

Initiative 1098, the high-earners' income tax, was the main event at the May meeting of the King County Democratic Central Committee, Tuesday March 25 at the Carpenters Hall in Renton.

Eric Magnuson of Yes on I-1098 explained to delegates what the Initiative would do if passed by the voters and enacted. In addition to the tax on high earners, it would reduce the state's portion of property taxes, saving the average homeowner about \$400 per year, and would virtually eliminate the Business and Occupation tax, this providing relief to small businesses, and enabling job creation and retention.

King County Democratic chair Suzie Sheary "welcomed" perennial Republican candidate Dino Rossi to the U.S. Senate race against incumbent Democrat Patty Murray, saying "bring it on!"

The delegates heard from candidates Joe Fitzgibbon, who is running for State Representative, Position 2, in the 34th District. They also heard from Cindy Ryu, former Mayor of Shoreline, candidate for State House in the 32nd District, and from Susan Mahoney, candidate for judge in Southwest District Court, which includes Burien and Vashon. Mahoney is challenging incumbent judge Judith Eiler.

Andrew Villeneuve of Northwest Progressive Institute promoted his group's gala and fundraiser, June 9 at the community Center at Mercer View. That is the same night as the 34th District Democrats meeting, but interested Democrats can donate to NWPI online at www.nwprogressive.org. NWPI has been leading statewide opposition to Tim Eyman and his destructive initiatives for several years now.

Delegates delivered an early endorsement for Cindy Ryu, endorsed Referendum 52, HJR 4220 and SJR 8225. They endorsed a NO vote on Eyman's Initiative 1053, a YES vote on Initiative 1068, and NO vote on Initiative 1082. They passed a resolution that would regulate certain limousine carriers more tightly.

KCDCC meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Carpenters' Hall in Renton. The next meeting is June 22. All Democrats are welcome, and are encouraged to attend. The King County Democrats' Web site is www.kcdems.org.

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Ivan Weiss King County Committeeman