



34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

Burien Georgetown Pioneer Square SODO South Park West Seattle White Center Vashon/Maury Island

Chair's Message

Greetings Democrats!

I am heading out on a red eye to Richmond, VA tonight to visit my 91-year-old mother on Mother's Day. All you moms out there have a lovely day on YOUR DAY! I am hoping that Seattle enjoys the beauties of springtime on May 8th as well!

The past month has brought lots of activity as we do the prep work for our state Convention to be held in late June in Tacoma. It will be exciting to gather with Democrats from across the state in-person and equally interesting to see how the state will pull off a virtual/in-person event! I have not been to this state's convention yet so I'm looking forward to it! I'm very proud of the work that we have done as a delegation. Many of our delegates have actively participated in our activities and I'm hoping to gain a few new members from our delegation.

As we enter May we set our sights on filing week May 16-20. This is when we will see the full list of candidates who will seek office this year! Soon after we will hold our 34th LD Representative Debate on May 26th. We are excited to partner with the West Seattle Democratic Women to give the 34th LD a chance to listen to the Democratic candidates answer questions and debate progressive issues. We will then be ready to do our Endorsements at the June 8th virtual meeting. We will take a meeting break in July but don't miss our in-person Paint the Night Blue Fundraiser on July 14th at Arthur's in the Admiral District. This event promises to be a really fun night as we raise funds to support our 2022 election efforts. 3 months chock full of activities!

Please consider this challenge. Push yourself to commit this year to making an impact and holding yourself accountable for achieving those commitments. Pick 3 actions to support. We will be covering the 34th as usual in the primary and general. We will support Rep Kim Schrier in the 8th. We will also work with other key districts in the state which are at risk. Lots of opportunities. What can you do? What will you do?

Hope to see you on Zoom on May 11!

Carla Rogers,

34th LD Chair

chair@34dems.org - 206-432-1998

May 11, 2022

Meeting Notice

Register [HERE](#)

6:15pm - Zoom opens for pre-meeting program:
Legislature Q&A

7:15pm - Call to Order

Opening Ceremonies (10m)

Approval of Agenda and Minutes (2m)

Chair's Announcements & Convention Updates (10m)

Candidate Spotlight (10m)

PCO Appointments & Filing Details (10m)

KCDCC Committeeperson Election (5m)

Resolutions (20m)

2022-2023 Budget Review (5m)

Bylaws Amendments Review and Vote (20m)

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
wsdccm@34dems.org

Roxanne Thayer | State Committee Person
wsdccw@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

Vacant | 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

Soleil Lewis | Equity & Social Justice
equity@34dems.org

Gina Topp | 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 & Legislative Action
lac@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | Programs
vicechair1@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

Join Or Renew Before It's Too Late!

Perhaps the most exciting monthly meeting of the year is June 8th - when we vote on 2022 Endorsements! [Review our Endorsement Rules](#). You must be a PCO or 2022 member in order to vote on endorsements. New members must join the 34th Democrats by **May 11** in order to participate in our endorsements. If you were a 2021 member, you have until 6pm June 7th to renew your membership.

Don't miss out - [submit your membership today!](#)

Post-Session Legislator Q&A

The Healthcare and EELU Caucuses will be hosting a Legislator Q&A during our pre-meeting program in May. We are always happy to hear from our elected officials and this year is no different. It was a short session but there was still a lot of work accomplished. Join us at 6:30pm, before the 7:15pm call to order. Members of our two rockstar caucuses will be submitting the questions. If there is time leftover, attendees may submit questions as

Updated Bylaws Proposed

At the May 11th meeting, we will discuss questions on the [proposed Bylaws](#) of the 34th District Democrats. The Bylaws committee, led by Sarah Koch, painstakingly reviewed, reorganized and cleaned up the existing Bylaws, while adding and editing to meet current practice. Several material changes are also proposed. The Endorsement Addendum was also updated and will be reviewed and voted on within the context of the full bylaws. The Endorsement Rules from 2021 will be in effect for this cycle, however. Be sure to read the changes on our website before the meeting. [Review the Bylaws on our website](#). Feel free to email Sarah Koch at bylaws@34dems.org if you have questions.

