



Chair's Message

Happy Holidays to my Democratic Family!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by friends and family. I love this time of year for so many reasons. I like to take time to reflect on all the things that happened. I create a hardbound book of pictures and memories of the year for myself and my sons. Some of you may know that I am a project manager in the technical field. One of the things I do at work is prepare a 'Retrospective' for my client, listing out our accomplishments and where we didn't make goals and need to adjust for the coming year. This is a really cathartic process that benefits my team and my clients equally. I thought I might do something similar for the 34th!

- We expanded membership to 553 members!
- We have a more diverse membership which is more representative of our district
- We have welcomed many new members who are in the 25-45 age range!
- We updated our Endorsement Rules
- We adopted a Platform
- We adopted 12 Resolutions
- We stood up a Membership Policy Caucus structure with 9 Caucuses
- We introduced a speaker series "Reframing Issues of Equity" and hosted 13 programs
- We hosted 2 Adopt-a-Street clean ups and 2 Burien Outreach events
- We registered over 25 new voters
- We trained and coordinated the work of 115 PCOs
- We endorsed and supported 17 candidates and 2 initiatives
- We held 8 canvas events and partnered with 4 organizations
- We printed and distributed a primary and general election walk piece and helped deliver a 52.39% turnout in the 34th (higher than King County)
- We held a holiday service project for Camp Second Chance

All this during COVID!!!!

There are probably achievements I missed in this list but suffice it to say that we knocked it out of the park! I am very, very proud of the work that we have done as an organization. Give yourself a pat on the back!

We are ending the year in a bit of turmoil due to the new district maps which are in the process of being confirmed by the Legislature. The key impacts are that we are gaining Pioneer Square, SODO and Georgetown and unfortunately losing the

Continued on next page...

December 2021 – No Meeting This Month!

See you on

January 12, 2022

Register [HERE](#)



Last Chance to Recognize Outstanding Members for 2021!

It's time to recognize the special people in the 34th LD Democratic Organization who have done so much to keep this organization vibrant and functional through a hard year. Please nominate someone (or multiple someones) for one of the several awards we give annually. Feel free to make multiple nominations and share why you think they should be recognized. You can find more information about the awards and the people recognized in previous years on the [34th district website](#). The nomination form can be found [here](#).

Nominations are due by **December 15** and will be announced at the January meeting. If you have questions, please contact Ann Martin at martinhtam@gmail.com.

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Executive Board

Elected Officers

Carla Rogers | Chair
chair@34dems.org

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

Second Vice Chair | **Vacant**

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

State Committee Person | **Vacant**

Norman Sigler | King Co. Committeeperson
kcdccm@34dems.org

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

Aaron Garcia | King Co. Committee
kcdccma@34dems.org

Bunny Hatcher | King Co. Committee
kcdccwa@34dems.org

Sara Smith | Secretary
secretary@34dems.org

Julie Whitaker | Treasurer
treasurer@34dems.org

Committee Chairs

Sarah Koch | Bylaws & Rules
bylaws@34dems.org

Colleen Hinton | Caucus and Elections
caucus@34dems.org

Dawn Rains | Community Partnerships
coalitions@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Communications
digcomm@34dems.org

Bunny Hatcher | Endorsements & Resolutions
endorse-reso@34dems.org

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

Currently Vacant | Fundraising & Events
fundraising@34dems.org

Trey Lykins | Membership & Hospitality
membership@34dems.org

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

Nick Bonazza | PCO Coordination
pco@34dems.org

Currently Vacant | Platform & Leg. Action

Rachel Glass | Programs
vicechair1@34dems.org

Estey Chen | Young Democrats
34yd@34dems.org

Other Roles

Zachary Ramels | Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Webmaster
webmaster@34dems.org

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor
newsletter@34dems.org

Gina Topp | Parliamentarian

majority of Burien (south of 128th street). We will be getting confirmation of which specific precincts will be lost from the state and as soon as we have that information, we will share it. This is sad news for the board and I. We hate to lose so many of our active Burien neighbors. The important point is this: you can stay involved and even join the 34th if you live outside the district. If you have invested a lot and want to stay, you can and we would love to have you. The downside of this is that you will not have a vote in the organization. We will be looking to define this specifically in our bylaws review in January. The topic will be discussed in detail in our January and February meetings (as we learn more) and I will offer time to ask questions. You can also email me chair@34dems.org anytime if you find this all confusing.

