



## 34<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

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

### November's Meeting is In-Person with Catered Dinner!

Please join us on Wednesday, November 8th, for a special evening celebrating our 34th award winners, our election night victories, and a delicious catered dinner. Doors open at 6 PM for socializing and dinner, with our meeting kicking off at 7 PM. We look forward to seeing you at the **Alki Masonic Center**, located at 4736 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116. Ample parking is available!

### Chair's Message

I'm thrilled that the King County Council is discussing a minimum wage increase in unincorporated areas of the county. As shown in the agenda below, the Board is requesting members to vote in favor of a resolution endorsing this minimum wage proposal. Our Councilmember, Joe McDermott, expressed his appreciation for the 34th's support. Raising the minimum wage can have the following benefits:

- Raises earnings for low-wage workers.
- Lifts some workers out of poverty and makes housing more affordable.
- Narrows the income gap.
- Stimulates the local economy and boosts business activity.
- Makes the region more appealing to workers.

Increasing the minimum wage across the 34th, including in Burien and unincorporated areas, will remain a top priority during my tenure as Chair.

We also have some upcoming elections that we need to win, and only a week left to support our endorsed candidates!

Our endorsed candidates share our Democratic values, represent the diversity of our neighborhoods, and will bring a wealth of life experiences to their leadership roles. They are committed to ensuring that a multitude of voices and

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### Membership Meeting Notice

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

at the **Alki Masonic Temple - 4736 40th Ave SW**

Doors open at **6:00 PM** for social time.

**Call to Order and Chair Announcements - 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Business - 7:02 PM**

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes
- Budget Report (Julie Whitaker)

**Opening Ceremonies - 7:07 PM**

- Land Acknowledgement (Rachel Glass)
- VIP Acknowledgements and Announcements

**Minimum Wage Resolution for Unincorporated Areas of King County - 7:20**

The board voted to present this resolution to membership with a recommendation that it be adopted. **See Page 10.**

A motion will be considered and there will be up to four speeches.

**Awards Ceremony and Recognition of Retiring Elected Leaders (Chris Porter) - 7:30**

**Good of the Order - 8:30 PM**

**Adjournment - By 8:35 PM**

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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

**Ted Barker** | State Committee Person  
wsdccm@34dems.org

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

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

**Chris Porter** | King Co. Committeeperson  
kcdccm@34dems.org

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

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

**Julie Whitaker** | Treasurer  
treasurer@34dems.org

**Steve Butts** | Secretary  
secretary@34dems.org

### Committee Chairs

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

**Vacant** | Caucus and Elections

**Vacant** | Coalitions, Equity & Social Justice

**Carla Rogers** | Communications & Technology  
digcomm@34dems.org

**Vacant** | Fundraising & Events

**Hannah Cameron** | Membership & Hospitality  
membership@34dems.org

**Steve Butts** | Outreach and Visibility  
outreach@34dems.org

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

**Vacant** | Precinct Leadership  
pco@34dems.org

**Rachel Glass** | Programs & Community Partnerships  
vicechair1@34dems.org

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

**Rebecca Rego** | Young Democrats  
34yd@34dems.org

### Other Roles

**Carla Rogers** | Webmaster  
webmaster@34dems.org

**Steve Butts** | Newsletter Editor  
newsletter@34dems.org

**Gina Topp** | Parliamentarian

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perspectives are heard and considered. We are proud to endorse these candidates in competitive races who embody these ideals.

### Teresa Mosqueda - King County Council District 8

Teresa is known for her authenticity, principles, consistency, and honesty. You always know where she stands. Teresa is one of the hardest working elected leaders we know, and she is truly deserving of a place on the King County Council.

### Rob Saka - Seattle City Council District 1

Rob Saka is dedicated to making our city safer and better for all of us. His commitment to his Delridge neighborhood and his lived experience make him an excellent choice for this role.

### Fred Felleman - Port of Seattle Commissioner Position 5

With a lifelong dedication to environmental advocacy and community engagement, Fred is the candidate we need to represent our values.