May Election for Open Executive Board Positions

This is official notice that we will be holding an election for the position of King County Democrats Central Committee Male Representative at the May 11th meeting. Ted Barker will be running for KCDCC Rep. The 2nd Vice Chair position is still open. If you are interested in running for either position, please contact the Chair at chair@34dems.org.

Convention Update

Our 35 Convention Delegates have been hard at work preparing for the June 25 WA State Convention. Our first assignment was State Platform Amendments. We had over 50 amendments submitted. During 2 long workshops, we edited and polished our amendments, finally submitting them on the April 25th deadline. If you would like to read our amendments, you may download both the [current platform document](#) and our [amendments](#).

Next, we will be working to select 2 resolutions to submit to the state party by May 25th. If you would like to propose an amendment, [fill out the form](#) (one per resolution please). You may suggest that we submit a resolution that has already been adopted by our district ([see all of them here](#)) or a new resolution.

Our delegation will join over 1000 delegates from across the state virtually or in-person at the Convention in Tacoma. We thank all of our 44 automatic and elected delegates for their time and attention as we do the business of the state party. We are RAISING OUR VOICES!

Technical Support Needed - Endorsement Meeting

In just a few short weeks, we will hold our 2022 Endorsements meeting. We need 4 volunteers to support the 'back end' of the meeting. Here are the roles we need to fill to assure the meeting is a success.

- Credential & Tally Committee - Review votes cast against the membership list. Provide the chair the vote count and endorsed candidate after validating against the credentialed voters.
- Zoom Support - includes spotlighting, admitting attendees, following a script and placing links in the chat, general support of the chair who is running the meeting.
- Manual Vote Manager - accepts votes on zoom chat and text and provides them to the tally committee.

We continue to look for board and committee support. If you have a small amount of time to share, please consider the following opportunities.

- Are you comfortable using technology (Google, Slack, email, social media, other tools)? We are looking for a few supporting players on the Communications, Membership & Hospitality and Resolutions committees. Put your valuable skills to work!
- We are gearing up for the election cycle. If you are interested in supporting the coordinated campaign efforts in WA, we'd love your help!

Please contact the chair at chair@34dems.org if you are interested in any of these roles.

Your Executive Board Meeting For May is Wednesday the 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. On Zoom

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

Join us at the next 34th Dems Pop Up Social With Special Guest KC Executive Dow Constantine



**May 20th,
5:30 to 8pm**
At the
Georgetown Liquor Co.
5501 Airport Way S.

Mark Your Calendar to

Paint the Night Blue!

Thursday, July 14th, 6-8pm
at **Arthur's in West Seattle**



It's been 2 long years since we have been able to get together to purposefully raise funds to support our important work. We will gather to raise funds to support the midterm elections. This is a big one folks. After the assault on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, a number of House Republicans voted to impeach Donald Trump on charges of inciting the violence. Two of those representatives are from Washington state. Both are up for re-election in the midterms later this year. Trump wants them gone and has endorsed Republican challengers in those races. That means the Evergreen State has emerged as a prime target for Trump's revenge at the ballot box in 2022. We need to be sure that the 34th can afford to do our part in this important election.

Let's come together to raise a glass for all the positive things that have happened this year. We will have lots of ways for you to contribute. Every little bit helps us get Democrats elected!

All are welcome to attend our fundraising event. While it is important that we raise the funds to do our work; it is a value of our organization that everyone has an opportunity to participate and to feel welcome. We do not turn anyone away from participating. If you are unable to afford a ticket to the event we would love your contribution of time as a volunteer. In order for this event to be a success, we need many volunteers in many roles. If you are interested in volunteering (you will also have time to enjoy the event as well) please reach out to Gina Topp at ginatopp@gmail.com.