I want to call out that we gave our usual donation of \$250 each to our 4 neighborhood food banks: Highline, Vashon, White Center and West Seattle. It was my pleasure to send these gifts from the membership of the 34th. All 4 organizations do amazing and necessary work in our community and they need our support now more than ever before.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who donated time and money to our Holiday Service Project (details below). **Aaron Garcia, Leah Griffin, Colleen Hinton and I** will be delivering on Sunday and I cannot wait! I will plan another service project for next summer. These initiatives help demonstrate our Democratic values and honestly it just gives me the warm fuzzies!

I hope that you all enjoy the final month of the year, however you celebrate. Love your neighbors, hug your family and hold on tight for 2022! It's going to be another crazy year and I need your help to make it successful.

Carla Rogers

34th LD Chair - chair@34dems.org - 206-432-1998

Have We Started Building Back Better?

A **PSARA** webinar featuring Congresswoman **Pramila Jayapal**



Moderated by

Jeff Johnson

and our own
Karen Richter

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Pramila Jayapal has been a champion for President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. Join us to learn what's in the legislation, how it will address our needs, and what we can do to push it forward.

To REGISTER for the webinar, click here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NNiLHWG_RWioO6zy3FpeYQ

Co-sponsors: Front and Centered, Pride At Work – North WA Chapter, Social Security Works, UFCW 21...and the 34th District Democrats

For more information, email: organizer@psara.org

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action psara.org



A Very Successful Holiday Service Project

In October I took a poll and the results were clear that cancelling our holiday party and instead doing a service project was what the membership preferred. I wholeheartedly agreed and set out to find a good target organization. KCDCC Alternate Rep **Aaron Garcia** (who suggested a service project in the first place) suggested Camp Second Chance as our benefactor. Learn more about Camp Second Chance [here](#).

Due to COVID, the camp does not allow visitors or meal service. Instead we will provide a full meal of baked spiral sliced ham, mac and cheese, vegetables, bananas and oranges, apple cider and bread to the residents to eat when convenient. We are also taking donated items from members and I was delighted to spend the **\$945** contributed on warm coats, gloves, hats and socks. These were the items they are most in need of at camp. We will also take personal cards written to the residents to brighten their day.

Thank you to **Aaron Garcia**, **Leah Griffin** and **Colleen Hinton** for providing drop off locations for donations. They will be taking all donations to CSC on Sunday, December 12. We will share some pictures in January.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, food or money! This is how we show our Democratic Values:

Elizabeth A Heath	Christopher Weiss
Rachel Glass	Christine Yeckley
Bunny Hatcher	Eileen L Cody
Colleen Hinton	Michael Parker
Aaron and Hugo Garcia	Annie Phillips
Carla Rogers	Steven Butts
Leah Griffin	Karen Richter
Kate McMullen	Mary Burki
Karin Engstrom	Martin Strelecky
Ann Martin	Mary Hollister
Janel Lardizabal	Sam Mendez
Jeanne Merritt	Edward R Dupras
Sara M Smith	Sarah Koch
Cam Winter	Hannah Cameron
Maria G. Ramirez	Dawn Rains

Recruiting Still in Progress!

We are still searching for our next **2nd Vice Chair**, **Platform and Legislative Action Committee Chair**, and **Resolutions and Endorsements Co-Chair**. This is only a 1 year commitment - with terms ending December 31, 2022. Help make 2022 successful for the 34th Dems by volunteering as an executive board member! To learn more about the roles, email

vicechair1@34dems.org or chair@34dems.org.

