

34th Democrats Membership Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2024

Held in person at the Alki Masonic Center

Pre-Meeting Program: Postcards4Democracy – West Seattle

Kathy Rawle spoke about the local postcarding group she founded. They began meeting every Tuesday in 2019 at C&P coffee to write postcards to voters in support of Democratic candidates across the US. To participate and learn more go to www.postcards4democracy.org/

Raise the Wage Burien

A spokesperson for the initiative campaign “Raise the Wage Burien” spoke about their continuing efforts to gather signatures to place the issue before the voters in November.

- Burien recently passed a minimum wage increase, but loopholes limit its scope.
- The group has turned in signatures to the city, but feel they could run short. They will continue to collect signatures over the next few weeks.
- Volunteers were to meet at the Burien Library Saturdays and Sundays to get petition sheets.

<https://www.raisethewageburien.org/>

Coordinated Campaign

Matthew Bueltel from the Washington State Democrat’s coordinated campaign spoke about canvassing and phone banking efforts under way. Matthew is Field Organizer for both the 33rd and the 34th Legislative Districts. He can be reached at matthew@wavictory24.org

7:33 PM – Meeting Call to Order – Chair Graham Murphy

Meeting Business

- The meeting agenda was presented. Stephen Lamphear moved to adopt, and the agenda was approved without objection.
- The chair asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the June meeting. Michael Parker moved to approve them as is, and they were approved without objection.
- The financial reports for June and July were presented by Treasurer Julie Whitaker.

Opening Ceremonies

Land Acknowledgement – Rachel Glass

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement.

To take words and transform them into action, Rachel suggests ways members can honor local indigenous peoples with donations monthly. This month she highlighted a group called Mother Nation, a Northwest non-profit organization “that delivers social and cultural healing services for Native women that nurture, create stability, and inspire growth through sisterhood” through

cultural healing circles, homeless prevention, mentorship, workshops, and other types of training. <https://www.mothernation.org/>

VIP Acknowledgements

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon rose to speak:

- He thanked the group for our support for both him and Rep. Emily Alvarado in the Primary.
- There was strong support for Democratic candidates in the Primary. Democrats are poised to increase our majority by electing another State Senator, as well as a couple of new State Reps.
- Dave Upthegrove appeared to be headed to the General Election, coming out of a tight Primary race, edging out one of two the Republicans at the top of balloting.
- We must defeat the initiatives 2066, 2109, 2117, and 2124; the 34th needs to out-perform to take them down.
- He is proud to be the father of a “new Democrat” born earlier this summer.

Seattle School Director Gina Top also spoke

- Gina said that a new school safety plan will be put into place this year.
- The school board will soon be looking at potential school closures.
- The district is looking for ways of dealing with the district’s financial shortfall.

PCO Appointments

Five individuals seeking to be PCOs were introduced by Nick Bonazza:

- Marie White – BUR 34-0913
- Erika Herfindahl – SEA 34-1509
- Joe Nunnelley – SEA 34-1429
- Karen Wright – SEA 34-1419
- Jackie Mena – Hamm Creek

Chair Graham gave the oath of office and all were approved unanimously via raised credentials of PCOs present.

Town Hall with King County Executive Dow Constantine

Executive Constantine ran through a number of current county statistics, and discussed ongoing issues in the county and action done to address them. Deputy Executive Shannon Braddock joined him on the dais as several other county officials were on hand at the meeting to answer questions.

Board Block Vote

The Executive Board put forth two endorsements to be considered by the membership approval:

- Endorsement of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz ticket for President/Vice President.

- A Vote NO Endorsement for State Initiative 2066, which would repeal incentives to limit future natural gas use.

Art Chippendale rose to ask to separate the two votes.

NO on I-2066

- Randy Litzenberger, Co-Chair of the 34th's Energy, Environment, and Land Use Policy Caucus spoke in favor of the NO position on I-2066.
- Ann Martin moved to endorse the block vote, a NO position on I-2066; Neal Traven seconded.
- Motion was passed unanimously by a show of credentials.

The Harris/Walz Ticket

- Ann Martin moved to endorse; Art Chippendale seconded.
- Ann spoke in favor.
- The motion is carried via a show of credentials, with 1 No vote.

Campaign Contributions

- The Executive Board recommended the following contributions for August:
 - \$500 – Dave Uptegrove, State Lands Commissioner
 - \$350 – Steve Hobbs, Secretary of State
 - \$650 – Chris Reykdal, State Supt. of Public Instruction
 - \$350 – Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Seattle City Council, At Large Pos. 8
 - \$2,000 – Defend Washington, the NO campaign for I-2109, I-2117, and I-2124
- Richard Bartlett moved to approve the contributions; Randy Litzenberger seconded.
- Motion to approve passed via raised credentials, with one No vote.
- \$4,150 remains from the initial \$8,000 approved for 2024 contributions. A vote at the September meeting will decide donations toward General Election races.

A Resolution in Support of the City of Seattle Development of Low Income Housing on Surplus Fort Lawton Land

- Ted Barker sponsored the resolution. He rose to describe it and spoke in favor.
- Ted moved to adopt; Rachel Glass seconded.
- The resolution was passed via a show of credentials, with 1 vote No.

Resolution in Support of App-based Worker Minimum Wage

- Hannah Cameron described the resolution, sponsored by Rachel Glass, and spoke in favor.
- Rachel Glass made a motion to approve; Karin Engstrom seconded.
- Tyler Dahl spoke against,
- Dale Phelps spoke in favor.
- The resolution is adopted by a show of credentials, with 3 votes against.

Good of the Order

Ann Martin announced that the West Seattle Democratic Women would hold their annual “Pizza, Potluck, and Politics” picnic at her home on August 22nd. She also spoke of a “Project 2025” talk that Rep. Pramila Jayapal gave. Ann asked that we spread the word about it.

Carla Rogers rose to announce that the August Pop-Up Social would be at the Georgetown Brewery, August 23rd. In addition, she noted that there would be a \$250 fundraiser for Kamala Harris, with the possibility of Eddie Vedder being in attendance. Finally, Carla reminded members of the 34th annual picnic on September 7th at Lincoln Park.

Karin Engstrom followed up on her article in the August Newsletter regarding Hanford tank cleanup and the transportation of plutonium out of state. The group Hanford Challenge has a petition we can sign to share concerns about the project.

<https://www.hanfordchallenge.org/holistic-petition>

Rachel Glass informed us that she has put together a Pre-Meeting Program on Project 2025 for the September 11th meeting. It will feature speakers from the Center for American Progress.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Murphy at 9:02 PM.