



34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

WEST SEATTLE ★ WHITE CENTER ★ BURIEN ★ VASHON AND MAURY ISLANDS

Chair's Message

Aloha members of the 34th!

I am writing my newsletter content from 2,700 miles away as I celebrate my 25th anniversary in Kauai. Visiting a new state makes me notice the similarities and differences. As we rode through Poipu to Waimea I noticed several candidate signs which pulled me quickly back to the reality of our February elections. We have endorsed **Kirstin Haugen for King Conservation District Supervisor**. Please help us get the vote out for this election by directing your family and friends to [submit their ballot online](#). Ballots must be submitted by 8pm on February 8th.

We have also endorsed Prop 1 & 2 which are the Seattle School District Capital Levies. **Residents of Vashon are also voting on a school levy. Supporting public education is a major Democratic value so vote yes!** Please mail or take your ballot to any dropbox by February 8th.

The news hound in me couldn't keep myself from staying up to date while on vacation. With Justice Breyer retiring, I'm excited to learn who President Biden will nominate for the next SCOTUS Justice. I'm hopeful for a smooth process and no unreasonable blocks from the Republicans.

First Vice Chair Rachel Glass is back home working on a few different programs and informational presentations. She is also putting together our 34th LD greeting which will be shown at the upcoming **King County Democrats Winter Soiree**. This event is their big fundraiser of the year and they would love to see some folks from the 34th attend. They have a blockbuster line up including our very own Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Senator Patty Murray, Rep. Kim Schrier and WA Dems Chair Tina Podlodowski. Register [here](#).

And can you believe who the King County Republicans invited to speak at their event??? The one and only Rudy Giuliani! If that doesn't make you feel proud to be a Democrat, I don't know what will. They plan to share all the things that the Dems have done wrong in King County. Seriously???

I'd like to close by welcoming **Roxanne Thayer** (WA Democratic Party Representative) and **Deena Ledger** to the Executive Board.

Continued on Next Page...

February 9, 2022

Meeting Notice

[Register HERE](#)

6:30pm - Zoom opens for pre-meeting program:
Should West Seattle Consider an Urban Gondola?

7:15pm - Call to Order

Opening Ceremonies (15m)

Approval of Agenda and Minutes (2m)

Candidate Spotlight (10m)

Resolution to Consider (10m)

Healthcare Caucus Report (10m)

PCO Appointments and Upcoming Activities (10m)

Caucus Spotlight - Healthcare (15m)

Executive Board Appointment (5m)

Announcements (10m)

Good of the Order

Adjourn 9pm

Renew or Become a Member

[click here](#)

34dems.org

www.34dems.org/contribute

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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

Roxanne Thayer | State Committee Person
wsdccc@34dems.org

King Co. Committeeperson | **Vacant**
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

Vacant | Community Partnerships
coalitions@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Communications
digcomm@34dems.org

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

Equity & Social Justice | **Vacant**

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

Deena Ledger | Platform & Leg. Action
lac@34dems.org

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

...Continued from Front Page

Roxanne is attending her first State Party meeting this month in fact and she has also stepped up to support the growth of our Healthcare Caucus! Welcome Roxanne! Deena will be up for membership confirmation of my appointment to the Platform and Legislative Action Committee Chair role at our February meeting. The PLAC chair's main responsibility is nurturing, organizing and supporting the caucus structure. I am certain Deena will bring a fresh focus to this important position. Please contact Deena at lac@34dems.org if you are interested in any of our 9 caucuses ([details on our website](#)). Welcome Deena! I am hoping to have more appointments in March!

It's back to vacation for me. I'm hoping to see you at our February 9th meeting.

Carla Rogers

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

Open Positions on the Executive Committee

The last month has brought 2 more resignations from the executive board. Norman Sigler has moved out of the district and thus has resigned his position as King County Democrats Representative. The King County Democrats representative (male or non-binary) actively participates in King County monthly meetings and events and supports at least one committee assignment. They are responsible for providing a report published in the newsletter recapping the monthly meeting or other King County-related business. This is a board position which also requires participation in monthly board meetings and other activities. When we have a nominee, we will hold an election for this office. Please contact the chair if you are interested. 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!

Dawn Rains was appointed Coalitions (aka Community Coalitions Chair) Chair and has also resigned due to a heavy workload at Treehouse. Dawn will return this summer to support election efforts. We thank her for her time on the executive board which started over three years ago as our Membership Chair.