Bylaws Input Due January 16

Sarah Koch and the **Bylaws and Rules Committee** are working on updates to our Bylaws and Endorsement Rules. Please provide your input to bylaws@34dems.org by midnight January 15 so that the committee can review.

The Committee will meet monthly until March when proposed Bylaws will be shared with the membership for consideration and vote at the April membership meeting. Bylaws are crucial for our organization to run smoothly. Email Sarah and the team at bylaws@34dems.org.

Join the Law, Justice & Civil Rights Policy Caucus

Are you interested in defunding (or funding) the police? Public safety? Ending institutional racism in our court system? Then join the Law Justice & Civil Rights Membership Policy Caucus co-chaired by **Bill Schrier** and **Carolyn Ladd**.

Caucuses are focused on policies relating to the values and priorities of the 34th Legislative District Democrats. These Caucuses shall be made up of members of the 34th Legislative District Democrats and be tasked with performing policy research and development to supplement the work of the Legislative Action Committee. Consider joining one!

Learn more at: 34dems.org/membership-policy-caucuses/

**Your Executive Board Meeting
For January is
Wednesday the 19th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.**

Please email the chair to join:
chair@34dems.org

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator Joe Nguyen

Assistant Floor Leader

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

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



Representative Eileen Cody

Chair, Health Care & Wellness;
Appropriations

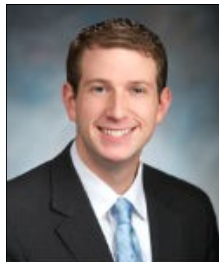
303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7978



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Chair, Environment & Energy;
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 January newsletter will be Thursday December 30, 2021

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

In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting...

Chair Carla Rogers kicked off the December meeting with a rundown of the election and thanked all of the candidates who ran. We will be looking to the midterms next year and will need to brace ourselves against the GOP, which has Kim Schrier's 8th District in their crosshairs. We'll be assisting in that and other races as our races will be safe. As Carla said: "The fun never ends".

King Co. Executive **Dow Constantine** spoke. He's working with the Public Safety Advisory Committee to help him appoint a new Sheriff, create new duties and structure for the Sheriff's office, and with his regional gun violence leadership group to implement a public health approach to curbing violence. He invited all to his reelection celebration and his annual 39th birthday party...a special one this year as he turns 60!

Colleen Hinton shared her experiences doorbelling...including getting bitten by "two little dogs...two little vicious dogs". She was proud of one encounter with a voter who favored the four opponents of our candidates, convincing him to switch votes to Sarah Moore and Hugo Garcia...**See her story on Page 8.**

PCO Chair Nick Bonazza followed up with thanks to the PCOs and noted that very few of the sample ballots went unused. As of the meeting, the turnout in the 34th was at 52.37 percent, significantly higher than king county at 43.96. He asked us to consider volunteering to be PCOs next year, there are too many unfilled precincts in our LD – and the Republican Party is actively recruiting.

Jake Ewert from Schools First spoke about the Seattle Public School levies which come up every 3 years, which we will be voting on next February. Schools First is an all-volunteer organization to support the passage of these levy renewals: educational programs and operations levy, and the building technology and academics/athletics levy. See more at www.schoolsfirstseattle.org/. We endorsed the pair of levies by a voice vote.

Carla made some announcements: We are going to be doing more pop-up social events, such as a gathering at Beer Star where about 20 attended after the election to debrief and unwind. Several new people came. Watch the weekly emails for more of these spontaneous events. We will be holding elections to replace board resignations: A State Party Committeeperson (female/non-binary), 2nd Vice Chair, and Platform/Legislative Action Committee Chair. There may be additional board seats to be filled once we learn of our new LD boundaries. Contact Carla if you are interested.

Ann Martin is leading the Awards Committee, and is seeking nominations, which are due on December 15.

