



Fellow Democrats,

This is it...the Primary is over. We are headed down the home stretch into the 2020 General Election. So much is at stake this year. Incompetence, malevolence and insanity streams from the White House...and the level of madness is increasing each day...it has to stop. We must do our part bring the craziness to an end.

We need to do our part to see that competency, and the respect for our laws and long-held norms are restored with the election of Joe Biden as President.

We need to do our part to see that Jay Inslee is re-elected to a 3rd term. We need do our part to see that we end a 55-year streak of Republican State Secretaries of State by electing Gael Tarleton and return the State Treasurer's office back into the Democratic hands of Mike Pellicciotti. We need to do our part to keep the rest of the state-wide offices in our control, and we need to do our part to protect and expand our majorities in Olympia.

We all need to do our part...in this year of pandemic that means phone banking. So, sign up for a shift to call fellow citizens in the 34th LD to urge them to vote. Take a shift to help flip a couple of seats in the 26th LD across the Sound. Take part with us in contacting voters to help turn North Carolina blue.

Turn to page 3 and learn how to join one of our virtual phone banks and call from the comfort of home with the guidance of members of our awesome PCO Committee! Attend our August 12th Membership meeting and learn how to send postcards to voters.

We will all need to do our part for the next three months!

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August 12, 2020

Online Meeting Notice

You Must Register to Attend:

https://bit.ly/Aug_12_Meeting

6:30 pm - Virtual Potluck: Miss the opportunity to connect with other 34th members? Grab your favorite snack and beverage and log on to the meeting at 6:30pm for a chance to catch up with friends from the 34th and to ask questions about our endorsement process. The official meeting will start at 7:00pm.

7:00 pm - Call to Order

Opening Ceremonies -

- Land acknowledgment: Jeff Sbaih
- Honoring Representative John Lewis: Chris Porter
- General meeting statement: Gina Topp
- Zoom logistics: Carla Rogers
- VIP Acknowledgements
- [Adoption of July Minutes](#)
- Adoption of August Agenda
- [Virtual Phonebanking](#)

7:25 pm- New Precinct Committee Officer Appointments

7:35 pm - Endorsements

[Referendum 90](#)

7:45 pm - King County Charter Amendments Regarding the Criminal Legal System: Rob Saka

7:55 pm - Postcard Writing Presentation: Rachel Glass & Kathy Rawle

8:00 pm- Policy Discussion Group: Michael Epton

8:05 pm- Resolutions: Jordan Crawley

Three resolutions have been considered by the Executive Board and moved to the General Membership with a recommendation to approve.

1. Commitment to Israeli-Palestinian peace & opposition to further occupation, settlement expansion, or other unilateral annexation of West Bank territory (Page 9).
2. Defending immigrant rights (Page 8).
3. Equitable hiring and spending processes for political consultants of color (Page 6).

9:00 pm - Adjourn

Renew or Become a Member

click here

34dems.org

www.34dems.org/contribute

Executive Board

Elected Officers

Gina Topp | Chair
chair@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | First Vice Chair
vicechair1@34dems.org

Jesse Greene | Second Vice Chair
vicechair2@34dems.org

Chris Porter | State Committee Person 1
wsdccm@34dems.org

Ann Martin | State Committee Person 2
wsdccw@34dems.org

Max Brown | King Co. Committeeperson 1
kcdccm@34dems.org

Leah Griffin | King Co. Committeeperson 2
kcdccw@34dems.org

Ted Barker | King Co. Committee Alt. 1
kcdccma@34dems.org

Martha Koester | King Co. Committee Alt. 2
kcdccwa@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Secretary
secretary@34dems.org

Ben Reilly | Treasurer
treasurer@34dems.org

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bylaws@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | Caucus and Elections
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Carla Rogers | Communications
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Nick Bonazza | PCO Coordination
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Gina Topp | Program
chair@34dems.org

Other Roles

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor
newsletter@34dems.org

Allan Munro | Parliamentarian

Notes From the July 28th KC Democrats Meeting

The July meeting of the King County Democrats featured speaker Eric Scheir, from the Seattle Commission for People with DisAbilities, who joined us for DisAbility Rights Month. Eric, who was born deaf, moved to Washington 23 years ago to be a teacher. Currently he works as a sign language interpreter. Eric will be a national delegate for Joe Biden and will be the first deaf Washington state delegate sent to a National Democratic Convention. Eric advises the city council and mayor on issues related to disAbility. The commission hosts an annual jubilee in November.