Buy your tickets today and mark your calendar!

34th LD Representative Debate Scheduled

With the impending retirement of Eileen Cody at the end of her term, we prepare to elect a new Representative for the 34th Legislative District.

Join us on **May 26th at 6:30pm** for a debate co-hosted by the 34th Dems and the West Seattle Democratic Women. The zoom link will be shared in an upcoming weekly email.

Mark your calendar!

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 June 2022 newsletter will be Thursday May 26.

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** opened the meeting with comments about retiring Rep. Eileen Cody and her legacy.

We had recently completed our LD Caucus. Carla told us that we were only one of five LDs to meet our affirmative action goals, thanks to recruiting by **Rachel Glass**. As a reward, we are allowed 4 additional delegates. We will also be granted 44 platform amendments and 2 resolutions.

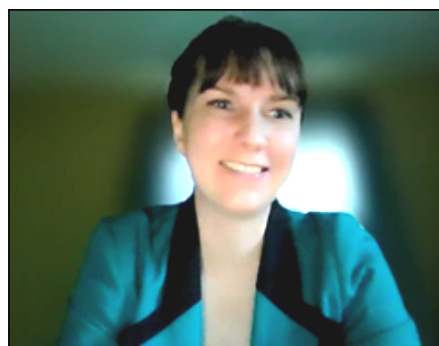
Carla expressed happiness to see Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmed to the Supreme Court. Although three republicans voted for her, to accomplish our goals we need a majority in congress. We must step up to help in districts not as strong as the 34th to keep that majority.

Chris Porter, wearing his King Conservation District hat, said they are “pulling out all the stops” to see inclusion and diversity in new hiring and organizational focus to bring conservation resources to under-served urban areas, while not overlooking rural areas and farmers.

Our annual fundraiser is back and in-person for 2022. **Gina Topp** is the event organizer, and she revealed the theme of our party this year: **Paint the Night Blue**. Wear blue clothes! There will be blue food and blue drinks! This evening fundraiser will be at **Arthur's Restaurant** on July 14th Those purchasing their tickets the evening of the April meeting were to receive an “Ignite Change” tee-shirt. If you do not feel that you are able to afford a ticket, there are opportunities to volunteer event.

The Candidate Spotlight featured statements from **Kristin Ballinger**, who was appointed by Gov. Inslee in December to fill a position on the King County Superior Court and is seeking a full term. We also heard from Seattle Municipal Judges seeking our endorsement – **Catherine McDowell, Adam Eisenberg** and **Willie Gregory**.

2022 will see important elections take place in the fall, and State Chair **Tina Podlodowski** asked that LDs get out in front of our normal endorsement processes, and vote to endorse



Leah Griffin speaks in favor of Patty Murray

Senator Patty Murray, and newly appointed **Secretary of State Steve Hobbs**. We watched a short video from Senator Murray, then we voted to endorse her for reelection, and then also endorsed Hobbs.

Sound Transit, at the bequest of Dow Constantine, did a study of the **Skylink Gondola** alternative to the proposed light rail scheduled to serve West Seattle in the coming decade, and has released their report. It was presented by **Matt Shelden**, ST Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Integration, who led the team that worked on the study. **Carrie Avila Mooney**, ST Director of Regional Government and Community Relations, was also on hand to help answer questions.

The study was not favorable to a gondola system as a replacement for light rail, as it would require a transfer downtown and not provide direct connections to the north, nor did it find the capacity to be adequate at peak times. Shelden felt a major sticking point is that the 2016 ST3 Levy approved “light rail” and would require another vote of the people.

It was brought up by members the fact that the study did not look at environmental impacts, and that gondolas could well be less expensive overall vs light rail. Shelden and Mooney both admitted that more research would be required to answer those questions.

The **Sound Transit Gondola Feasibility Report** is [HERE](#).

The group **West Seattle Skylink** have put forth their response. You can find that [HERE](#).