### Debbie Carlsen - Seattle School Board District 1

Debbie is an experienced advocate for our Seattle schools, with a strong track record of supporting educational excellence. Her dedication to equitable education, community involvement, and student well-being sets her apart as a candidate who truly cares about our children's future.

### Gina Topp - Seattle School Board District 6

Gina Topp, our endorsed candidate for Seattle School Board District 6, is dedicated to service. I believe she has the potential to pursue the highest positions in government. However, her current mission is to improve our public school system for our children, and we wholeheartedly support her in this endeavor.

### Patricia Hudson - Burien City Council Position 4, and Krystal Marx - Burien City Council Position 6

The upcoming election in Burien is crucial, and we are proud to endorse Patricia Hudson and Krystal Marx for the Burien City Council. These leaders are dedicated to bringing the community together, solving critical issues, and working towards a better future. We need them so Burien can start making progress on critical issues again, including increasing the minimum wage.

### Stephanie Tidholm - Highline School Board District 1, and Carlos Ruiz - Highline School Board District 4

Stephanie Tidholm and Carlos Ruiz are indispensable candidates for the Highline School Board, deeply ingrained in their communities and the school district with strong neighborhood ties. Their unwavering dedication to students, teachers, and fostering healthy school communities is paramount, especially considering Carlos is running against a dangerous right-wing opponent, highlighting the urgency of electing him.

### Juniper Rogneby - Vashon Island School Director

Juniper's commitment to equity, accountability, and the well-being of all students is evident. We stand behind Juniper for a school board that values community voices and trust.

We also strongly support **Sam Cho** for Port of Seattle, **John Wilson** for King County Assessor, and passage of the **2023 Seattle Housing Levy**.

Don't forget to vote! Be sure to encourage your neighbors and friends to do the same. Let's work together to make sure our endorsed candidates win on November 7th!

--- **Graham**



## Call for Nominations for the 34th District Democrats Annual Awards

It is that time of year again to recognize members who have gone above and beyond. Please take a few moments to [fill out the quick nomination form](#). **All nominations are due by October 31st.**

Contact Awards Chair Chris Porter at [kcdccm@34dems.org](mailto:kcdccm@34dems.org).



## November Pop-Up Social -

### Post Election Version!

Join us on  
**Friday, November 10th,**  
starting at 5:30pm at:

**[Good Society](#)**

2701 California Ave SW

## Board Meeting Announcement

Our next 34th Executive Board meeting is Wednesday, **November 15th** at 7 PM via Zoom.

Contact [chair@34dems.org](mailto:chair@34dems.org) if you'd like more information



Chair Graham Murphy & Vice Chair Rachel Glass at the October meeting.



Les Erb, Steve Butts, Chris Weiss, Colin Murphy and Karen Richter all pose for Colin's dad, Graham, after finishing cleaning up 16th Avenue Southwest, our Adopt-A-Street.



Teresa Mosqueda and Dow Constantine at the October 21 Canvass kick-off at C&P Coffee.



Hannah Cameron and Rebecca Rego check folks in at our October meeting.



Jon Shields poses with Teresa Mosqueda at our October Meeting.

## 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

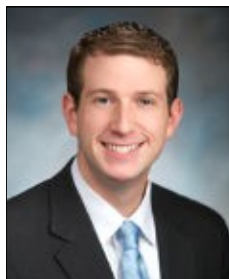
425 John L. O'Brien Building  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7978



### 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 December 2023 newsletter will be Thursday, November 30.**

Mail to Steve Butts,  
10254 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146  
or email to [newsletter@34dems.org](mailto:newsletter@34dems.org)

## Notes From the September 30, 2023 State Party Meeting

Shasti Conrad, Chair of the Washington State Democrats called the meeting to order. She urged us all to "be quick". As is usually the case it didn't work out quite that way.

Greg Abrahamson of the Spokane Tribes gave the Land Acknowledgement, and touched on all the things the tribe has been able to accomplish for its members, including their Salmon Restoration Project. He then made some poignant observations about being a grandparent and how among native peoples in the Spokane area so many people don't get to be grandparents and so many kids don't get to have them because life expectancy is so short. It is changing for the better.

