Burien Georgetown

Pioneer Square

SODO

South Park

West Seattle

White Center

Vashon/Maury Island

Chair's Message

Happy tax season! I get a strange joy out of the tedium of finding and organizing all the paperwork necessary to complete convoluted tax forms. I probably would have enjoyed a job as an accountant if not for the math of it all. What I don't enjoy is knowing I live in a state with the most regressive tax regime in the country. In Washington State, the lowest-earning residents "pay almost 18% of their annual incomes in state and local taxes, while the wealthiest chip in 3%." Our approach to taxes also disproportionately impacts communities of color.

Thankfully, we have some reason to celebrate this tax season! Our State Supreme Court recently upheld a law Democrats passed to impose a 7% tax on capital gains that exceed a \$250,000 threshold. This sound decision will not only get more resources to support early learning and childcare for those communities most in need, but it also gets us closer to ensuring our wealthiest Washingtonians pay their fair share in taxes. Additionally, a new Washington Working Families Tax Credit gets regressive tax money back to those who need it.

Those of us who have access to significant personal resources have an obligation to give back through taxes and advocate for a more equitable system that creates a strong middle class and helps lift people out of poverty. There are big things only the government can do and that we all benefit from, like building roads and bridges, educating our young people and future workforce, and protecting our environment. It is immoral to put the burden on those with the least means to pay for the big things we all enjoy. And it is unconscionable to uphold a tax system that perpetuates and worsens income inequality.

I am proud that our membership recently adopted a resolution to support a <u>tax on extreme wealth</u>. This also supports our march toward a more equitable tax system that ensures resources get to those in our community most in need.

There's more to be done, and this year there's progress to celebrate.

Graham Murphy, Chair

PS - Remember to file your taxes by April 18th!



Meeting Notice April 12, 2023

On Zoom, Register **HERE**

6:30 Pre-Meeting Programming -

Peter Donaldson from Sustainability Ambassadors will talk about that group's work toward a sustainable future. Joining him will be students who will participate in the presentation.

www.sustainabilityambassadors.org/

7:30 Call to Order

Meeting Business

Approve Agenda Approve Minutes

Opening Ceremonies

Land Acknowledgement

VIP Acknowledgement and Announcements

Candidate Spotlights

Mayor Sofia Aragon, King Co. Council D8 Candidate Maren Costa, Seattle City Council D1 Candidate Preston Anderson, Seattle City Council D1 Candidate Rob Saka, Seattle City Council D1 Candidate

State Committee Member (male/nonbinary) Election

King County Minimum Wage Campaigns Update and Q&A with Katie Wilson, <u>Transit Riders Union</u>

Learn about the Campaign to Reconnect South Park and O&A with Maria G. Ramirez, Project Manager

PCO Appointments and GOTV Call to Action

2023 Budget Approval

March Budget Report

Good of the Order

9:10 Adjournment

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Executive Board 2023-2024

Elected Officers

Graham Murphy | Chair chair@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | 1st Vice Chair vicechair1@34dems.org

Jordan Crawley | 2nd Vice Chair vicechair2@34dems.org

Vacant | State Committee Person wsdccm@34dems.org

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

Bunny Hatcher | King Co. Committeeperson kcdccw@34dems.org

Ted Barker | King Co. Committeeperson kcdccm@34dems.org

Leah Griffin | King Co. Committee kcdccwa@34dems.org

Preston Anderson | King Co. Committee kcdccma@34dems.org

Steve Butts | Secretary secretary@34dems.org

Julie Whitaker | Treasurer treasurer@34dems.org

Committee Chairs

Jordan Crawley | Bylaws & Rules bylaws@34dems.org

Vacant | Caucus and Elections

Vacant | Community Partnerships

Carla Rogers | Communications digcomm@34dems.org

Ann Martin | Endorsements & Resolutions endorse-reso@34dems.org

Vacant | Equity & Social Justice

Vacant | Fundraising & Events

Vacant | Membership & Hospitality

Steve Butts | Outreach outreach@34dems.org

Dorothy Gesick | PCO Coordination pco@34dems.org

Jordan Crawley | Platform & Legislative Action lac@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | Programs vicechair1@34dems.org