We are also looking for committee members on the Communications, Resolutions & Endorsements and the Membership Committee. Anyone with technical skills (google docs, social media, other online tools) would be very exciting! To learn more about the needs, email chair@34dems.org.



Stay Tuned for the next

34th Dems Pop Up Social

February 18th

More information to be shared in the weekly email.

NIB Resolution Comes Full Circle

This is pretty cool, I think! You may remember a program and resolution we passed last summer - - National Infrastructure Bank? The 34th was the first LD in all of Washington state to consider and approve the [Resolution Urging Congress to Enact National Infrastructure Bank Legislation](#). I introduced the NIB team from DC to King County Dems' Resolution Committee and 11th Senator Bob Hasegawa's office. KC Dems passed the resolution and Senator Hasegawa took up the initiative. Fast forward to this short session and review [SJM 8006](#). There is now a bill being considered that supports this resolution. Resolutions Chair Bunny Hatcher provided public comment in support of the bill while in committee.

Now you can weigh in on it as well!

I think this is incredibly exciting and really shows the power we have as a district. If this doesn't inspire you I don't know what will. [Get involved in an MPC today](#) and be a part of the action!

What are we Voting for in February?

February Special Elections focus on if a proposition - a tax levy - should be approved. These tax levies (Proposition One and Proposition Two) fund infrastructure and operations for Seattle and Vashon Public Schools. While there is state funding, revenue from property taxes - through local levy - are the primary funding source to cover the total operating cost. City councils also require approval from voters to levy a property tax to fund infrastructure improvements. To learn more about the levies, visit the [Schools First website](#). You must submit your ballot - via mail or ballot box - by February 8 at 8pm.



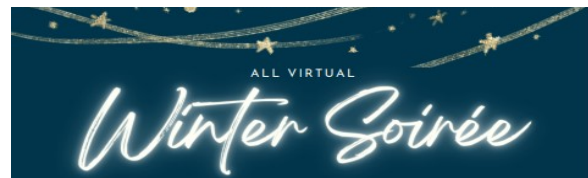
We are also voting - on a separate, online only ballot - for **King Conservation District Supervisor #2**.

Conservation districts (CDs) are special purpose districts. They are local units of government with large budgets and carry out natural resource management programs to reduce soil erosion, conserve water, prevent pollution, and enhance habitat. CDs in Washington are governed by a board of 5 members, called supervisors, 3 of which are elected by the public. The term of office is 3 years and supervisors serve without compensation.

In King County, voting for conservation district supervisors takes place online! Go to vote.kingcd.org to read the 4 candidate's statements and vote using their online system. Like the special election, voting ends February 8 at 8pm.



Kirstin Haugen is our endorsed candidate for KCD Supervisor #2



Virtual Winter Soirée

Join us virtually for the biggest event of the year to support the King County Democrats. Help us elect Democrats who will fight for voting rights, reproductive rights, racial justice, climate justice, and more!

Featuring:

US Senator Patty Murray
US Rep. Suzan DelBene
US Rep. Pramila Jayapal
US Rep. Kim Schrier
US Rep. Adam Smith
Anna Malaika Tubbs (author, educator)
King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay
...and more!

Saturday, Feb. 5

5pm - VIP Reception | 5:30-6:30 Main Event

Register at bit.ly/3FZk66p

Your Executive Board Meeting For February is

Wednesday the 23rd, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Please email the chair to join:

chair@34dems.org

34th LD Democrats Member Survey

Name your favorite places to hang out with Dems in the 34th

(Vashon/Maury, West Seattle, White Center, Burien)

Our 34th Pop Up Socials have been a great success and we want to see more of you out in February and later months. So, please share your favorite spot, in your neighborhood or otherwise. It needs to have enough room to seat at least 10-20 happy Dems.



This is a monthly series of 34th Membership surveys that will help the leadership of the 34th with your input.

<https://bit.ly/feb22-speak-up-survey>

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

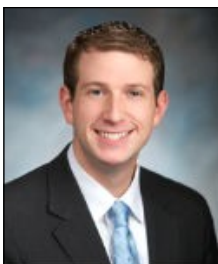
303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7978



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 March 2022 newsletter will be Thursday February 24, 2022

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 meeting by speaking about the January 6 anniversary and asked us to follow the commission dedicated to finding the truth as to what happened that day. She also spoke of MLK Day. She noted that the King County Democrats had planned to have a fundraiser that day, but the MLK family asked that there be no celebrations, and instead to focus on influencing President Biden and lawmakers to pass voter rights protections.