Majority Leader **Andy Billig** gave the welcome address – Andy represents the 3rd LD and spoke of the challenges facing the Spokane area. Including the lowest median income of all LDs in Washington. He also spoke of what has been done since the establishment of a Democratic majority in the legislature. These include measures increasing voter access, gun control, climate action, increase special education, create and fund a housing trust fund. Democratic electoral goals for the legislature include keeping the 24th and 28th and flipping the 10th. He also stressed how Spokane is a Democratic outpost in a sea of red in Eastern Washington. The races there are critically important.

**Chairs Report – Shasti Conrad** spoke of accomplishments this year including new staff and new organizational structure:

- Bhavik Lathia – Senior Mobilization Director
- Drew Estep – Senior Political Director
- Heather Hess – Senior Operations Director

Also discussed were investments in statewide efforts that include travel to red parts of the state, local grants to LD & County orgs. The state party was able to secure a \$40K grant from the DNC for efforts in Spokane. Fundraising was covered. The state party is setting new records in fundraising. YTD 2023 is \$2.05 Million.

Plans for the 2024 Coordinated Campaign were also covered key points were:

- Local hires for local organizers.
- Hiring staff sooner.
- Digital and relational campaign efforts from the state party.
- Transparency with all partners.

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## DNC Member Reports

**David Green**, Vice Chair, talked about a new measure to require signatures to get candidates on 2024 Presidential ballot. 2,000 signatures required. He also gave update on June chairs meeting

**Sophia Dannenburg** gave her first report, as she was recently elected to the DNC. Not knowing which caucuses would be best to join, she's joined them all!

**Javier Valdez** spoke about how much he's impressed with DNC Chair Jamie Harrison's work at the DNC and is supportive of his work in improving communications. Also, with efforts on the loss of votes from Black and Latino men.

Javier serves on the Credential Committee, giving Washington representation on all three permanent committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Rules and Bylaws. Many states don't have any representation.

**Sharon Mast** spoke about upcoming DNC meeting and resolutions to be considered:

- Resolution on high quality education.
- Resolution on 1st Amendment protections in Public Libraries.
- Resolution on Trans and Non-binary rights.
- Resolution to pass the PRO (Protecting Rights to Organize) Act, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murry in the 116th & 117th Congresses.

**David McDonald** sends out reports on Rules & Bylaws Committee (RBC) meetings. Highlights have been about the attempted reorganization efforts by the Alabama Democratic Party and the implications of using Rank Choice voting in primaries.

**Rules Committee** - There was a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party. The gist of this was to impose requirements on the various executive committees who meet to report out to their constituents in a timely manner the nature and results of these meetings. The committee amended this and put it to the WSDCC with a Do Pass recommendation. It failed to get the 2/3's of the vote required so failed. Then the original unamended version was brought to a vote where it also failed.

**Resolutions** - There were eight resolutions presented to the body at this meeting, six were giving a Do Pass recommendation by the Resolutions Committee. They were:

- Reinstate Total Ban on Stock Buybacks by Publicly Traded Firms
- STATE FOREST C SEQUESTRATION - Calling for Continued Natural Climate Solutions Investments in State Forestland
- Mature Forest Policy - Supporting the Adoption of a Mature Forest Policy for State Forestlands
- A Resolution in support of ending the state-wide ban on local rent controls
- Resolution in Support of a Washington Tax on Extreme Wealth (SB 5486 and HB 1473)
- Recovery Government Funded IP & Patents developed in whole or in part with taxpayer investments: Modification of Bayh-Dole

These all passed as a slate by voice vote.

Two other resolutions were presented to the body with a Do Not Pass recommendation. They were:

- Reforming SCOTUS Nomination and Confirmation Process. This failed
- Resolution to Advance Inclusive Education and Historical Recognition of Individuals With Disabilities in our Schools. This too failed.

There was a proposed rule change on resolutions. This after lengthy discussion this failed.

**Good of the order** - There were many items here. Most were of a local and or time sensitive nature. Here are a couple of interest:

There was an emphatic request to pay close attention to school board elections. This individual was speaking of Eastern Washington, but applicability to be wider. While there may be times that all candidates are Republicans some are truly much worse than others, think Mom's for Liberty. Hold your nose the support the least bad.