They send letters to lawmakers about public policy. The commission also saw that a bill was passed mandating captions on public meetings of the city of Seattle, and hope to pass it statewide. The commission's website: <https://www.seattle.gov/commission-for-people-with-disabilities>

If you want to follow up with Eric, or get more involved with the commission, you can reach him at deafcommissioner@gmail.com

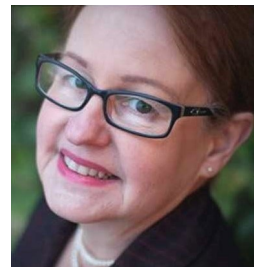
Resolutions We passed a resolution written by Leah Griffin from the 34th, to urge an 'approve' vote on Referendum-90: to retain comprehensive, age appropriate, and medically accurate sex education for students in Washington State. We also passed a resolution affirming the Black Lives Matter.

We heard a presentation from the Coordinated Campaign by Cat Floate encouraging involvement in phone banking. Our field organizer is Nelago Nuunyanggo at nelago@wa-democrats.org

Submitted by Leah Griffin, KCDCC Committeeperson

Grace Stiller Named As Burien "Citizen of the Year"

34th District Democrats member Grace Stiller was one of three named as Burien Citizens of the year at the Burien City Council meeting Monday August 3rd along with Pastors Jenny Partch (Highline United Methodist Church), Lina Thompson (Lake Burien Presbyterian church).



Grace was nominated by 2015 Citizen of the Year Eric Mathison, and is president of the Burien Arts Association

"Grace sits at the community service table at the Community Resource Fair at the community center," said Mathison. "Grace arranges community service work for those who want to work off parking for speeding fines sentenced by the community court. Grace is also on the board for the New Start Community Garden on Highline School District property in north Burien. She has also conducted classes for youth and adults at the Burien Community Center on behalf of Weed Warriors/Nature Stewards Program, the non-profit she personally founded in 2008.

"Through the National Wildlife Federation, Grace is a Team Leader to certify Burien as a Wildlife Habitat City. She is leading the effort for full certification for Burien."

Grace is also the PCO for BUR 34-082.

New PCOs!

The following people stepped forward to become PCOs at our July meeting
Thank You!

Jessie Culbert-Boucher SEA 34-1245

Kallie Ferguson SEA 34-1489

John Murphy SEA 34-1246

Jered Magid SEA 34-1529

Richard O'Neill SEA 34-1468

Saunjah Brantley SEA 34-3632

GOTV Opportunities...Let's Do Our Part !



Phone Bank with the 34th Every Thursday and Saturday!

With COVID-19, we have shifted entirely to virtual voter contact.

Nick Bonazza and 5 of our Rockstar PCOs will be leading bi-weekly phone banks starting July 9. We will be calling into the 34th LD, and reaching into unrepresented precincts.

Are you are ready to help elect Democrats and win big in 2020? On the fence about phone banking and want to learn more? [Sign up online](#) and one of our leads will contact you. Then get to work...

....Please sign up directly for shift available on the [Coordinated Campaign website](#).

....Look for the *Thursday and Saturday 34th LD events*.

Let's Flip the 26th!

Sign up to call 26th Legislative District voters and help get out the vote in 2020, all from the comfort of your home! The 26th is a key District in our sights this election season. The GOP is vulnerable in Pierce County. Join us as we adopt the 26th and **FLIP IT BLUE!**

Sign up here: <https://www.34dems.org/flip-the-26th-blue/>



[Carrie Hesch](#) (Left) and [Joy Stanford](#) (Right) would like our help to win seats in the 26th Legislative District.

Help Turn North Carolina Blue!



Brian Farkas



Dr. Frances Jackson

Washington may be safely blue, but our sister state of North Carolina is a battleground. Although Obama carried in NC in '08, it went for Trump by just THREE points. Not only do we have the chance to get voters in NC to reject Trump, but we can also drive turnout to FLIP their U.S. Senate seat AND the State House.

Register now to join us for phone banking into NC on Saturday, August 15th at 3:30pm. Scripts and training are provided!

This event is made possible in collaboration with @Sister District Puget Sound, @Code Blue WA, @Wallingford Indivisible, and @Common Purpose.