We are cancelling our monthly meeting in December in favor of a service project to assist Camp Second Chance. Our new KCDCC Alternate, **Aaron Garcia**, got us connected with the leadership of the clean and sober encampment that provides emergency shelter in tiny homes. We will prepare a hot meal, and they provided us with a list of needed items we may donate. Money may also be donated.

The meeting's program featured a Town Hall with our state representatives. Following are highlights from their remarks about the 2021 legislative session, and expectations for 2022.

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon noted that 2021 saw the most progress on action against climate change. Passed were: An economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas pollution and lowering it over time; A clean fuel standard; Next steps to phase out fluorocarbons used in refrigerators; The Healthy Environment for All Act, which incorporates environmental justice in policymaking across state agencies; A bill to move to phase out plastic waste, including Styrofoam, and to require recycled content for more plastic products. He also talked about the environmental items on his list that need still to be done.



Sarah Moore

Rep. Eileen Cody reminded us that they are going into a short session, and it will still be mostly conducted on Zoom, making it longer to get things accomplished. She has been spending a lot of time on the healthcare workforce, especially in the health care settings. We are facing shortages in that sector, particularly in nursing and aides in homecare. The bottle neck in recruitment is the lack of slots in schools and in clinical training placement and looking at simulation labs as an answer. Covid has also shown the equity weaknesses in health care and the need for care for the undocumented. An issue yet to be dealt with is having language for prescription containers fit the language patients speak. She also wishes to increase the poverty level that is used for hospital charity care, establish a drug affordability board, and expand telehealth use. Implementation of the long-term care act will probably be postponed, particularly to meet the needs of people close to retirement who aren't covered in the act.



Hugo Garcia

Sen. Joe Nguyen's main areas of concentration are educational opportunity for all, healthy families and communities, a just economy, and climate resiliency. With the infrastructure package that has been passed, and soon the BBB act, how do we best spend the money coming to the state and how to do so equitably. Housing affordability and the impact on people as the eviction moratorium sunsets need a look. He hopes a transportation package will be passed in 2022...Steve Hobbs is now Secretary of State, and his replacement as Chair of the Transportation Committee is likely to be more progressive and in better step with Inslee. Joe noted the budget forecast came in better than expected. Much of the Senate's work will be fixes and updates to work done in previous sessions.



Jake Ewert from Schools First

We heard and voted to adopt a resolution noting the threatened and endangered status of sockeye, steelhead, and chinook salmon runs and the resultant negative impact on our equally threatened southern resident orca population. It asks for the removal of dams on the lower Snake River. It was brought forward by **Annie Phillips** after consideration by our Environment, Energy and Land Use Caucus. Click [HERE](#) to read the resolution.

Pre-Meeting Program: Climate Change 101

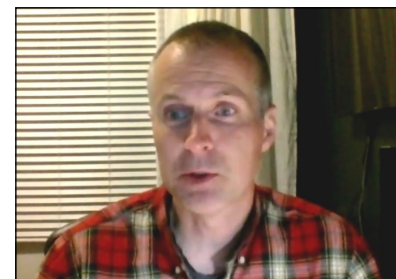
Randy Litzenberger presented the pre-meeting program, an informative primer on our most existential threat: Climate change. Randy is co-leader of the 34th's Environment, Energy and Land Use Policy Caucus. He is also a Social Studies teacher in the Bellevue School District.

He sought to present the subject in a balanced manner. There is much to worry about as a bleak future looms before us – if we do nothing to curb the affects of carbon pollution. Yet balancing that gloom is hope when we consider our growing awareness, the actions being taken now, and proposed steps for the future.

We are all increasingly familiar with the doom side of the equation that includes more and stronger storm events and flooding, hotter summers, more severe fire seasons, and shrinking glaciers. Those problems can be counteracted with positives to provide hope for the solutions climate solutions – those that are in place now, and that will be in the future.