The Trump Administration left behind damage to our healthcare system. PSARA and 34th Dems Members **Karen Richter** and **David McLanahan** spoke about one bit of unresolved sabotage to Medicare and Medicaid. They explained a hidden means of privatizing these important public systems. A pilot program called Direct Contact Contracting was launched in 2019. It allows private, third-party middlemen (Direct Contracting Entities, or DCEs) to manage the delivery of health care for a fee. No knowledge or right-of-consent is given to beneficiaries. Medicare pays, and the DCEs pocket any leftover money, giving them ample incentive to restrict care. There is no congressional oversight. The DCE program is to be discontinued in December...but the Biden administration will launch a replacement in 2023 with a goal of addressing equity: Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (ACO REACH). Unfortunately, public health officials find the same issues with ACO REACH as with the DCE program and will affect the long-term viability of the Medicare Trust Fund.

PSARA is asking organizations to pass resolutions and sign onto letters to our Washington US Senators and Congressional delegation and to Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra requesting that these programs be terminated. To do our part, [we passed a resolution against this scheme](#).

Topping off the packed agenda was a presentation of Ranked Choice Voting from [Fair Vote Washington](#) presented by **Sam Perera** and **Kit Muehlman**. It was an interesting follow-up to the presentation on the less well-known Approval Voting concept we had earlier in the year. Fair Vote has two initiatives coming up, in Clark County and San Juan County to approve ranked choice elections.



Carrie Avila Mooney, Sound Transit



Matt Shelden, Sound Transit



Karen Richter



Bunny Hatcher

Snake River to Salish Sea Spirit of the Waters Totem Pole Journey to Promote the Removal of Snake River Dams

Se'Si'Le, an intertribal non-profit, is supporting the trek of a totem pole through the Northwest during the month of May. Se'Si'Le invites people to stand with Lummi tribal members, the House of Tears Carvers and Tribal communities across the Pacific Northwest in support of this journey and the Indigenous-led movement to remove the Snake River dams. This important journey comes at a critical time for the Snake River, endangered salmon and orcas, and the region's Tribal communities.

The totem pole will make 10 stops in Washington, Oregon and Idaho starting on May 3 and with a penultimate stop in Seattle on May 19 (the last stop is Tacoma on May 20). You can see it on the campus of the U of WA, in the Longhouse (aka Intellectual House) NE of the Quad, from 6-8 p.m. on the 19th. Click [HERE](#) for a map.



The Save Our wild Salmon Coalition and many other non-tribal groups are working to support these tribally-led events by boosting turnout. [Here's a link to a web page with more details](#) and the entire schedule of the journey.

The strong and insistent voices of Northwest Tribes have been essential in creating the political and legal openings that give us hope of finally solving these intractable issues in a way that recovers endangered salmonids and orcas, while bringing everyone forward together. Support for those indigenous voices by non-tribal Northwesterners has a powerful multiplier effect.

The 34th District Democrats [passed a resolution](#) at our November 10, 2021 membership meeting in support the Northwest Tribes in their efforts in salmon recovery and of the breaching the four lower Snake River dams.

Training Opportunities for Democratic Activists

“T3 - Train The Trainer” opportunities are coming up with the Best Practices Institute of the DNC. This is a great chance for local parties, candidates, and volunteers to get the most up-to-date training on how to campaign and organize. From fundraising, to volunteer recruitment, to digital mobilization and grassroots organizing - this program covers everything you need to activate and engage Democrats in your community!

The T3 webinar training program is a FREE, six-week, twelve-part course, covering several aspects of grassroots campaigning. T3 trainings are targeted towards volunteers and activists of all levels, and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-5:00 PM PT, beginning on May 24 and concluding on June 30. If you miss a session “live”, you can catch up via recorded sessions.

Participants must register by Sunday, May 22, and complete all sessions in order to receive certification, and we will recognize all certified participants, too. All training sessions will include a skills test to track retention and participation.