A person from Thurston County spoke about how the Republicans are training women candidates to present better, i.e. teach them what to and not to say. She made a cryptic reference to a group called "Project 42" but didn't really explain what they were. They can be found at: <https://www.pfortytwo.com> They seem to be a libertarian group that is either supporting a group called "A League of Their Own" or is just using this entity as a shell to conduct other operations. They are very opaque to say the least.

There were several Committee reports on the agenda still but we had used up our time so Shasti said they would be covered in an upcoming Zoom meeting.



## *In Case You Missed it: A Recap of Our September Meeting*

We were finally able to meet in person in October. We gathered at the Masonic Temple in the Alaska Junction area, a large hall with plenty of parking. A few members were also able to watch the proceedings online.

Chair **Graham Murphy** kicked off the meeting by listing a few of the events done since our last meeting:

- A canvassing event in Burien on October 7 included all our endorsed candidates in Burien, the Highline School District, KC D8 Candidate Teresa Mosqueda.
- A cleanup party on 16th Ave, our Adopt-A-Street.
- We participated with the 33LD Democrats in a joint Pop-Up Social.

Graham announced that assorted t-shirts from campaigns of various candidates were available for members to take. Ed Dupras brought them in from the estate of late 34th Democrats member Lois Elenich.

1st Vice Chair **Rachel Glass** gave the Land Acknowledgement. In keeping with her commitment to make these statements relevant, she suggested members donate to the Urban Native Education Alliance to provide meaningful support to Aboriginal peoples of the area. <https://www.urbannativeeducation.org/>

**Carla Rogers** announced a canvassing event to be held at C&P Coffee on Saturday, October 21. She spoke of the importance of in-person voter contact and urged all to donate two hours. She asked for a commitment from an initial five volunteers. **Peter Newbould, Steve Butts, Graham Murphy, Rachel Glass,** and **Chris Porter** stepped forward.

### **Guest Speakers**

We heard from our outgoing School Board member **Leslie Harris**, and **Chris Reykdal**, Washington's Superintendent of Public Instruction. **Nick Brown** introduced himself as a candidate for State Attorney General in 2024.

Leslie provided a few observations as her term in office comes

to a close. She lamented the fact that Seattle Schools needed to drain their rainy-day fund to cover deficits. Additionally, the district needed to make a difficult reconfiguration of classes 6 weeks into the school year, as enrollment proved to be lower than expected...even combining grades in some classes. She asked us to keep pressure on the state legislature to make sure the funding meets educational demands, noting as she has so often in the past that "McCleary is fake news"...our funding problems didn't end with that Supreme Court judgement.

She urged us to support Gina Topp in her race for the Seattle School Board. Leslie also believes that school board directors need to be reimbursed much better, given the time they devote to the position.

Superintendent Reykdal later gave a status report on the public schools in Washington State. The state ranks high in closing the learning gap between ethnic groups, English language arts and math, and high school students earning dual college credits. However, he said that public school enrollment is down due to causes such as changing demographics, and he noted wealthier families can access alternate choices outside of public school systems.

He warned that groups such as "Moms for Liberty" and right-wing social media figures seek to undermine support of public schools. They are pushing book bans and made-up issues such as the mis-defined and the abuse of the term "Critical Race Theory" as they seek to funnel kids into schools run by conservative religious groups. Ultra conservatives are targeting school boards across the state, and some have been successful in attaining seats. We need to flip those boards that become problematic.

Reykdal is proposing raising the wages of para-professional teachers to livable levels, and in line with what Leslie Harris

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*Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction*



*Highline School Board candidate Stephanie Tidholm and son.*



*Nick Brown, 2024 Candidate for Attorney General.*

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reminds us, the McCleary Decision was not the final solution to funding. Washington needs to devote the same percentage of its GDP as do other states.

We had the opportunity to meet and hear from Nick Brown, candidate for State Attorney General. He is originally from Pierce County, but now is a West Seattle resident...and a new member of the 34th District Democrats.