Learn more about our candidates Brian Farkas and Frances Jackson, and how to get involved in supporting them, here: <https://bit.ly/farkasjackson>



Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator

Joe Nguyen

Human Services,
Reentry & Rehabilitation (Vice
Chair), Environment, Energy &
Technology
Rules
Transportation

213 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40434
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7667



Representative Eileen Cody

Chair, Health and Wellness
Appropriations

303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7978



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Environment & Energy (Chair)
Appropriations
Rural Development,
Agriculture, & Natural
Resources

305 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7952



Letters and Submitted Articles

We are Democrats, and like most Democrats we have strong opinions and like to express them. We welcome letters and articles.

All submissions are subject to editing. If submissions need to be shortened, you will be given the option of editing your own work.

Photos and notices of upcoming events are always welcome.

The deadline for the September newsletter will be Friday August 28, 2020

Mail to Steve Butts,
10254 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146
or email to newsletter@34dems.org

In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting...

Second Vice Chair **Jesse Greene** served in his role of Hospitality Chair to kick off our July endorsement meeting, as he welcomed new people to our Zoom general meeting during social time. Several people took the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Chair **Gina Topp** began the meeting with an acknowledgement to the indigenous peoples on whose land we now occupy and share. Then she explained the voting procedure...we would use the chat function in Zoom to indicate our choices. Approving the June minutes and the July agenda gave us the chance to work out any issues that people were experiencing.

Our electeds spoke. King County Councilperson **Joe McDermott** notified us that there will be county charter Amendments on the November ballot. The Council has put some on the ballot already and are adding more over the coming weeks. Included will be changes to Office of Law Enforcement Oversight. It would get subpoena power. A key charter amendment would be to change the Office of Sheriff back into an appointed position from an elected one. He will have a town hall about that.

Eileen Cody said that she is unsure about a special session and it's looking increasingly like there won't be. She has also been "working with the 3 Joes" on the West Seattle Bridge issue.

Joe Fitzgibbon has been doing his usual thing: Working on getting more Democrats elected to the House, and in that regard is excited about our sister district relationship with the 26th LD. His office is working to make sure constituents are able to access the unemployment system. He mentioned the series of cases of fraud that have occurred, and that the efforts to better protect the system have slowed down the application process. Joe's aides are working overtime to see that folks get their benefits. Contact Joe's folks if you are facing difficulties.

Then Gina talked about our phone banking efforts that started at the beginning of the week...in the 34th, the 26th, and in North Carolina, our adopted state this year. "This is our moment. We have complained about who is in the White House for 4 years." she said. Phone banking in North Carolina gives us an opportunity to take action in the election...it went for Obama, then Trump. Gina continued: "If you did just one minute of phoning for every time Trump did something racist, or made you angry like child separation, or against the environment, you would be phone banking non-stop until the election." Everyone needs to participate, PCOs and members alike. Our virtual phonebanks will have a team of people to help during with any questions.



Sen. Joe Nguyen and child greet us from home.

Endorsements

Lt. Governor We heard from candidates beginning with **Michelle Jasmer**. She is running as a “business option to run the business of Washington State”, and described her rise to become a business and investment analyst. **Denny Heck** is a former State Representative, a co-founder and president of the public affairs TV channel TVW and is currently the US Representative from WA CD-10. He is retiring from that office at the end of this term. **Marko Liias** is currently a state senator, and that position gives him the most experience for Lt. Gov, who is also President of the Senate. He would be the first LGBT statewide officeholder. Liias is a member of the State Bank Caucus.

Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti is running for Treasurer. He quipped: A vote for Mike “is voting against Trump twice”, as there is only one state-wide officeholder on the West Coast that is supporting Trump...and that’s our current Treasurer.

Auditor A candidate for State Auditor lives in our district: **Joshua Casey** is a CPA with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a master’s in information systems and operations management. He has been a professional auditor for 10 years. **Pat McCarthy** is the incumbent, and the former Pierce County Executive was also once the school board director for Tacoma Public Schools.

Our 34th LD Representatives kept their endorsement statements brief, as they are both unopposed. “We scared off all the Republicans” Eileen Cody joked.

Judicial candidates for the **KC Superior Court Judge Position 13** included **Andrea Robertson** who stressed her experience in representing both accused and victims, while **Hillary Madsen** touted her endorsements from labor, Democratic organizations and officeholders including Joe Nguyen as representative of her community values as a lawyer.