Vacant | Young Democrats Liaison

Other Roles

Carla Rogers | Webmaster webmaster@34dems.org

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor newsletter@34dems.org

Gina Topp | Parliamentarian

Seeking Committee Chairs

We are looking for members to raise their hand to join our new Board as chairs of committees critical to our goals for this term:

Membership & Hospitality Chair: We need your help to recruit and retain existing members, as we as certify all PCOs and members who are eligible to vote. This role will help ensure our endorsement processes go smoothy! You also get to be our preeminent host and create warm and welcoming gatherings for all members, their families, and guests.

Fundraising and Events Chair: We need you helping ensuring we raise necessary resources to support our endorsed candidates and run an effective Democratic membership organization. You'll get to lead our major annual fundraiser and additional events that bring our membership together.

You can raise your hand, express interest, and find out more by emailing chair@34dems.org.

State Committee Officer (male/nonbinary) Election

We will be holding an election for a new State Committee Officer (male or non-binary) at our April membership meeting. If you are interested in running for this role on the 34th Executive Board, please contact Graham at chair@34dems.org.

Only duly elected PCO's elected for the 2023-2024 term (in the 2022 Primary) may vote for State Committee Officers.

Each candidate who is nominated in advance shall be allowed to submit a written statement to the Chair and Secretary of the district no later than April 7th or (5) days before the virtual election. Submitted statements received by the deadline will be included in the weekly email of the district, the Sunday prior to any virtual election being held. Statements can be no more than 350 words.

Each nominated candidate will be offered an opportunity to give a speech no longer than three (3) minutes. Speeches will be given in the order in which candidates were nominated.

For more information on the election process, please refer to our January newsletter: 2023-January-Newsletter.pdf (34dems.org)

Join the April Pop-Up Social - April 28th, at PROST!

Talk Issues, Current Events and Chat with Special Guests. Join Us!



34th Pop Up Social

Last month we had three 2023 candidates at our March Pop-Up Social in Burien! Don't miss our April social to be held at:

PROST! in West Seattle 3407 California Ave SW

Join us anytime between 5:30 - 8 to talk politics and our upcoming elections!

www.prostwestseattle.com

Mark Your Calendar! Participate with the 34th at the OneSeattle Day of Service!

The 34th District will show our Democratic values by participating in the **OneSeattle Day of Service on Saturday, May 20th** this year. The One Seattle Day of Service is a citywide day of volunteerism to give back and take action to improve the city we love.

The event invites every Seattle neighbor to roll up your sleeves, come together, and give back, with volunteer opportunities in each neighborhood across the City. Joining together a diverse group of public, private, and non-profit partners and organizations, the City will provide a wide array of service opportunities including cleaning and beautification, gardening and restoration, helping neighbors in need, and more.



Stay tuned to our weekly email and next month's newsletter for more details. Email digcomm@34dems.org to volunteer!



April Board Meeting

This month's Board meeting will take place at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 19 on Zoom.

Please contact chair@34dems.org if you are interested in attending.



Help Build Behavioral Health Across King County

The lack of walk-in care, and behavioral health providers

and workforce across our region has put our behavioral health system, and the neighbors who depend on it in crisis.

King County Prop 1 on our April 25th ballot will invest in a countywide network of five crisis care centers, including a center for serving youth, restore residential treatment beds, and support the recruitment and retention of community behavioral health workforce.....More Info HERE

Text Banking Opportunities:

Tuesday, April 4 @ 5:30-7:00pm - Texting the Eastside! Wednesday, April 12 @ 5:30-7:00pm - Texting Seattle! Wednesday, April 19 @ 5:30-7:00pm - Texting South King! Monday, April 24 @ 5:30-7:00pm - Final GOTV Push!