Brown attended Morehouse College, Harvard Law School, then served in the Army. Following that he spent 6 years in the justice department as an Assistant District Attorney working on fraud and violent crime cases. He then served in the Inslee administration, listing as an accomplishment there assisting with the capital punishment moratorium. He also drafted the text of the gun safety Initiative 1639 which was passed in 2018. In 2021 President Biden named Brown to be US Attorney for Western Washington in, a position he has left to seek the position as Washington's Attorney General next year.

#### **Potential strike action against Kaiser Permanente**

While a nation-wide strike looked to be coming to a conclusion, the contract in Washington was not to be up until the end of October. 34th member **Chris Lampkin**, Political Director at SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, introduced **Cathy Jessup**, a physical therapist at the Kaiser Burien Clinic. Jessup said that a strike is imminent and would begin on November 1st after their contract ends at the end of the month if no deal is struck.

Although nationally Kaiser is doing well, they are operating with "an austerity mindset" which affects staffing levels and facilities. Kaiser is not following through with promises given when they took over Group Health Cooperative. Jessup cited the newly built Burien clinic as an example. The facility is not large enough for increasing population growth in the area... while a promised West Seattle clinic has not yet even been put into the planning stage.

Increased staffing levels and higher wages are being sought for staff such as nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, technicians, social workers, and others. She provided a petition to sign in support of the union and asked that Kaiser members contact Kaiser Customer Service to voice their support.

Our ballots were due the following week, and as we prepared to get out the vote, we heard from a few of our slate of General Election Candidates:

**Teresa Mosqueda** is running for King County Council District 8.

Dow Constantine spoke for **Gina Topp**, the candidate for Seattle School Director, District 6.

**Rob Saka** is our endorsed candidate for Seattle City Council District 1.

**Stephanie Tidholm** and **Carlos Ruiz** are our picks for Highline School Board.

**Patricia Hudson** and **Kyrstal Marx** are running for Burien City Council seats.

#### **Good of the Order**

**Chris Porter** noted earlier in the meeting that October 11th was "Coming Out Day", and described how coming out is a process as a person informs family, friends, and coworkers about their sexual orientation...**Elizabeth Heath** informed us that the West Seattle Democratic Women meeting will feature a discussion on cruise ships and their local impact...**Leslie Harris** was to hold a community meeting of Seattle District 6 constituents Saturday, October 21st at the West Seattle Library...**Richard Bartlett** rose to express his pleasure at being able to see everyone in person...Chair Murphy announced that the Executive Board Meeting would be held Wednesday, October 18, and the November Membership Meeting would again be in person on November 8th.

*All photos this page by Jon Shields.*



*Cathy Jessup and Chris Lampkin speak of a potential Kaiser Strike.*



*Our endorsed Seattle Council Candidate Rob Saka.*



*Seattle School Director for D6 speaks of the issues the district faces.*

# Committee Updates

## **Bylaws and Rules Committee**

If you have suggested changes for the bylaws, please submit your draft language to [vicechair2@34dems.org](mailto:vicechair2@34dems.org) and [chair@34dems.org](mailto:chair@34dems.org) by Friday, December 1st. This gives us a month to get them ready to share with the Board in early-January and have them ready to be voted on by PCOs in February.

## **Communications and Technology Committee**

Activities from the communications and technology committee in October centered around the first in-person meeting of 2023 and of course our 2023 election. We attempted to hold a semi-hybrid meeting at Alki Masonic Center on October 11. We are also planning an in-person meeting in November where we will stream our meeting on YouTube. The meeting will also be available on our YouTube Channel. We also added a new board member - Rebecca Rego, which required updates on the website. Social media has been a bit slow lately as I have had too many responsibilities with several candidate campaigns on my plate.

I would love to have someone take over the Facebook page in 2024! The more you post, the more your followers will delight! Contact Carla at [digcomm@34dems.org](mailto:digcomm@34dems.org) to inquire!

## **Membership and Hospitality Committee**

In October, we supported the planning and day-of needs of our first in-person meeting of 2023! We had 41 people in attendance and additional folks joined online, and we like to think it was a success! We're continuing in that same vein with help planning the Nov 8th Awards ceremony.

