

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

6:30 PM – Pre-Meeting Program: 3 Initiatives, 1 Rich Guy & your November Ballot

“Let’s Go Washington” is an umbrella campaign that sponsored six state initiatives devised and funded by right-wing multi-millionaire Brian Heywood. The State Legislature had enacted three of the least disruptive of the batch earlier, but the remaining three will be on our November ballot. We heard from the three NO campaigns.

I-2124 would allow workers to opt out of the "WA Cares" long-term care program, effectively repealing it. Diane Bewell from [No On I-2124](#) spoke.

I-2117 would repeal the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act. Michael Charles from [No On I-2117](#) spoke.

I-2109 would repeal the recently passed capital gains tax on asset sales of over \$250 K. Treasure Mackley from [Invest in WA Now](#) spoke.

7:32 PM – Call to Order – Chair Graham Murphy

Meeting Business

- The meeting agenda was presented. Chris Porter moved to approve; Julie Whitaker seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.
- The minutes from the March meeting were shown. Chris Porter moved to approve; Rachel Glass seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.
- The financial report for March was presented by Treasurer Julie Whitaker.

Opening Ceremonies

Annual Fundraiser – 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass

Rachel spoke about the annual fundraiser to be held on Saturday June 1st. The event is at 5:30 PM; a VIP reception is at 4:00 PM. The theme is “Blue Wave Rising”. Volunteers are needed.

Land Acknowledgement – Rachel Glass

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement. This month she suggested to members that one way of honoring local indigenous peoples could be to support with donations is the [Native Action Network](#), a non-profit dedicated to promoting Native women’s representation, participation, and leadership.

VIP Acknowledgements

- Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon gave a brief recap of the 2024 legislative session.
- Seattle School Board Director Gina Topp spoke about newly appointed board members, and announced that her next meeting with the public would be April 13th at the Delridge Library.

PCO Appointments

Chair Graham introduced new PCOs.

- Drew Sayers was appointed to SEA 34-1249
- Bill Leaming was assigned to serve as Acting PCO in Vashon 34-Burton
- Kenny Ryan will be Acting PCO in SEA 34-1423
- Rachel Glass moved to appoint; Nick Bonazza seconded.
- All three were appointed via the voice vote of PCOs present.

Seattle City Council Briefing & Q&A

2nd Vice Chair Jordan Crawley introduced Council Members Rob Saka (D1) and Tanya Woo (Position 8 - At Large). They spoke for 10 minutes, then took questions from members.

- **Chris Porter** asked about the tree canopy. Woo replied that the city is working on providing more tree cover, while still expanding housing.
- **Gail Sommers** inquired about the potential repeal of the minimum wage increase for gig workers and a service fee tacked on by delivery companies. Woo wanted to see legislation and look for ways to eliminate the fee while protecting the workers. Saka said the raise had unintended consequences and needs to be fixed...doing nothing, or repealing it are not options...but the higher wage hurts small businesses.
- **Carla Rogers** asked about the retroactive 23% pay raise for police: What do the citizens get in return regarding accountability? Saka answered that although the agreement isn't finalized, he supports accountability and that changes need to come from the legislature to affect jurisdictions statewide. Woo added that public safety roles for non-police should be expanded.
- **Stefie Deeds** asked about traffic around the new Alki Elementary School, and if the support the use of "safe streets" would mollify neighborhood concerns. Saka stressed the importance of safe routes to schools with increased sideways, crossings, signage, and lighting.
- **Nick Bonazza** had questions regarding the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan, and that there is opposition to it based on lack of housing affordability. Woo and Saka agreed a more ambitious plan is needed; changes to the mayor's plan must be made.
- **Lily Wilson-Codega** asked about protection for bike messengers. She stated that Council President Sara Nelson negotiated with an Uber funded union "Drive Forward", undercutting messenger rights and wages. Both Saka and Woo stated they would be willing to speak directly with the workers.

Block Endorsement

The Executive Board put forward an endorsement slate of state representatives Joe Fitzgibbon and Emily Alvarado.

- Ted Barker moved to endorse; Bunny Hatcher seconded.
- Ted spoke in favor.
- Voting by members via Zoom poll resulted in 96% in favor of the block endorsement.

Membership Drive Promotional Contest Drawing

Membership Chair Hannah Cameron announced that Steve Strand was the winner of the 34th LD themed gift basket.

Vote on the Board Block to Endorse the NO Campaigns for Initiatives 2117, 2109, and 2124.

- Chris Porter moved to endorse; Carla Rogers seconded.
- Chris spoke in favor of his motion.
- The endorsement of the NO campaigns was approved by 100% via a Zoom poll.

Resolution Condemning Seattle City Attorney's Filing of a Standing Affidavit of Prejudice against Municipal Court Judge Pooja Vaddadi

- The Board forwarded the resolution to membership with a Do Pass recommendation.
- Bunny Hatcher summarized the resolution.
- Kelsey VanHee moved to adopt; Bunny seconded.
- Kelsey spoke in favor of her motion.
- The motion passed by 82% to 18% via Zoom poll.
- Read the resolution [HERE](#)

Resolution in support of House Resolution 227 Recognizing the Sovereignty of Ukraine and the Unbreakable Spirit of the People of Ukraine

- The Board presented the resolution with a Do Pass recommendation.
- Carla Rogers summarized the resolution.
- Carla moved to adopt; Julie Whitaker seconded.
- Charlene Kahn spoke in favor.
- The resolution was adopted by a vote of 100% via Zoom poll.
- Read the resolution [HERE](#)

Good of the Order

- Elizabeth Heath announced that the April meeting of the West Seattle Democratic Women would feature the 34th LD State Legislators. She also announced that the Burien Actors Theater would be putting on a production of the play *Red* about the abstract expressionist Mark Rothko.
- Terrance Jorgensen said that with the passing of Annie Phillips, the future of the Environment, Energy, and Land Use Policy Caucus is uncertain.
- Lily Wilson-Codega and Danielle Alvarado spoke out against the repeal of the minimum wage rise for gig workers.
- Steve Butts announced that the 34th will have a booth at the White Center Cambodian New Year Festival.
- Chris Porter explained some changes to the procedures for amendments to the State Party Platform. He said any resolutions to the State were to be approved by the delegates.

Chair Murphy closed out the meeting with announcements:

- The April Pop Up Social would be joint with the 33rd
- Filing Week for PCOs and candidates would be May 6 – 10.
- The Board meeting would be on April 17.
- The May member meeting would be in person, most likely at the Fauntleroy Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.