion, for distribution to the membership.

Delegates

King County Committee Members - Two are elected. They will attend monthly meetings at the King County Democrats Central Committee Executive Board as voting members. They must be of differing genders, or identify as nonbinary.

King County Committee Alternate Members - Two are elected. They will attend the KC Democrats Executive Board meetings and have voting rights if the Committeepersons are unable. They also must not be of the same gender.

State Committee Members - Two state committee members (SCM) are elected for each district and for each county in Washington state. These members comprise the State Central Committee along with elected officers. Members must be of different genders. The SCM will attend (either in person or virtually during the pandemic) three state general sessions at which the party business (election of officers, action on proposed resolutions, passage of by-laws and rules, etc.) is conducted. Associated with these general sessions, each SCM is assigned a committee to serve on (Rules, Resolutions, Advocacy, Affirmative Action) and may join constituency caucuses that represent a variety of special interests including for example a women's caucus, an environmental caucus, an agriculture and rural caucus, a Black caucus, a Jewish caucus, a progressive caucus and others that may change from time to time. Meetings often involve expenses for hotels and meals because they are held across the state. The benefits of serving on the state central committee include meeting people and politicians from across the state, representing the people of the 34th District to Democrats statewide, developing a deeper understanding of the party and its function beyond the district and sharing that understanding with the district organization. This is a great job, but patience is a good quality to keep in mind. If you have any questions, please contact either Chris Porter or Ann Martin, our current SCMs.



Newsletter Editor
10254 36th Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98146

Return Service Requested



Join the 34th District Democrats!

Sign up by filling out this form and mailing it with a check made payable to:

The 34th District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

If you use a P.O. Box, do you live in the 34th District? Yes ____ No ____

Email _____ * Occupation _____

*Employer _____ * Employer City _____

☐ \$ 180 Suggested Membership Donation ☐ Recurring Monthly Donation* \$ _____ ☐ One-Time Donation \$ _____

***Please consider paying your dues in monthly installments...Go online to www.34dems.org/contribute**

In the interest of protecting our environment and building funds to support endorsed candidates, the 34th District Democrats wish to communicate electronically.

☐ **Please check this box if you do not have access to electronic communications and need to receive a mailed newsletter**

Paid for and authorized by 34th District Democrats. 6523 California Ave SW Box 183, Seattle, Washington 98136. Contributions to this committee are not tax deductible.
State campaign finance law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, employer and city and state of employment for each individual whose contribution exceeds \$100 in the election cycle.