Carla asked PCOs to rededicate for this year...and to run again for the next 2 years. Our district will not have close races, so we will be helping to re-elect Kim Schrier in the 8th CD and assist Democratic candidates in races in other states as we did in 2020.

Chris Porter informed us that we will be getting a postcard from the King Conservation District with a convenient QR code and other information on how to get a ballot to vote for KCD Commissioner Position 2 in this unique upcoming election.

Find out more about the KCD Election [HERE](#)

We learned that longtime 34th member **Sofia Aragon** was elected by the Burien City Council to be Mayor. We heard from **Kevin Schilling**, who was just elected as Deputy Mayor. He lamented that it appeared that he will be redistricted out of the 34th, his home LD for years.

County Executive **Dow Constantine** described groundbreaking for a new 500-unit men's shelter and low-income housing development in Eastgate. He also was happy to report that dogs will now be allowed on the water taxi - cats too, if they so choose!

County Councilperson **Joe McDermott** was pleased that the ban of sales and discharge of fireworks goes into effect this year and will be in place for this year's 4th of July holiday. This restriction was voted into place by the Council in response to a deadly fire in White Center ignited by fireworks a few years ago. He also spoke about efforts to help the downtown White Center area due to the aftermath of the fires last summer. In other news, Joe told us that Sound Transit fare enforcement will become more equitable, and that the courts will be taken out of the process. He finished by saying to be on the lookout for a comment period coming up about the West Seattle to Ballard light rail connection.

Carla informed the body that the Executive Board had



Annie Phillips



Sam Mendez



King County Executive Dow Constantine

2021 Achievement Awards

Had these been normal times, we would have presented our annual awards at a December gathering, but unfortunately given the continuing pandemic, we cancelled our traditional Holiday party. Therefore, we postponed the ceremony until the first meeting of the new year.

Ann Martin led the committee which sifted through 33 nominations of 21 individuals (some were nominated in numerous categories) as they settled on outstanding members for 2021.

Cherisse Luxa Life Achievement – **Annie Phillips**

Jackie Dupras Member of the Year – **Carla Rogers**

PCO of the Year – **Colleen Hinton**

Rising Star – **Sam Mendez**

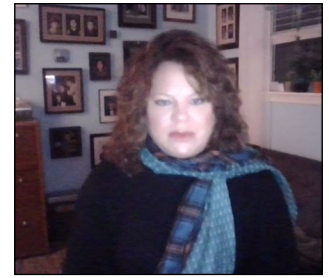
Committee of the Year – **Environment, Energy & Land Use Caucus**

Annie Phillips and **Randy Litzenberger** Co-Leads.

Executive Board Members of the Year –

Rachel Glass and **Bunny Hatcher**

Elected Official of the Year – **Dow Constantine**



Carla Rogers



Randy Litzenberger



Colleen Hinton



Bunny Hatcher



Rachel Glass

donated \$250 each to the foodbanks in White Center, West Seattle, Vashon, and Highline with the money that had been set aside and approved last year in the budget. Membership also voted to give \$500 to the Seattle Public School's campaign organization "Schools First" to use to help pass their levies in February.

We heard from candidates for the King Conservation District Board Position 2. **Kirstin Haugen** is running for re-election. Her opponent is **Tripp Williams**. **Colleen Hinton** nominated Williams for endorsement. She feels that based on her experience working with the KCD on a project on her property that change is needed on the board. **Chris Porter** (who is currently on the KCD board) spoke in favor of Haugen, praising her leadership as board chair and for her efforts in shaking up the organization to better communicate their functions to the public. Haugen won our endorsement.

We passed a resolution: "Regarding Non-discriminatory, Medically Comprehensive Healthcare in Washington State". You can read it on our website [HERE](#).

Don't forget...our meetings are recorded! See this meeting [HERE](#)

PCOs Are Recommitting Themselves to the Challenges of 2022

PCOs began the year with our eyes open to the challenges we face. The misinformation and disinformation at the heart of antigovernment movements is being pushed on all fronts and must be countered by truth. We recognize the need to support the government formed by candidates we canvassed for against unprecedented challenges and commit to educating ourselves and our neighbors about issues and Democratic candidates.