Randy relayed history and how we've already dealt with environmental issues such as reduced air pollution in US urban areas, and the international effort to stop damage to the ozone layer. Currently the SunShot initiative is setting solar power goals that are dramatically driving down the price of solar energy. Going forward, Randy said we need to do two things: Electrify everything...with cleanly produced energy on a green grid. The trick will be to lower Green House Gases as the population continues to grow, and he gave us a look at what is being done right now locally at the city, county, and state levels.

He recommended we try our hand at designing a sustainable energy future by playing with Climate Interactive's *Climate Scenario Creator* to experiment with solutions. www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads/



Randy Litzenberger

View both the meeting and the pre-program [HERE](#)

Remembering Member and 2016 National Delegate Robert Fuentes

Robert's wife Tiffany Timm Fuentes conveys the sad news of the passing of Robert. Tiffany was often to be found attending meetings of the 34th Democrats with him:

"On Friday, October 22, 2021, Robert suffered a heart attack that, despite valiant efforts from some nearby men, he was unable to survive. If you knew Robert, you were profoundly impacted by his kindness, his joyful presence and his generosity of heart. Supporting and contributing to others was always at the core of his being. In keeping with his generous spirit, we thought it would be fitting for everyone who intends to send cards or flowers to make a donation in his honor to Latino Community Fund of Washington State:

[LatinoCommunityFund.org](https://www.LatinoCommunityFund.org)

A celebration of life will be held in Seattle on a date still to be determined. We will share with you the details soon.

Robert touched the souls of everyone he met."

1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass also remembers Robert:

"Robert was kind and decent, but didn't take no guff off the guff-givers. He was a solid pro-union advocate, who fought tirelessly for working people. Robert and I were Bernie Sanders Delegates representing the 34th LD together at the 2016 State Democratic Convention in Tacoma. Robert then went on to represent our LD and our state at the 2016 National Democratic Convention in Philadelphia! I had tried to recruit him again as a Delegate for the 2020 Caucus, but he was already in the process of moving to Southern California. Any of you who know him, knows that we have lost a great Progressive Democrat!

Robert also was a professional actor (he and I were both members of SAG-AFTRA, the performers union). If you are interested in seeing his final film, check out [East of the Mountains](#), starring Tom Skerritt and Mira Sorvino. Robert Gutierrez Fuentes: funny, caring, generous, and helpful– a great friend and I can't overstate how much I will miss him."



King County Democrats November Meeting Notes

We began the meeting with a redistricting update from Ed Martinez & Kara Briggs. Hundreds of democrats showed up and thousands of comments were submitted by democrats in favor of the Dem redistricting maps. There might be a lawsuit against Washington State over the Voting Rights Act, which would be fine for the Democrats, as the lawsuit will likely seek to create more minority majority districts. The speakers had great faith in the Supreme Court's decisions regarding the final redistricting maps.

Sophia Danenberg of the King County Redistricting Commission explained the process the County Commission went through. Every district grew in population, but because of geography, some districts do need to shrink in size. They held dozens of listening sessions, and focused on the input from small cities. In our District, we will be gaining the ChinaTown/ID, all of Burien, and most of Tukwila, significantly diversifying District 8.

We elected Carrie Barnes as Communications Vice Chair to KCDCC. We elected EJ Juarez as a Seattle Rep to the Code of Conduct Committee.

We adopted a resolution to encourage the legislature to pass a sustainable and just transportation package.

The KCDCC will be hosting a MLK Jr Celebration on January 15, 2022. It will be in person from 6 to 7pm, and funds raised will go to support Democrats in the midterm. You can register at

[King County Democratic Central Committee \(WA\) – Donate via ActBlue.](#)

Submitted by Leah Griffin, KCDCC Committeeperson

Missing Social Interaction with Democrats? Watch for Pop Up Gatherings!

We will continue to hold our general meetings virtually on Zoom for the foreseeable future. I know this is not what some want to hear but I am basing this on what other districts are doing. A hybrid meeting format would also require a bylaws change so we cannot go in that direction anytime soon. So complicated!

