

34th Democrats Membership Meeting Minutes, January 10, 2024 – Held via closed Zoom

6:30 PM – Pre-Meeting Program

Davonte Belle, from the Seattle 911 Center, gave a presentation on Seattle's new Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE). This response unit began in October of 2023 and works alongside Seattle Police and Fire Departments to provide alternative health and safety services on certain 911 calls.

This presentation can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/3lcWfU0qsNs?si=QNH0V5dpksfLutBQ>

7:31 PM – Call to Order – Chair Graham Murphy

- Graham announced that the next Pop-Up Social would be at Locust Cider on January 19.

Meeting Business

- The meeting agenda was presented with an addition by the chair. Ann Martin moved to approve as amended; Chris Porter seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.
- The minutes from the November meeting were shown. Ann Martin moved to approve; Bunny Hatcher seconded. The agenda was approved without objection. and approved without objection.
- The financial reports for November and December were presented by Treasurer Julie Whitaker.
 - We had 50 donating members as of the start of the meeting, some are PCOs. Membership Chair Hannah Cameron will do a breakout for the February meeting in response to questions about members vs PCOs in the membership total.
 - Carla Rogers rose to note that our budget for 2024/2025 will begin on May 1st.

Opening Ceremonies

Land Acknowledgement – 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement, then suggested that an additional means of honoring local indigenous peoples could be done through a donation to Seattle Indian Health Board <https://www.sihb.org/>

VIP Recognition

Elected officials were invited to speak:

- Seattle School Board Director Gina Topp
- King Conservation District Board Member Brittney Bush Bollay

Ranked Choice Voting – Ann Martin

- There are two bills proposed in the legislature to introduce RCV Statewide. These would supersede various local systems for uniformity of voting procedures across the state.
- RVC can help reduce the under-representation of minority groups.
- There was to be a Lobby Day on January 17th to promote RVC.

Candidate Spotlights – King Conservation District Board Supervisor

King Conservation District is holding an election for Seat 1 on the Board of Supervisors. Candidates were given an opportunity to speak. Voting in this special election begins January 23, and ends February 13. Candidates were given an opportunity to speak, they are:

- Brittney Bush Bollay (incumbent)
- Aaron Ellig
- Erik Goheen

2024: The Year Ahead for the 34th – Graham Murphy

Graham emphasized the importance of the year.

- He presented a list of all the races; District, state, and federal.
 - The races for Governor and President are potential toss-ups.
 - There are 6 GOP state initiatives that would undo progress we have made in Washington.
- We need to assure that voter turnout is strong in the 34th LD
 - He urged people to join or renew their membership to the 34th
 - Graham also asked people to consider becoming a PCO.

Endorsements

Chair Murphy reviewed the Endorsement Rules. Candidates must achieve a 60% majority to be endorsed. Voting was by Zoom poll ballots with an alternative submittal method of voting via phone text. Votes were validated and tabulated by Hannah Cameron.

King Conservation District Supervisor Seat 1

- Chris Porter moved to endorse Brittney Bollay; Bunny Hatcher seconded.
 - Chris Porter spoke in favor of Bollay, then ceded time to the candidate.
 - Bollay spoke for herself.
- Preston Anderson moved to endorse Aaron Ellig; Carla Rogers seconded.
 - Preston yielded to Ellig, who spoke in favor of himself.
- Rachel Glass moved to endorse Erik Goheen; Art Chippendale seconded.
 - Rachel ceded her time to the Goheen.
 - Chris Porter rose to speak against the candidate.
 - Art Chippendale spoke in favor.
- First Ballot Tally: Bollay – 44%, Goheen – 41%, Ellig – 15%,
- Second Ballot Tally: Bollay – 39%, Goheen – 61%.
- Erik Goheen was endorsed.

US Representative, 7th Congressional District

- Rachel Glass moved to endorse Pramila Jayapal; Carla Rogers seconded.
 - Rachel spoke in favor of her motion.
- Vote Tally: Pramila Jayapal was endorsed by a vote of 100%.

US Senator

- Rebecca Rego moved to endorse Maria Cantwell; Tamsen Spengler seconded.
 - Rebecca spoke in favor of endorsing Cantwell.
 - Preston Anderson stood to speak against.
 - Tamsen spoke in favor.
 - Roxanne Thayer spoke against.
- Vote Tally: Cantwell received 58% of the vote; The endorsement threshold was not met and therefore no endorsement.

Raising the Minimum Wage

An update on efforts to increase the minimum wage in Burien and unincorporated King County was given by Artie Nosrati from the Transit Riders Union.

Good of the Order

- Rachel Glass thanked those who donated and/or helped at the December Service Project.
- Chris Porter announced that applications for an appointed King Conservation District board position are available. He also urged us to consider donating to the West Seattle and the White Center Food Banks.
- Dean Shuey rose to encourage those with acquaintances overseas to sign up for absentee ballots and to vote and recommended the Vote from Abroad website as a resource. <https://www.votefromabroad.org/>
- Ann Martin thanked Rachel for organizing the Service Project, and Dean for his absentee voting information. She also announced that the White Center Food Bank would have an open house at their new facility on January 12.
- Carla Rogers asked us to do whatever we can to GOTV this year, she is texting to TX to register voters. She repeated the date for the January Pop-Up Social. She also urged us to help or donate to the Burien cold weather shelter. And she noted back-end Zoom help is needed.
- Preston Anderson asked us to engage with our acquaintances about the situation in Gaza.
- Chair Murphy announced that the board meeting will be January 17. The next membership meeting will be on February 21 (the 3rd Wednesday), with the board meeting on February 28th. An in-person meeting of PCOs is in the works for March.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.