February through March we door-knock for voter ID, to ensure that the Democratic database that can make a difference to campaigns is up to date. We reach out to voters, lean in, hear thoughts and concerns, and bring them back to forums where they will be heard. We assist with Voter Registration or if they just don't want to vote, don't think it will make a difference, don't think their opinions count, we work on building trust.

Look for Voter Registration popups across the 34th led by PCOs that live in those areas with help from our Outreach and Social Equity committees.

The WA State Redistricting Committee submitted its 2022 plan to the Supreme Court which was approved and sent to the State Legislature. If it goes forward the boundaries of the 34th will change. A plan must be finalized by 5/2/2022 or the existing boundaries will stay in place. If the plan goes forward 17 PCOs in Burien will go to the 33rd LD. Elected and Appointed PCOs continue to represent their precincts regardless of outcome.

Current PCOs will be contacted to encouraged to file May 16-22 for the 2023-24 term.

We still have too many precincts without PCOs. Some strong, committed Democrats in the 34th LD who are also PCOs include our state senator, one state representative, our King County Council member, two members of the Burien City Council, and a supervisor on the King County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Please contact me for information about becoming a PCO!

Nick Bonazza, pco@34dems.org

January Pre-meeting Program: The National Alliance for Mental Illness

The pre-meeting program to our January meeting was an interesting presentation about National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass brought in **Melanie Estes** and **Zoey Suarez** to speak about their organization and their experiences with behavioral health issues. NAMI is a national organization with local chapters around the country, with state and often county and/or city chapters. It is the nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to mental health that provides advocacy, education support, and public awareness to afford those affected by mental illness a means to build better lives. [NAMI.org](https://www.nami.org)

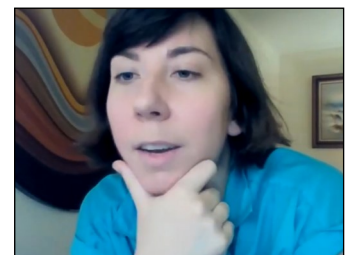
The speakers presented a video, *In our Own Voice*, which was broken out into 3 parts: What Happened, What Helps, and What's Next. They paused after each segment to provide their comments. They described their own mental health episodes of crisis that played out in their lives, and how they were perceived by others. They pointed out that ¼ to ½ of the population will have some sort of struggle mental health problem. Covid and the social isolation that it has brought can exacerbate mental health problems.

They spoke about their search for help. They spoke about their efforts in finding the right treatment programs, which includes talk therapy, exercising, and daily schedule maintenance. Each had to work with to find the right medication that best works for them.

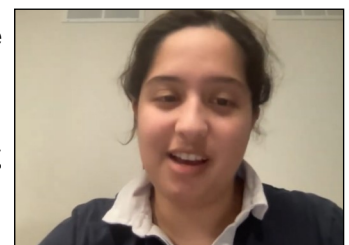
Effective treatment is difficult to find at all social/economic levels and it is important to recognize that the entire system is broken and overburdened. There are not enough services or providers, and positions such as social workers, therapists and psychiatric nurses are underpaid.

Melanie spoke of interning with a state representative during the legislative session, and working on some issues surrounding a [new 9-8-8 hotline system for behavioral health crises](#) that is launching in July of this year...it is akin to 9-1-1.

Be sure to watch this interesting program on our YouTube channel [HERE](#).



Melanie Estes



Zoey Suarez

For Consideration at Our February Meeting...

A Resolution in Support of Climate Bills Pending in the 2022 Washington State Legislature

Whereas, our planet is warming faster than science projected even 10 years ago; and

Whereas, climate change worsens and increases the frequency of freak storms and heat domes, wildfires and droughts, floods and fierce hurricanes around the world; and

Whereas, Washington State is becoming a leader with legislation to control and mitigate these effects by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, fossil fuel energy used in buildings for heating and cooling, water heating and cooking is the fastest-growing contributor to greenhouse gases in this state; and

Whereas, our laws need to be strengthened and timelines shortened to achieve a faster reduction in Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) to meet this state's net zero target by 2050; and

Whereas, landfills are a top source of methane emissions, releasing 12 percent of the world's total – equivalent to 800 million tons of carbon dioxide and methane has up to 34 times the greenhouse gas effect as carbon dioxide*; and

Whereas, the following climate bills have been proposed to strengthen this state's response to the climate crisis:

[SB 5666](#) / [HB 1767](#) - Allowing public electric utilities to reach out to customers and offer incentives to convert from fossil fuel to electric