RSVP on Facebook: https://fb.me/e/3mcJ28Bfh
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88179187852



Download the Flyer!

Help with GOTV In the 34th!

Contact PCO Chair

Dorothy Gesick pco@34dems.org

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator Joe Nguyen Assistant Floor Leader

Environment, Energy & Technology (Chair) Human Services, Ways & Means

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



Representative **Emily Alvarado**

Housing (Vice Chair) Local Government (Vice Chair) Capital Budget

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



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Appropriations, Rules 339A Legislative 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 May 2023 newsletter will be Thursday, April 27.

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

Don't Miss Out on Voting for Endorsements!

We are counting down to one of the most exciting benefits of being a member of the 34th District Democrats - Endorsement Season! Don't miss your opportunity to weigh in on who the 34th will endorse in the 2023 cycle! EVERY



MEMBER HAS A VOTE! This year we will consider endorsement for the following elections:

- King County Council District 8
- District 1 and 7 (due to redistricting) Seattle City Council
- Burien City Council Positions 2, 4, 6
- Port of Seattle Positions 2 and 5
- · 4 Seattle School Board Directors
- · 3 Highline School Board Directors
- 4 Vashon School Board Directors
 Many commissioner roles and judges over 40 total elections in 2023!

Are you already a member or PCO? Awesome! You are ready to vote. Check our current member list if you aren't sure.

You must be a 2023 member or PCO in order to vote!

- Renewing members (those who were members in 2022) have until 8pm on June 13th to join.
- New members (those who were not a member in 2022) must join by **8pm on May 9th.**

Get it done so you can make your voice heard! Join or Renew today at https://bit.ly/join34dems



Burien Mayor and candidate for King County Council Sofia Aragon, and Seattle City Council candidates Stephen Brown and Rob Saka joined us at the March Pop Up at the Elliott Bay Brewery in Burien.

Committee Updates

Bylaws and Rules Committee

The committee facilitated the Board sending out updated standing rules to membership for review and comment. They will be approved at the April Executive Board meeting.

To join the committee and find out more, email: vicechair2@34dems.org

Communications Committee

This month, along with the regular weekly and meeting/event emails, the committee spent time preparing for a few upcoming events and initiatives. We worked on graphics for our organization document changes and updates, the May 20 OneSeattle Day of Service and our upcoming candidate forums (yes, we work ahead!). The Committee has been sharing updates on Slack (sign up!) and Facebook as new candidates launch their campaigns. As always, the Committee updated the homepage of our website with meeting registration, agenda and pop-up social details. The programs hub page now has a link to our March pre-meeting program and membership meeting.

To join the committee and find out more, email: digcomm@34dems.org

Platform and Legislative Action Committee

The Committee encourages you to get involved in our Membership Policy Caucuses!

To join the committee and find out more, email: vicechair2@34dems.org

Outreach Committee

The Committee met with Jackie Boschok, Chair of the 33rd District Democrats, to review events in Burien and our joint activities. They will pay for a booth at Burien Pride and Burien Strawberry Festival in June. We will pick up the cost for the B-Town Fiesta in September. We will bring our tent and tables.

We have submitted an application to participate in the White Center Cambodian New Year Festival, which will be held on Saturday, April 29.

Discussions with a few key committee members led to picking Monday, March 13, to hold a meeting on Zoom open to all to review events we have on the calendar so far, and set some dates for other activities such as our Adopt-A-Street obligations.

To join the committee and find out more, email: outreach@34dems.org

PCO Committee

We appointed our newest PCO,Drew Estep with the WA Dems, at the March 8th membership meeting. We remain hopeful that the city and county council elections will draw interest to

vote for endorsements. Our PCO chair plans to be present at as many outreach events as possible for recruitment. Recruitment is the priority!