For me, meeting in Zoom at my home office is very convenient but I do miss the social interaction of meeting in person. To mitigate this situation, we will start holding pop up socials across the district. These will be casual, no business, low effort gatherings at a local bar/restaurant. We did this in November at Beer Star in White Center and it was a big success. I am

planning to invite electeds and other VIPs when possible. The goal here is to provide a venue to see each other and talk politics. These will be announced a week to 10 days ahead of time. I will list them in the weekly email, on our website calendar and on Facebook. The next pop up social will be after New Years. If you have an idea for a pop up social location - email me at chair@34dems.org.

Stay tuned...and I hope to see you in person in January!



We had a "pop-up" gathering at Beer Star in White Center on Friday, November 5 to unwind after the election. Jon Shields and Carla Rogers raise glasses on the left, while Bruce Stotler and Chris Weiss chill out on the right. Photos by Richard Bartlett.

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act...Dems get "Infrastructure Week" Done!

We impatiently await the passage of the Build Back Better Act, recalcitrant senators are still holding out. But we can celebrate the enactment of its companion: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. While "Infrastructure Week" was a running joke in the last administration, we saw this once-in-a-generation investment finally get done. Special thanks goes to our Congress Member Pramila Jayapal, for helping to bring together the numerous factions of the Democratic Party in the House. The bill President Biden signed on November 15th includes important and necessary funding for Washington:

Historic Investments in Roads and Highways: \$110 billion in new funds for repairing and building roads, bridges, and major projects and investing nearly \$5 billion for Washington's highways.

The Largest Dedicated Bridge Investment Since the Construction of the Interstate Highway System: \$40 billion of new funding for bridge repair, replacement, and rehabilitation, including around \$600 million for replacing and repairing bridges.

The Largest Ever Federal Investment in Public Transportation: Nearly \$90 billion in guaranteed funding for public transportation over the next five years while modernizing transit, prioritizing clean energy, and including around \$380 million for Sound Transit with the opportunity to apply for additional grants.

Investments in Clean Energy Infrastructure and Climate Resilience: While making the largest investment in clean energy transmission and electric vehicle infrastructure in history, there is also \$5 billion for zero emission and clean buses, \$2.5 billion for ferries, \$7.5 billion for the first-ever national network of electric vehicle chargers including around \$71 million to improve Washington's electric vehicle charging network, and over \$50 billion for making communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber attacks.

Investments in Waterways, Airports, and Ports: \$17 billion in port infrastructure and investments in electrification and carbon-reduction technologies, and an additional \$25 billion of investments in airports including around \$228 million for Seattle-Tacoma International and around \$16 million for Paine Field. There is also a \$1 billion fund to replace or remove culverts, \$89 million in grants to the Environmental Protection Agency to assist in restoring the Puget Sound, and \$400 million for community-based restoration programs that include the removal of fish passage barriers.

Clean Drinking Water and Waste Water: \$55 billion for clean drinking water, including dedicated funding to replace lead service lines and cleaning up the toxic legacy of chemicals that have contaminated drinking water.

Ensuring Every American Has Access to High-Speed Internet: \$65 billion to help provide broadband deployment and ensure every American has access to reliable, high-speed internet. More than one in four households will also be eligible for a new Affordable Connectivity Benefit to lower prices for internet service.

The Largest Federal Investment in Passenger Rail Since the Creation of Amtrak: \$66 billion including \$24 billion as federal-state partnerships, \$12 billion for intercity rail service, and additional funding for freight rail.

Experiences of a Canvasser: Going Local

by Colleen Hinton

Like many of us Washingtonians, I only became much more involved in political organizing after Trump got elected. I spent the next four horrifying years largely focused on state and congressional elections in purple states, except of course for our own WA congressional election in 2018 when we got Kim Schrier elected. After the all-hands-on-deck presidential election of 2020 and the US Senate Run-off election in Georgia, I decided that for the rest of 2021, I was going to focus on local elections. Here in my own City of Burien, no less than four of our seven City Council seats were either open or up for re-election, and with voters having managed to swing our City Council in a much more progressive direction in the last couple of local elections, I was highly motivated to keep things Blue in my own backyard.