If you are interested, [sign up for the training here](#). WA has led the nation with hundreds of people trained - be one of them!

May PCO Filing Week Is Coming Soon

Online PCO filing will be available 24 hours a day starting **May 16**, 2022, at 9 a.m. and ending **May 20**, 2022, at 4 p.m. Please review the excellent resources available on the King County Election Website:

Find the *PCO Manual* and *How to File Handout* [HERE](#)

Find your District and Precinct [HERE](#)

Watch a tutorial on how to file for PCO [HERE](#)

Questions? Contact Nick Bonazza, PCO Committee Chair at: nick5669@gmail.com

King County Democrats PCO Training

[Sign up for PCO 101](#), a valuable introduction, or refresher on the role of PCO, May 21, 10am or June 18, 10am

34th District Democrats Outreach Committee Events for 2022

Things are beginning to open up after 2 years of being socially distanced, with usual annual events being cancelled. Below is what we have scheduled...so far. We are continuing to look for events at which we can engage with the community to register voters, provide information on our endorsed candidates, and promote our organization. We hope this list will grow, let us know if you hear of other events. Come out and join in these fun events this spring and summer!

Contact outreach@34dems.org for more information

Adopt-A-Street	Saturday, May 21	1pm - 3pm	16th Ave SW at Roxbury
Burien Pride	Saturday, June 4	10am - 6pm	Burien Town Center Park
Burien Wild Strawberry Festival	Saturday, June 18	10am - 6pm	Burien Town Center Park
	Sunday, June 19	10am - 4pm	
Morgan Junction Festival	Saturday, June 18		Participation TBD
Burien Independence Day Parade	Monday, July 4	3pm - 5pm	SW 153rd and 6th Ave. SW
West Seattle Grand Parade	Saturday, July 23	11am - 2 pm	California and Lander
Boulevard Park Block Party	Saturday August 13	12pm - 6pm	1832 S. 120th St.
Adopt-A-Street	Saturday, September	1pm - 3pm	16th Ave SW at Roxbury
B-Town Fiesta	Saturday, September 24	10am - 6pm	Burien Town Center Park

Pictures from the April 22nd Pop Up Social



Seattle Area African American Writers Alliance Program

On April 15th, Equity & Social Justice Committee Chair **Soleil Lewis** introduced a trio of Black women writers from the [African American Writers Alliance](#). This group is a diverse collective of Seattle-area writers of African descent. It provides a forum for new and published writers. They help one another polish skills, provide peer review, and create opportunities for public readings and other media venues.

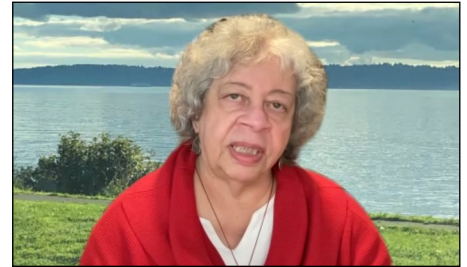
Margaret Barrie, Noni Ervin, and Lola E. Peters discussed and read portions of their work, as well as delving into politics, with critiques of the Democratic Party and its relationship to people of color.



Margaret Barrie



Noni Ervin



Lola E. Peters

Justice Barbara Madsen Seeks Our Endorsement



Justice Barbara Madsen is running for re-election, and she's asking for our support. Following is an account of her accomplishments.