KC Superior Court Judge Position 30 candidates incumbent Judge **Doug North** and challenger **Carolyn Ladd**. North played up his 20-year judicial experience. North revealed that he had been admonished by the Commission of Judicial Conduct for remarks he made that showed racial bias and has taken ongoing training to fight his “unconscious racial stereotyping and biases”. Ladd has been endorsed by Sen. Nguyen. She described her work at Boeing as working toward diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to help the company comply with civil rights laws. She has attended the Judicial Academy at the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada and has been substituting as a pro tem judge at the Seattle Municipal Court.

This race brought out the most intense debate of the evening. **Marcee Stone-Vekich** spoke for North. But a strong “against” speech from **Leah Griffin** reflecting her observations regarding the treatment of survivors of assault in his court, elicited a response from North and supporter, former Superior Court Judge **Greg Canova**. This was followed with another strident “against” from Ladd’s husband, **James Williams**, who referred to the implied bias issues that North was admonished for. **Jeff Sbaih** spoke in favor of Ladd.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice **Helen Whitener** spoke to her candidacy, she is standing for election after being appointed by Governor Inslee in April. She is the first African American female on the Supreme Court, the fourth foreign-born (Trinidad) and she identifies as LGBT.

Please see Page 7 for the complete list of endorsements from our July Meeting.

Leah Griffin brought forth motion to suspend the rules to endorse a resolution in support Referendum 90, allowing Senate Bill 5395 to take effect, requiring public schools to provide comprehensive sexual health education. The 80% threshold to suspend was not met.

We approved a resolution which will allow the 34th District Democrats to join local groups in support of the Green New Deal at the Federal level. **Karen Richter** had been asked to take part in that effort and will represent us.

We have a new Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. **Jeff Sbaih** will now be leading that effort and will be changing the title of the committee to the “Social Justice and Equity Committee”.



Mike Pellicciotti is running for Treasurer



Marko Liias wishes to be Lt. Governor



Hillary Madsen is running for A King County Superior Court Judgeship.



Helen Whitener is running for a Supreme Court Seat.



Pat McCarthy wants to be re-elected as Washington State Auditor.

Resolution in Support of Political Consultants of Color Coalition

Drafted based on the statements from Political Consultants of Color Coalition. 1. and,
The King County Democrats resolution in support of political consultants of color coalition 2.

WHEREAS the Washington Democratic Party, House Democratic Campaign Committee (HDCC), Washington Senate Democratic Committee (WSDC), and allied organizations spend millions of dollars with consultants and contractors every election cycle in Washington state;

WHEREAS although BIPOC consultants represent almost a third of the working political consultants in the state, the vast majority of that money goes to white consulting firms;

WHEREAS in 2018, BIPOC consultants only worked on 5% of legislative races. The decision to not work with firms of color has been made despite several firms of color in existence, and actively pursuing contracts, during this time;

WHEREAS From 2018 through 2020, these BIPOC owned firms saw tremendous success at the ballot box - especially relative to their white peers - but were still left out of any of the campaigns and races, which were identified by the party as priority races; and

WHEREAS These decisions reflect a deeply broken campaign apparatus that systematically steers contracts and compensation towards white consultants and away from consultants of color;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 34th Legislative District Democrats call on Washington Democratic Party Chair Tina Podlodowski, WSDC Chair Pedersen, and HDCC Chair Fitzgibbon to meet with the Political Consultants of Color Coalition to finalize and publish an agreement that fully addresses their concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 34th Legislative District Democrats call on King County Democrats leadership to report as soon as practically possible the current status of BIPOC spending as well as representation of both elected and appointed leadership team members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 34th Legislative District Democrats call on Washington Democratic Party Chair Tina Podlodowski to a) convene a Working Group to develop standardized rules, processes, and infrastructure that can be used by LPOs to meet the demands regarding ongoing reporting on the status of the representative breakdown in the categories of spending, leadership, PCO, and staff; and b) to provide the financial and staff resources to implement the recommendations of the Working Group; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 34th Legislative District Democrats call on our elected party and public officials to invest the time and resources to ensure that hiring and spending processes yield equitable results.