To join the committee and find out more, email: pco@34dems.org

Programs Committee

We organized the Pre-Meeting program (for March 8th), with Steve Daschle, ED of Southwest Youth and Family Services. The program drew positive feedback from members and we will be in touch with Steve about how the 34th can get involved with SWYFS's current capital campaign, which Steve discussed in his presentation.

To join the committee and find out more, email: vicechair1@34dems.org

Resolutions and Endorsements Committee

At the March 8 membership meeting, the resolution supporting a property tax of 1% on extreme wealth was passed. The resolution was forwarded to our 34th LD legislators, KCDCC and the state party.

We participated in a stakeholder meeting discussing the possible passage of a minimum wage ordinance for unincorporated King County urban areas - Skyway, White Center and Vashon. There is an active proposal to pass a minimum wage ordinance in Burien, which the committee will consider for the April Board meeting. We will wait to meet to discuss the resolution until our new committee member returns from India. Consideration before June is likely to be timely.

To join the committee and find out more, email: endorse-reso@34dems.org



State Committeeperson posts "spitball" suggestions at the Executive Board Strategy and Ideation Session March 18th.

In Case You Missed It... March Meeting Recap

Pre-Meeting Program Southwest Youth and Family Services

Steve Daschle, director of <u>SWYFS</u>, was guest speaker at the March pre-meeting program. He described the work his organization does in our district. The multi-service



Steve Daschle

agency has been in operation since 1979, Daschle took the lead in 1988.

With a \$7 million budget and 92 employees, SWYFS serves about 2,600

families annually, helping with counseling in several contexts such as in area schools, educational programs to keep children engaged in school, and family resources through home visits and facilities onsite at large apartment complexes with its New Futures program that is designed to help support working families providing afterschool programs and skills training...serving as a "second living room".

SWYFS also has a family resource center focused on immigrants and refugees providing help navigating unfamiliar systems in our society. Home visits are provided to strengthen communication bonds between parent and child and to serve as early intervention to help the child focus on school.

The organization is near completion of a \$45 million capital campaign working with area group Community Roots Housing to build several housing projects, with human services as a key component of each site. The biggest of these will be on the site of the current White Center Food Bank and will have 76 affordable housing units. This site will also be home to SWYFS, the White Center Community Development Association, feature numerous facilities for youth, and a healthcare center.

Daschle lamented the fact that those who work in the human services sector are not well-paid, earning 37% less than comparable positions in other industries. Sometimes they themselves are beneficiaries of the very benefits they help others to obtain. Filling positions and maintaining employees is a major issue, one that can affect the quality and quantity of the services provided.

A University of Washington study attempts to address these funding issues, and it is being published around the area to highlight this funding deficit. A funding mechanism built on the national Consumer Price Index would help keep funding levels constant from year to year.

The SWYFS is part <u>Seattle Human Services Coalition</u>, a group designed for service agencies to speak with one voice when dealing with government.

A YouTube recording of the program is HERE.

The business meeting began about 7:30, and we learned as Chair **Graham Murphy** gave his announcements that our long-time male State Party Committeeperson, **Chris Porter**, would be stepping down from that position at the end of March. Graham assured us that he and Chris are exploring other roles for Chris in the organization.

VIPs in the House! Burien Mayor Sofia Aragon rose to mention that the City of Burien is celebrating its 30th anniversary of its incorporation...Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda informed us that there will be a three-month comment period starting in April for citizens to weigh in on a Seattle Housing Levy, scheduled for the November election...County Councilmember Joe McDermott spoke about legislation he is working on to help alleviate some of the issues facing residents near the King County Airport, such as noise, adverse health effects, and traffic problems. He is not seeking reelection this year...King Conservation District Board Member Chris **Porter** thanked us for our support in his reelection bid. Although he was unsuccessful, he will still advocate for conservation efforts, especially for pollinators...Former Burien Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx and Drew Estep, Party Affairs Director of the Washington State Democrats, were also present and acknowledged by the Chair.