In 1998, she was appointed chair of the Washington State Gender and Justice Commission. The Commission, partnering with other community groups, succeeded in passing legislation banning the shackling of women prisoners during labor. Under her direction, the Commission has produced the Domestic Violence Manual for Judges, the Sexual Orientation Benchguide, the Sexual Offense Benchguide, and the Immigration Resource Guide for Judges, in partnership with the Minority and Justice Commission, as well as developing judicial education on a wide variety of gender issues and

model policies designed to enhance the safety of victims of domestic violence. Additional accomplishments:

- In 2001, Justice Madsen facilitated Washington's first Glass Ceiling Study.
- In 2004, Justice Madsen co-chaired the Crystal Brame Committee which secured legislation requiring all police agencies to adopt investigation protocol for police perpetrated domestic violence and sexual assault.
- In 2005, she helped establish the Initiative for Diversity, a program encouraging legal employers to commit to and implement organizational plans to increase diversity. As chief justice, Madsen was instrumental in the development of a limited legal license technician program, the first in the nation, to address the critical justice gap for low- and moderate-income people.
- In 2013, Justice Madsen led the Supreme Court efforts to develop the Tribal State Court Consortium, encouraging and building partnerships among tribal and state judicial officers.
- In 2019, Justice Madsen was appointed co-chair of the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care, in which stakeholders work to improve court processes, laws, regulations and policies so children can move safely and quickly into stable homes, through reunification with parents or through adoption.
- In 2020, she was appointed chair of the Judicial Information System Committee. The committee oversees information technology for Washington courts, automating and supporting the daily operations of the courts and maintaining a statewide network connecting the courts and partner criminal justice agencies to the JIS database.

Madsen was elected as the third woman to serve on the Washington Supreme Court in 1992. Justice Madsen was unanimously elected by her colleagues to serve two terms as the 55th Chief Justice of the WA State Supreme Court, from 2010-2017.

For more information and to donate visit: RetainMadsen.com

A Resolution Stating the 34th Democratic Legislative District's Preferred Alternative for a West Seattle Extension and Calling for a New Independent Study

Whereas, Sound Transit (ST) issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the West Seattle Ballard Extension alternatives and is currently receiving public comment on the DEIS; and

Whereas, ST3 includes light rail construction in South Downtown (SODO) and West Seattle, areas located within the 34th Legislative District: and

Whereas, the members of the 34th LD Democratic Organization live and work in these areas and have a substantial interest in the location, mode, construction, operation and costs of future transportation in this community; and

Whereas, having reviewed the DEIS they find the following issues and concerns:

- The document does not adequately address the years of traffic congestion and obstruction, noise and greenhouse gasses emitted during construction of any light rail alternative.
- Nor does it observe the disruption and destruction of mature urban tree canopy, which cannot be replaced. Trees help control stormwater runoff, improve air quality, provide wildlife habitat, and sequester carbon emissions.
- The DEIS does address the loss of 658 housing units, 120 businesses and 1,140 jobs in the Delridge, Duwamish and Junction neighborhoods of West Seattle alone – not including impacts on the International District. These losses will seriously harm our community and cannot be easily or cheaply mitigated.
- The increase in cost of the West Seattle extension and delay in completion until at least 2032 will result in added environmental impacts related to climate altering emissions, air quality and other effects. We are concerned that these impacts make any light rail alternative untenable and speak to the need for a cheaper, more rapidly deployable option.

Whereas, a new alternative, an urban aerial gondola, has been identified that is not addressed in the DEIS, but shows promise in its cost, faster implementation schedule and reduced environmental impacts; and

Whereas, such major urban systems have been successfully implemented in cities such as Ankara, Turkey; Mexico City; and La Paz, Bolivia, where they can carry as many as 4,500 passengers per hour, as opposed to the projected 3,200 per hour for the preferred light rail alternative. The cumulative impacts of that differential would be substantial; and

Whereas, it is projected the gondola system could be operational by 2026, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced/avoided more than six years sooner than the preferred alternative;

Whereas, it is also projected that the gondola system would cost 1/10 that of any light rail alternative;

Now therefore be it resolved, the 34th District Democratic Organization prefers an aerial urban gondola system to serve the transportation needs of our community, over any proposed light rail alternative, and urges Sound Transit to contract with an independent consultant for a new study of the gondola system compared with the light rail for West Seattle, including projected cost, completion date and environmental impacts.