The committee also continued our work of helping members manage their memberships, and we helped multiple folks update their information so their continuing contributions can keep helping us pull off events like our in-person meetings and more. Additionally, we added two members since September, so we're up to 331!

If you would like to join the committee, or have ideas for how we can better serve you, reach out! Email: [membership@34dems.org](mailto:membership@34dems.org) or call/text Hannah Cameron: 206-290-4076

## **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee had a good year, starting with the returning Cambodian New Year Festival in late April. We had a presence at events across the district: West Seattle, White Center, South Park, and Vashon Island. We partnered with the 33rd Democrats for several events in Burien.

Thanks to Nick Bonazza and Karen Richter we staffed a booth at the White Center Pride Festival for the first time. Nick also led our efforts on Vashon again this year, drawing upon Islanders and the mainland folks for help. We marched in three parades, and completed two cleanups along 16th Avenue SW, our Seattle Adopt-A-Street.

To join the Outreach Committee and find out more, email: [outreach@34dems.org](mailto:outreach@34dems.org)

## **Programs and Community Partnerships Committee**

Due to our Holiday Party in November we will not have a Pre-Meeting Program. However I am confirming details for the December Service Project and I have been consulting with several non-profits for the last few weeks and ultimately had a great conversation with Stephanie Endres from Stephanie's Lifeline. She is very excited about partnering with us and I will be reaching out to our Service Project Committee to continue the planning process and the actual putting-it-together process. We will be creating a sign-up sheet that our entire membership can sign on to, offering several options on how to contribute to this project (i.e. homemade food for a hot meal, new winter gear donations, cash donations, helping at the Distribution event in December, etc.). There will be a third organization (i.e. Neighborhood House) who will be providing the venue for the event, who will actually be partnering with us as well for this project. So we will be a triumvirate of non-profits!! Our sign-up opportunities will also seek out those who want to volunteer for food and donation collection, storing donations leading up to the event, calling members to get commitments of contributions, etc.

Please contact me if you would like to get involved – [vicechair1@34dems.org](mailto:vicechair1@34dems.org) ! It's looking to be a great project – stay tuned!

## **Resolutions and Endorsements Committee**

This committee completed its endorsement role for the November election with the September meeting. It also received a request to review and pass to the board and membership for consideration a resolution regarding a timber sale on the Elwha River in Clallam County on the Olympic Peninsula. Consideration of the resolution was delayed as a resolution passed by the Democratic organizations in Clallam County is likely to be considered by the state Democratic Committee and, while likely worthy of the district's support, is more appropriately considered at that level. Thank you to Karen Richter, PCO, for bringing this issue to our attention.

As has been noted previously in this update, a resolution supporting an increase in the minimum wage for workers in unincorporated King County has been forwarded from the board to the membership with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The resolution will be considered at the November membership meeting. It is noted that a similar resolution urging passage of an increased minimum wage in the City of Burien was passed overwhelmingly by the membership earlier this year.

To join the committee and find out more, email: [endorse-reso@34dems.org](mailto:endorse-reso@34dems.org)

## Leah Griffin's Advocacy Pays Off - Washington Clears All Sexual Assault Kits



Leah Griffin at the announcement of the clearing of assault kits on October 26, 2023 with AG Bob Ferguson and Rep. Tina Orwell. (Screenshot from KING TV...[watch it here.](#))

34th District Democrats Board Member **Leah Griffin** chalked up more success in her role as an advocate for the victims of sexual assault in October when Attorney General Bob Ferguson proclaimed that the last of more than 10,000 sexual assault kits have been cleared from shelves and sent to labs for testing.

Griffin said at the public briefing: “When I was assaulted in 2014, I struggled to convince law enforcement to test my sexual assault kit,” Griffin said. “To the over 10,000 other survivors who shared my experience, I want you to know that this was not your fault. You were not uncooperative. The system was not designed for you, which is why I’m so proud of the work that has been led by survivors in partnership with Attorney General Bob Ferguson to ensure that no survivor in Washington will ever struggle again to have the evidence of their assault tested.”