Candidate Spotlight brought **Teresa Mosqueda** back to the floor, who will be running for King County Councilperson Position 8, the seat currently held by outgoing Joe McDermott. **Krystal Marx** is seeking the Burien City Council Position 6, which is being vacated by Sofia Aragon. King County Judge **Coreen Wilson** is running to retain her seat; Governor Inslee appointed her to the office in 2022.

We also received an update on the <u>Yes on Prop. 1 – the Crisis Care Centers Levy</u> coming on April 25th. Campaign spokesperson **Ryan Haskins** said there would be phone and text banking opportunities, but there wasn't a plan to

send direct mailings to voters. (However it was subsequently announced that there would be such direct outreach.)

Resolution: In Support of a Tax on Extreme Wealth

A resolution in support of legislation being sponsored by **Sen. Joe Nguyen** and **Rep. Emily Alvarado** for a state tax on extreme wealth was brought forth by Bunny Hatcher and explained by Ann Martin.
Chris Porter moved, and Julie Whitaker seconded a motion to adopt. Bunny spoke in favor of the resolution. It was passed by a Zoom poll vote of 30 to 2. **Read the Resolution HERE**.

Work is underway by an ad hoc committee to plan candidate forums/debates. Seattle Council District 1 and County District 8 will be prioritized and the 34th will work with the 33rd for Burien City Council forums and will consider endorsing in overlapping Seattle Districts if approached. Chair Murphy urged members to verify their membership status to be assured that they are eligible to vote (See Page 4).

We are seeking to hold quarterly in-person meetings, or a minimum of two per year, starting the second quarter of this year on this topic. Chair Murphy spoke about results of a membership survey on this subject. While virtual meetings are more accessible, with less transportation issues, in-person meetings are more conducive to social interaction between members and access to elected officials. It was also noted that shorter meetings are preferred.

PCO Appointment

PCO Committee Chair **Dorothy Gesick** inducted a new PCO. **Drew Estep**, a State Party staffer who was recognized earlier in the meeting. He will be assuming duties in Sylvan Precinct in White Center. In addition to his role at the state party, many of us will remember Drew as our district's Coordinated Campaign leader in 2016.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Julie Whitaker** gave the financial report. **Chris Porter** rose to remark on how well off the 34th is in comparison to many other LDs in the state. All funds will be out of Umpqua Bank by the end of the fiscal year and will be transferred into the BECU. All further financial activities will be done through that credit union. Membership was at 137, including 66 PCOs, as of March 6, 2023.

Good of the Order

Steve Butts announced that there would be an evening Outreach meeting on Zoom Monday, March 13...**Dorothy Gesick** noted that there is growing public concern over public safety and that we should not ignore this sentiment...**Chris Porter** reflected that while he enjoyed the pre-meeting program, he felt we missed an opportunity to have a special program to celebrate Women's Day, which fell on the date of our March meeting...**Ann Martin** came forward to say that the program for the March meeting of the West Seattle Democratic Women would be on indigenous women.

Watch the YouTube recording of the meeting **HERE**.



Ryan Haskins, spokesperson reviews the King County Prop. 1 - Crisis Care Centers Levy.



Judge Coreen Wilson is seeking to retain her seat on the King County Superior Court.



Seattle City Councilperson Teresa Mosqueda is running for King County Council this year.



Drew Estep is the new PCO for Silvan Precinct in White Center.

Meeting Notes From King County Democratic Central Committee

Notes From the March 28th Meeting...

In her report Chair Carrie Barnes noted the need for more volunteers for various committees. She noted that the Endorsement Committee work leads to 94% of KCDCC-endorsed primary candidates moving forward to the general election. She concluded with a reminder of the importance of organizing and volunteering to support the Behavioral Health Levy which will be on the April 25th ballot.

