

34th Democrats Membership Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2024

Held in person at the Fauntleroy Church

6:30 PM – Pre-Meeting Program: Presentation by Nathan Haerr,

Regional Field Director for King County with the WA Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign

Nathan spoke about his past experiences working on campaigns, such as being an organizer for Rep. Sharice Davids in her race for Congress in Kansas. He laid out the goals for the 2024 campaign.

7:30 PM – Call to Order – Chair Graham Murphy

Meeting Business

- The meeting agenda was presented. Ann Martin moved to approve; Bunny Hatcher seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.
- The minutes from the April meeting were shown. Ann Martin moved to approve; Michael Parker seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.
- The financial report for April was presented by Treasurer Julie Whitaker.
 - Membership, including PCOs, stood at 176 at the start of the meeting.

Opening Ceremonies

June 1st Fundraiser – Chair Murphy

Graham spoke about the importance of the year and the need to “run up the numbers” here to counteract other less “Blue” areas, particularly in the fight against 3 reactionary initiatives. Money raised at the fundraiser will give us the ability to donate to campaigns.

Land Acknowledgement – Rachel Glass

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement. As has become a continuing practice, she suggested members could honor local indigenous peoples with donations, this month she suggested Northwest Justice Project's Native American Unit to support

<https://nwjustice.org/NAU>

Candidate Spotlights

Two candidates were in attendance to introduce themselves and speak to their campaigns.

- Nikole Hecklinger is running for King County Superior Court Position 23
- Saunatina Sanchez is running for Seattle Council At-Large Position 8

PCO Appointments

Chair Graham introduced seven new PCOs.

- Sarah Talbot – Hanes
- Lisa Dawson SEA 34-1526
- Sommer Ueda – SEA 34-1489
- David Horn – Chautauqua
- Victoria Shaw – SEA 34-1506

- Teresa Hill – SEA 1532
- Peter Newbould – SEA 24-1504

Graham read the oath.

- Rachel Glass moved to appoint; Chris Porter seconded.
- All are appointed via a voice vote of PCOs in attendance.

Legislative Debrief

34th LD Representatives Joe Fitzgibbon and Emily Alvarado were present to speak about the 2024 legislative session and took questions from members.

- Rep. Fitzgibbon spoke about a few of his priorities:
 - A bill passed that will reduce use of natural gas.
 - Study has been done to join California and Quebec in a common carbon cap and trade market.
 - He spoke of dangers ahead if I-2117 passes and repeals the Climate Commitment Act.
 - Collective bargaining for legislative workers passed.
 - Protections for grocery workers in the face of a possible merger between Albertsons and Kroger.
 - Legislation banning guns in many types of public areas.
- Rep. Alvarado spoke about:
 - Housing affordability, and the rent stabilization bill she worked on that passed the House, but died in the Senate.
 - Efforts to increase childcare affordability in the state to support working families.

Member Questions and Answers

- Richard Bartlett asked about self-regulation of guns. Joe responded that people can now voluntarily turn in weapons, and that a state permit to be issued prior to purchase would be a good idea. Liability insurance for gun owners should also be a priority.
- Roxanne Thayer rose to thank both representatives for their work on the Keep Our Care Act, which unfortunately didn't pass. Both Representatives strongly support the KOCA, and hopes are that it can be passed in the longer session in 2025.
- Martha Koester asked members to avoid speaking in terms of "Healthcare Affordability". She felt that it should be referred to as a human right.
- Remarks from a member about education prompted Rep. Fitzgibbon to note that the state has increased the cap for special needs students, increased the pay for para teachers, and increased funding for student transportation.
- A question on non-compete contracts brought an answer from Rep. Alvarado that non-compete contracts have been eliminated for wage workers and there should be reasonable regulations in place against abuse.
- Chris Porter asked what can be done to benefit pollinators, and was told that the state has recently banned neonicotinoid pesticides.

- Stephan Lamphear brought up a tax on insurance policies, stating that it hurts consumers. Emily and Joe told him they would investigate it.
- Hannah Cameron asked what other areas in the state we could help. Emily and Joe recommended broader King County, and in particular the 26th LD across the Sound.

Block Endorsement

A block of candidates to endorse was approved by the Executive Board. Ann Martin presented it the meeting:

- President - Joe Biden
- Vice President - Kamala Harris
- US Senator - Maria Cantwell
- Governor - Bob Ferguson
- State Treasurer - Mike Pellicciotti
- State Insurance Commissioner - Patty Kuderer
- State Auditor - Pat McCarthy
- State Supreme Court Pos. 9 - Sheryl Gordon McCloud
- King County Superior Court Pos. 26 - David Keenan
- King County Superior Court Pos. 39 - Joe Campagna

Ann moved to endorse; Richard Bartlett seconded.

- Ann spoke to her motion.
- Voting was done by paper ballot and the block was endorsed by 100% of those voting.

Platform Amendments

Jordan Crawley presented amendments to the 34th Platform that had been previously submitted. He heard comments and answered questions.

- Jordan moved to approve the amendments in toto; Chris Porter seconded the motion.
- The amendments were approved via a voice vote.

Good of the Order

- Martha Koester rose to say that she liked the in-person meetings rather than those on Zoom.
- Michael Law felt that we should be provided with talking points that we can use when doorbelling.
- Ann Martin thanked members for approving the Block of Candidates; now those candidates have time to get our endorsements into the Voter Guide.
- Chair Murphy reminded previous members to renew so they can vote at our June endorsements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.