[SB 5722](#) / [HB 1774](#) - Reducing GHGs in smaller existing commercial and multi-family buildings

[SB 5669](#) / [HB 1770](#) - Allowing cities to establish their own “reach code” – a stricter building energy code than the code established by the State

[SB 5093](#) / [HB 1084](#) - Reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions by achieving greater decarbonization of residential and commercial buildings

[SB 5731](#) / [HB 1799](#) – Reducing methane emissions from landfills through better management of organic materials

Now therefore be it resolved that the 34th District Democratic Organization supports all the climate bills still pending as of February 9, 2022, including but not limited to those related to building standards and methane as described above.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be sent to Governor Inslee, our legislative delegation and the committees considering the listed bills.

Submitted by Randy Litzenberger and Annie Phillips, Environmental Energy and Land Use caucus of the 34th Legislative District Democrats

January 27th 2022...the day that the ERA Should have been Enacted

The state of Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment on January 27, 2020. That started the countdown to what should have been a 2-year waiting period, ending on January of this year, installing it as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. The amendment states:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. **Section 2:** The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

Real no-brainer stuff right? But due to an arbitrary deadline which was passed almost 40 years ago, this important amendment remains undone. President Biden proposes a remedy:

Statement from President Biden on the Equal Rights Amendment:

“Today, as the House announces a resolution on the Equal Rights Amendment, I once again want to express my support for the ERA loudly and clearly. I have been a strong supporter of the ERA ever since I first ran for the Senate as a 29-year-old. We must recognize the clear will of the American people and definitively enshrine the principle of gender equality in the Constitution. It is long past time that we put all doubt to rest. I am calling on Congress to act immediately to pass a resolution recognizing ratification of the ERA. As the recently published Office of Legal Counsel memorandum makes clear, there is nothing standing in Congress's way from doing so. No one should be discriminated against based on their sex—and we, as a nation, must stand up for full women's equality.”

Thanks to Roxanne Thayer for bringing this to our attention.

Washington State Democratic Central Committee Caucus Notes

Note: The State Party meeting is being held the weekend of January 29th and 30th, these are reports from the meeting of the caucuses our committeepersons take part in on an ongoing basis.

Notes from the Women's Caucus/WS Federation of Democratic Womxn, January 20th

Chaired by Carin Chase with legislative update by Planned Parenthood. Wes Gonzalez represented Planned Parenthood and spoke to their support of health equity, safe abortion access, and protection of providers. He is at wes.gonzalez@ppallianceadvocates.org Gonzales also covered bills that Planned Parenthood is supporting this session. These include:



- **HB 1851/Companion SB 5766:** Preserving a pregnant individual's ability to access abortion care.
- **HB 1202:** Addressing meaningful civil remedies for persons injured as a result of police misconduct, including by allowing for an award of attorney fees in addition to damages and injunctive and declaratory relief.
- **HB 1809/Companion Bill SB 5688:** Concerning material changes to the operations and governance structure of participants in the health care marketplace.
- **HB 1507:** Establishing a mechanism for independent prosecutions of criminal conduct arising from police use of force.
- **HB 1719:** Concerning use and acquisition of military equipment by law enforcement agencies.
- **HB 1735:** Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers.
- Planned Parenthood is opposed to **HB 1726:** Modifying the standard for use of physical force by peace officers. Gonzalez noted that there has been a 62% decline in police killings since reforms were instituted in 2021. They believe that HB 1726 would weaken those reforms.

An update from the Democratic National Committee was given by Marie Perez. Issues in discussion included ranked choice voting, climate accountability, global accounting for DNC travel.

Notes from Washington State Democratic Central Committee Progressive Caucus, January 18th

Note: I was not able to comment at this caucus as my membership had not yet been processed. I have requested that both of the two withdrawn resolutions have further discussion.

- A resolution withdrawn concerned genital mutilation, a speaker felt that this term covered circumcision and asked the resolution author to withdraw, he did.
- Another resolution was in support of tribal acknowledgement of the Cowlitz Tribe. The Duwamish were also discussed. Due to another tribal nation's dissent, the resolution was withdrawn.
- Recommendation for a Do Not Pass for small nuclear power was forwarded.
- A resolution in support of freeing the vaccine from patent protections for global distribution, particularly in the southern hemisphere was passed.

Former candidate for the office of Seattle Attorney, Nicole Thomas Kennedy, spoke extensively and took questions afterward.