I was so grateful that the 34th Dems were giving high priority to the Burien races (thank you Carla and Nick!), and gladly helped with organizing the many canvassing events we held in our town. In full disclosure, I can't say I'd list canvassing as one of my Top 10 favourite activities – it's more like something I feel compelled to do, to promote a healthier democracy in this country. However, I do find door knocking infinitely preferable to phone banking – I find it's a much higher "connection" rate, is generally way more rewarding talking to voters face-to-face, and it's just more fun and interesting getting outside,

hopefully enjoying some sunshine, and exploring neighbourhoods on foot. And by summertime, when we realized we'd be able to canvass in person rather by phone (thank you, vaccines!) I was way more excited about my commitment to canvass locally this year.

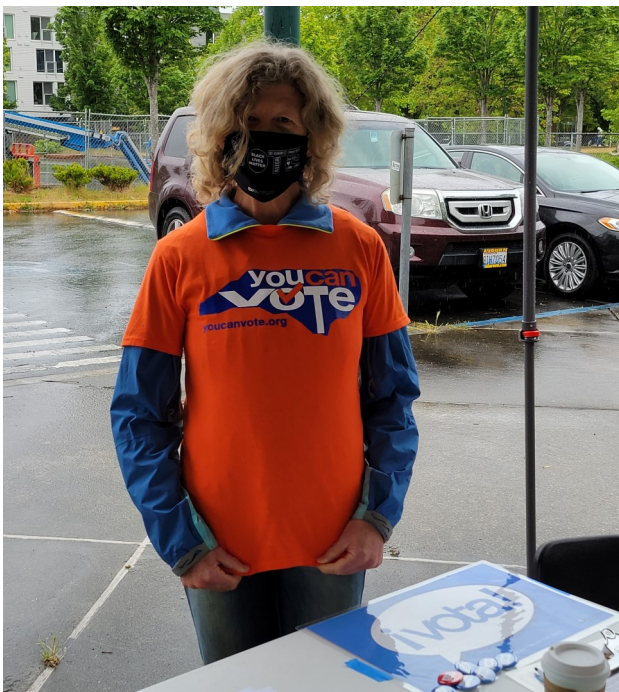
What I wasn't expecting, was that canvassing in my own hometown, compared to faraway places in other states, had several benefits that I hadn't really thought about.

First, it was truly interesting getting to know corners of Burien I don't usually get to see on my usual routes through the city, that I didn't even realize were part of Burien. Getting a feel for the different character of various neighbourhoods was fascinating, as well as observing the difference between neighbourhoods where there seemed to be connections between neighbours, and those where residents seemed pretty isolated. One big revelation for me, since I am lucky enough to not live under any major flight paths – was gaining a whole new appreciation of what it means to live directly under these. I've certainly biked and walked under those flight paths, and noted the noise level with annoyance, but having to actually have to spend an extended period of time under them – not to mention live – under them? Wow, the constant assault to the ears, and disruption of normal conversation outdoors – was – well, a true ear-opener for me!

Second, to my delight I got to meet people whose names on my walklist I actually recognized! Be they former City Councilmembers, or people who have posted things I've appreciated on local email lists or NextDoor, or even people in some of the local groups I am involved with, whom I've only ever seen on Zoom meetings or I never knew where they lived – it was cool to make these connections and feel like I was getting know my community better.

I think the fact that I could say "Hi, I live in Burien" when introducing myself, really led to different and more engaging conversations with people about their experiences as residents of Burien, and their opinions about local issues. I found many people to be genuinely friendly and open to having a bit more of a conversation than I have had when canvassing outside of my own community, that made the work feel more rewarding.