33rd LD Rep. Tina Orwell has also been working on this issue since 2015 and was present to speak: “When I first started this work, I was shocked to learn that thousands of sexual assault kits remained untested. Over the course of many years and through multiple bills we have committed to testing our state’s entire backlog of sexual assault kits, leading to the arrest and prosecution of many perpetrators. Now, with a system in place for the state to test every sexual assault kit within 45 days, we are supporting and empowering victims and survivors.”

Read the complete press release from the Office of the Attorney General [HERE](#).

Last year Leah saw years of advocacy come to fruition when she teamed up with Senator Patty Murray and Rep. Pramila Jayapal to see President Biden sign the reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act*. Within this larger bill was the “SANE Act”, a product of years of hard work and collaboration with elected officials in the state and nationally. Watch Leah’s interview with Natalie Brand on CBS [HERE](#)

## New Speaker Mike Johnson is Bad News for Social Security and Medicare

Our State Committeeperson **Roxanne Thayer** reminds us that new Speaker of the House Mike Johnson is an enemy of Social Security and Medicare. He used his acceptance speech on October 25 to call for a fiscal commission to cut federal spending... with these important programs for seniors in its sights.

With a potential government shutdown looming in just a few weeks, we need to prevent House Republicans from forcing the creation of a commission to destroy Social Security and Medicare onto must-pass bills to avert a shutdown.

Roxanne points us to the words of Alex Lawson, Executive Director of Social Security Works, who states:

“Rep. Mike Johnson has a long history of hostility towards Social Security and Medicare. As Chair of the Republican Study Committee from 2019-2021, Johnson [released budgets](#) that included [\\$2 trillion in cuts](#) to Medicare and \$750 billion in cuts to Social Security, including:

- **Raising the retirement age**
- **Decimating middle class benefits**
- **Making annual cost-of-living increases smaller**
- **Moving towards privatization of Social Security and Medicare**

Here’s what we can do: Contact Rep. Jayapal and demand “Do Not Form a Commission to force cuts in Social Security and Medicare!” You can call the House switchboard at 202-224-3121

<https://socialsecurityworks.org/2023/10/25/mike-johnson-is-a-social-security-enemy/>

# A Resolution in Support of Raising the Minimum Wage in Unincorporated King County

**WHEREAS** the 34th Legislative District Democrats' platform supports a living wage tied to the median market housing rate; and

**WHEREAS** low wages contribute to housing insecurity, homelessness, and many other social problems that weaken our communities; and

**WHEREAS** A full-time worker, putting in 40 hours per week at the minimum wage in unincorporated areas of King County, is required to allocate nearly 70% of their earnings to cover the average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in King County, which stands at \$1,896

[Washington-Apartment-Market-Report-Q3-2023.pdf \(uw.edu\)](#)

and

**WHEREAS** in 2013 and 2014 the cities of SeaTac and Seattle respectively established local minimum wages higher than the state minimum wage; and

**WHEREAS** in 2022 Tukwila voted by over 82% to raise their city's minimum wage to approximately the level of neighboring SeaTac, with a phase-in for smaller employers and an exemption for the very smallest employers; and

**WHEREAS** unincorporated areas of King County, like Skyway and White Center, require workers to be paid just the statewide minimum; and

**WHEREAS** raising unincorporated King County's minimum wage would boost the income of many of these workers and their families, as well as encouraging other cities to do the same, raising the floor throughout King County;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the 34th District Democrats endorse the campaign to raise the minimum wage in unincorporated areas of King County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the 34th District Democrats supports legislation that upholds the rights and benefits of workers, ensuring that no wage penalties are imposed on tips or healthcare coverage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats advocate for legislation that prevents franchisers, solely determined by employee count, from being categorized as small businesses for wage tier determination.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the 34th District Democrats will work to urge the King County councilmembers to pass legislation this year to raise the minimum wage in unincorporated areas of King County.

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*Submitted to the 34th LD Democrats October 2023 by Rebecca Rego.*

The Executive Board voted in favor of presenting this resolution to the membership with a Do-Pass recommendation.



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

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