Be it further resolved, this resolution be sent to the Sound Transit Board as our comments to the DEIS and to the Seattle Mayor and City Council for their consideration.

Submitted by Randy Litzenberger, co-chair of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Caucus of the 34th District Democrats.

Resolution in Support of the Keep Our Care Act

Whereas, mergers and acquisitions between health care entities, i.e., hospitals, hospital systems, and provider organizations are prolific across the country and in Washington State, negatively impact cost, quality, wait times, and access to legal health care services; and in Washington State these health care entity consolidations receive minimal oversight, allowing large health care systems to dictate patients' access to care, including reproductive, end-of-life, and gender-affirming care while in other states such as Oregon, Massachusetts, and California they have regulations which require oversight of mergers & acquisitions of health care entities[1]; and

Whereas, mergers and acquisitions have been proven to drive up costs for patients in Washington State and leaving communities without access to public health care as noted in 2017 when Washington's Attorney General sued CHI Franciscan in a federal anti-trust lawsuit regarding consolidations that resulted in raised prices, increased wait times, and reduced services and locations[2]; and

Whereas, A recent study by The New England Journal of Medicine found that hospital acquisitions are associated with moderately worse patient experiences. Washington hospital data indicates that our health system ranks poorly in quality measures, with patient satisfaction scores that are lower than independent hospitals; and

Whereas, these consolidations restrict staff, in faith-based consolidated care centers, from providing legal, critical services, and yet they continue to take taxpayer dollars. Due to these consolidations and mergers, Washington State's hospitals were in 2021 49% religious based[3]; and

Whereas, mergers and acquisitions exacerbate systemic inequities. Private health systems' efforts to increase revenues leads to worsening health care access and outcomes for Medicaid patients, disproportionately People of Color. About 30% of the population in Washington State identifies as non-white, but over 40% of WA State Apple Health patients are People of Color.

Therefore, be it resolved, the 34th Legislative District Democrats urge our Washington State legislators to pass and the governor to sign the Keep Our Care Act, to join other states, such as Oregon, Massachusetts, and California:

- To prohibit health care entity consolidations that diminish access to affordable quality care;
- To require Attorney General oversight, compliance, and enforcement power to ensure health care consolidations do not negatively impact access to health care services
- To institute a health equity assessment so that consolidations/mergers address the needs of marginalized communities; and
- To institute public hearings and comment opportunities prior to proposed consolidations; and

Therefore, be it finally resolved, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the WA State Legislators and the Governor.

[1] Oregon House Bill 2362 and Information About Material Change Notices/Cost and Market Impact Reviews | Mass.gov and Examining the Authority of California's Attorney General in Health Care Mergers

[2] Attorney General Ferguson: CHI Franciscan will pay up to \$2.5 million over anti-competitive Kitsap deals "Privately, in documents obtained during the Attorney General's Office's investigation, officials at CHI Franciscan and The Doctor's Clinic (TDC) discussed the deals as a boon to their bottom line and harmful to patient care. CHI Franciscan's Chief Financial Officer, Mike Fitzgerald, wrote in an email: 'I am all for taking advantage of hospital-based pricing. ... It would be great to drop a couple of million more to our bottom line, if we think we can do it.'"

TDC's former physician president succinctly summarized these effects ...: "I can't wait to hear how CHI [Franciscan] messages the addition of TDC to [Franciscan Medical Group]. 'You can now get your outpatient care in a complex, relatively unsafe, and vastly more expensive location. You are welcome, Kitsap County...'"

[3] [3] Hospital Merger in Washington State Stokes Fears About Catholic Limits on Care | Kaiser Health News With the Virginia Mason Merger with CHI Franciscan on January 7, 2021, the number of Catholic Hospital beds in WA State increased from 48% to 49% placing WA State as the state with the 2nd highest number of Catholic based hospital beds with Alaska at 49.25%.

Submitted by Roxanne Thayer, 34th District Representative to the WA Democratic Party and member of the 34th District Democrats Healthcare Caucus.



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