Submitted by Roxanne Thayer



Roxanne Thayer is our new State Party Committeeperson. She was elected at our January meeting. She also serves on the Women's Advisory Board to the King County Council and is active with Whole Washington.

Affirmative Action Committee Meetings

On the 8th and 15th of January, the Affirmative Action Committee met to discuss the DSAAP (Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Plan). This year, Legislative District Organizations that meet certain thresholds in their delegate selection plan and efforts will be awarded additional delegates. The committee agreed to the final rules around delegate selection for the state convention in June, and standards to evaluate an LD's outreach plan in the selection of their delegates. LDs will receive their affirmative action targets around Youth, LGBTQ, African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, Disability, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. LDs will be reminded about the required gender balance to include non-binary. LD chairs can expect to receive these numbers with the total number of delegates given to each LD.

Submitted by Chris Porter

Whole Washington to Begin New Universal Health Care Initiative Effort



Roxanne Thayer is calling out to all in the 34th LD interested in seeing universal healthcare in Washington State. Whole Washington will be giving a presentation and short video followed by a Q&A session at our February 9th meeting. Andre Stackhouse and 34th's own Jen Nye will officiate.

Whole Washington is working toward an initiative that will collect signatures between April and December, 2022. They are looking for "Signature Captains" and also others who are willing to collect signatures. The presentation will help people become more familiar with the work of Whole Washington, and build awareness of their new initiative drive.

Roxanne recommends we read the following article from [U.S. News and World Report](#). It deftly takes standard arguments against universal health

care and rebuts them, with relevant truths about our current health care system. (The start of the article is reprinted here, but a [link to the balance of the piece can be found HERE, and at the bottom of the page.](#))

If you haven't yet, please read the opinion piece written by former insurance executive Wendell Potter, in which he describes how he worked to spread disinformation about the Canadian health care system. It was in our [January Newsletter, starting on page 8](#). Or you can read it on the [Washington Post website](#).

Point Turning Point: the Case for Universal Health Care

An argument that the COVID-19 pandemic might be the turning point for universal health care.

By Lorie A. Sousa, Vicki Lindblade, and Charlotte Markey, PhD

As we all grapple with our new reality, it's difficult to think of anything beyond the basics. How do we keep our families safe? Are we [washing our hands enough](#)? Do we really have to sanitize the doorknobs and surfaces every day? How do we get our cats to stop videobombing our Zoom meetings? Do we have enough toilet paper?

The more we read the headlines, the more we feel the need to do something, or at least say something. Change is happening – ready or not. Maybe talking about some of these important issues can lead to action that will help us steer out of this skid.

Historically, Americans have found ways to meet their circumstances with intention, moving in mass to make heretofore unimaginable change that has sustained and improved our lives to this day. The Great Depression led to the creation of the New Deal and Social Security. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire brought about change in labor conditions. The Cuyahoga River fire led to the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Could the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) be the turning point for universal health care? We can't think of a more propitious time. In the first two weeks of April, 5.2 million Americans filed for unemployment. Economists believe that 30% unemployment is possible by fall. For most Americans, our

health care is tied to our employment, and because of this, millions of Americans are losing their health care just when they may need it the most. Economists predict that health insurance premiums will likely increase by 40% in the next year due to less payers and more who are in need of care and the eventual [collapse of private health care insurance](#).

Our current circumstances have illustrated the need for universal health care in a way that is obvious and undeniable. Below we have listed the most frequent arguments in opposition followed by an evidence-based rebuttal.

1. Point: "Governments are wasteful and shouldn't be in charge of health care."

Counterpoint: In 2017, the U.S. spent twice as much on health care (17.1% of GDP) as comparable [Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development countries](#) (OECD) (8.8% of GDP), all of whom have universal health care. The country with the second highest expenditure after the U.S. is Switzerland at 12.3%, nearly 5% less. Of all these countries, the U.S. has the highest portion of private insurance. In terms of dollars spent, the average per capita health care spending of OECD countries is \$3,558, while in the U.S. it's \$10,207 – nearly three times as costly.

Bottom line: Among industrialized countries with comparable levels of economic development, government-provided health care is much more efficient and more economical than the U.S. system of private insurance.

2. Point: "U.S. health care is superior to the care offered by countries with universal health care."

Counterpoint: According to the [Commonwealth Health Fund](#), in the U.S., infant mortality is higher and the life span is

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