It wasn't all fun and games – some of you have heard about my rather novel experience of being bitten by a dog! I'm chastened to admit that it happened at a house that DID have a "Beware of the Dog" sign up – and to be honest, I've often ignored those in the past if I didn't see or hear evidence of a dog – because in some



Colleen Hinton is PCO for BUR 34-1150. She spent part of 2020 campaigning in North Carolina for Democratic candidates in that state.

Continued on the next page...

neighbourhoods in particular, I feel like if I walked past all the houses that have a “Beware of the Dog” sign, it would cut my walk list significantly! And I have never had a bad experience with people’s dogs. So, I opened the gate without realizing that the front door was open – and when I approached the front door these two smallish dogs just went for me in a big way – jumping up on me and grabbing on to my legs/arm with their teeth. The woman who came to the door was alternately yelling at me, while having absolutely no control over the dogs, “Did you not see the sign?”, “We have a sign”, and “It’s not my fault!” After my initial shock I high-tailed it out of there still being yelled after by the owner. I was definitely shaken, and unfortunately had quite a way to walk back to my car, but decided the best thing to do was just drive home since I was only about 15 minutes away. Once home, I cleaned the several small bite wounds really well, and I did later go and get a tetanus shot at my pharmacy. And managed to finish my walk list later that day and the next day! I’m still not sure what to say about “lessons learned” – never go to houses that have Beware of the Dog signs? I dunno, I have certainly been to houses with such signs, where the residents have told me the sign is old, or they don’t even

have a dog. I guess we each have to make constant risk assessments while canvassing – based on observations of the immediate environment and our own level of risk tolerance. As a side note – I wrote on the Minivan notes section for that house – that this house should not be approached because of vicious dogs that bit me – but I did not mark the house as “Inaccessible”, which in retrospect I should have done, because the next time I canvassed in that area, the house was still on my list and I did not see my notes in the Notes section. So, I immediately marked the house as Inaccessible, to get it taken off all future walk lists.

I would say the cherry on top for local canvassing, is the genuine appreciation from our candidates, who you get to know as real people living in your own community, and whom I felt like I could personally vouch for in talking to my fellow residents. And all the while feeling like I was making a real difference in getting out the vote within a relatively small voter pool, where just a handful of votes can truly mean the difference between winning and losing – was very rewarding. All in all, I highly recommend going loc{o}!!

34th Member Max Vekich on Track to be Confirmed as the Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission

Max Vekich’s journey down the road to confirmation was advanced on November 17th when the Senate Commerce Committee approved his nomination by a 15-13 vote, including Republican Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan. The final step will be a future Senate floor vote.

Senator Maria Cantwell introduced Max and spoke in favor of his nomination:

“Mr. Vekich knows port and shipping communities firsthand. He spent his life working in the maritime industry ... and I know he understands the importance of what a maritime economy is to the State of Washington's economy.”

“The perspective and experience that Mr. Vekich will bring to this position of Commissioner is needed in this moment,” Cantwell said at the nomination hearing in October. “He has a unique career first serving as a member of the Washington Legislature, followed by a long career as a longshoreman in Grays Harbor and in Seattle. Mr. Vekich knows port and shipping communities firsthand. He spent his life working in the maritime industry, and knows the challenges faced by

the maritime and intermodal transportation system. And I know he understands the importance of what a maritime economy is to the State of Washington's economy and knows how important it is to our national economy as well.”

Max Vekich is a native of Aberdeen, Washington. He served four consecutive terms as the representative for the 35th Legislative District in Washington state’s House of Representatives from 1983-1991, alongside Maria Cantwell for several years (1987 to 1991). During Vekich’s tenure, he served as Chair of three committees: Agriculture, Trade & Economic Development, and Commerce & Labor.

Max is, of course, married to our former Chair Marcee Stone Vekich. She said of the day: *“Lots of vote whipping by maritime unions and businesses yesterday. Now on to a floor vote in the Senate someday! One Senator can hold that vote up. Even though it’s a 50+1 vote to confirm. So proud of Max!”*

Audio of Senator Cantwell’s remarks can be found [HERE](#)



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