Code of Conduct Committee members Catherine Creason, Jen Carter, Crystal Finsher and E.J. Juarez were unanimously confirmed.

The Candidate Questionnaires prepared by the Endorsement Committee were adopted, with the striking of one question on the Judicial Questionnaire. A proposed Light Rail question addition was deferred to possible candidate interview questions.

The 2023 Budget was adopted, with the inclusion of a paid staff position. Melissa Taylor offered the Treasurer's Report. Kristina reported on the activities of the Candidate Recruitment and Support Committee and noted plans to reach out to strong democrats via text messaging.

Paul Chapman sought support for the Wealth Tax Resolution already passed by most King County LDs, including the 34th, and it passed unanimously by acclamation.

...and From the Meeting on February 28th

Chair Barnes reported on the work being done by the DEI, Outreach & Candidate Recruitment, and Endorsement Committees, and reiterated the need for Democrats to have candidates running for every one of the 311 seats up for election this year. She recapped the February 14th Special Election results as well, noting the passage of I-135 and failure of the Enumclaw School District Levy.

Vice-Chair Jeremy Barksdale and County Executive Dow Constantine provided information on the upcoming April 25th Special Election on the proposed Crisis Care Centers Levy. This would create 5 walk-in clinics offering immediate mental health care, and one of these would be strictly dedicated to youth. Constantine asked for a KCDCC endorsement of this levy, and it was endorsed unanimously by voting members.

Guest speakers Lisa Daugaard (Public Defenders Association), Brandi Flood (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion/LEAD), and Dominique Davis (Third Avenue Project/TAP), provided a powerful presentation on what has been successful in lieu of police response when helping

highly marginalized people with behavioral health issues, especially those who are unsheltered and dealing with trauma history and substance use disorder.



Treasurer Melissa Taylor reviewed the budget structure and Standing Rules and presented the Treasurer's report. Endorsement Committee Chair, Martin Chaney, urged members to review the final draft of the Candidate Questionnaires which will need final approval at the March 28th meeting, as candidate interviews are scheduled to begin by April 15. PCO Chair, Alexander Erickson, reported on PCO efforts in the successful passage of I-135 (Social Housing) in the recent special election, cited available training, and called for more people to become PCOs.

Submitted by Bunny Hatcher, KCDCC Committeeperson

Here is Your Chance Review and Comment on Washington Democrats 2024 Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan - By April 29th.

<u>The Proposed 2024 Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan is now live and accepting public comment.</u> Both items can be accessed on <u>www.wa-democrats.org</u> via the <u>Party Documents Page</u>. The comment period runs until April 29.

The **Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan** (DSAAP) outlines how our State Convention, held every even year, functions, and how the delegates are elected. In addition, in presidential years, it outlines the process by which we elect individuals to represent Washington State at the Democratic National Convention. The document is drafted by the Rules and Affirmative Action Committees and is published for a 30-day public comment window – which is running now until April 29, after which, the Rules and Affirmative Action Committees will review all provided feedback and consider appropriate amendment. The State Central Committee will then consider and approve the plan as one of their primary items of business on May 6.

The document is lengthy, but it is also an important, foundational part of the work the Party does. It is worthwhile to bookmark it, and the <u>Party Documents Page</u>, for future reference as we head into the 2024 election cycle.

If you have questions, reach out to Drew Estep, Party Affairs: drew@wa-democrats.org



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

Return Service Requested



Join the 34th District Democrats!

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

The 34th District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879 Or join at online www.34dems.org/contribute/

·	-	
Name	Phone	
Address	Zip	
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*Employer	* Employer City	
* Required by Washington State Public Disclosure Commission/ Contributions are not tax deductible.		
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In the interest of protecting our environment and building funds to support endorsed candidates, the 34th District Democrats wish to communicate electronically.		
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State campaign finance law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, employer and city and state of employment for each individual whose contribution exceeds \$100 in the election cycle.