1 <https://www.pccc-wa.com/>

2 https://www.kcdems.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/KCD-PCCC-Resolution.pdf?link_id=7&can_id=067759408a6e2cc545d17910a4795a34&source=email-king-county-democrats-june-newsletter-a-summer-of-change&email_referrer=email_843758&email_subject=king-county-democrats-june-newsletter-a-summer-of-change

Remembering Dorothy Wicklund

Long-time member of the 34th District Democrats Dorothy Katherine (Webb) Wicklund passed away on July 14 at the age of 93. A lifelong Seattleite, she was born at Seattle's Providence Hospital to Harry and Amalia Webb, the first of three children. In 1944 she graduated from West Seattle High School. She married Carl Wicklund in 1950 and they raised three children, Don, Janis, and Ken.



Dorothy was active in her community. She led large Girl Scout troops in the 60s, served on the finance committee of Hope Lutheran Church for many years, and active in the Swedish Club. She worked as a kitchen manager for the Seattle School District and was a leader in IUEO Local 609.

Dorothy was a strong advocate of voting, and was a member of the 34th District Democrats, along with her son Don and his wife Jeanne...as well as grandson Patrick who says that "she was all in for Biden and that she would have wanted high Democratic turnout". Patrick also says that Dorothy was a "big labor leader, and it seems like she knew everyone in West Seattle".

In retirement she and husband Carl traveled to Sweden, Russia, England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Mexico, Morocco, and her favorite – the Canary Islands. She felt most grounded, though, at home, and she loved having her family around, especially when they were all together.

The matriarch of her family, Dorothy was immensely proud of her children Don (& Jeanne)

Wicklund, Janis Smith (& Doug Bacon) and Ken (& Connie) Wicklund, her four grandchildren (Erin, Patrick, Hailey, & Heather & their spouses), and her five great-grandchildren (Chloe, Ryker, Sawyer, Sylvie, & Kinley). Dorothy was preceded in death by brother Harry in 1942, and by husband Carl in 2001. She is survived by her sister, Maxine Martin of Olympia. Donations in Dorothy's memory can be made to the Hope Lutheran Foundation.



34th District Democrats
All The Democracy You Can Handle
PO Box 183
Seattle, WA 98136

June 24, 2020

Dear Democrat Friends,


Thank you, from our entire community, for stepping in as a first responder during this time of global unrest. We consider access to nutritious food a basic human right and during a humanitarian crisis, like the one we're in now, supporting basic human rights is more urgent than ever. We are committed to providing safe and nutritious food to anyone in need because access to nutritious food should not be an additional source of insecurity in a world that feels insecure.

As you have likely heard, the Vashon Food Bank responded quickly to the COVID-19 crisis by 1) changing grocery distribution from a customer shopping model to an order and pick-up model where bags are packed by a limited number of volunteers in a controlled area, and 2) increasing home deliveries by more than 400% to help customers make the decision to stay home. Our priorities, as we move forward, are to provide nutritious food to anyone who needs it and to do so in a way that is as safe as possible for our customers, staff, and volunteers.

In supporting the Vashon Food Bank, you are helping to provide Vashon residents food security so that they can use their valuable time and energy to take care of themselves and their families. All of this important work is getting done because of your generosity. We could not do it without you, and we are honored to be able to do it because of you.

Thank you, deeply and sincerely, for playing such an important role in keeping our community safe.

Sincerely,


Emily Scott, Executive Director

Thank you!

The Vashon Maury Community Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation of \$352.50.

206.463.6332

VashonFoodBank.org

PO Box 1205

Vashon Island, WA 98070

FIN 94-3165664

34th Democrats Make Donations to 4 Area Food Banks

It's summer and 34th District Dems ought to be out with the crowds at the numerous street fairs and festivals engaging with our neighbors. We should be marching in parades with our endorsed candidates. But this year is not normal, and we watched as the events we had on our Outreach Committee's calendar were cancelled, one by one.

So, the Executive Committee looked at the year's budget, and at the planned Outreach Committee expenses for entry fees that would not be spent and decided to put that money to work for our community in these troubled times. They decided to split that money between our area's food banks, who stand on the front line against hunger. The Burien, West Seattle, White Center, and Vashon/Maury food banks were each given \$352.50.

Endorsements from the July 8th Meeting

WA Governor
Jay Inslee

U.S. Representative District 7
Pramila Jayapal

WA Lieutenant Governor
Marko Liias

WA Treasurer
Mike Pellicciotti

WA Secretary of State
Gael Tarleton

WA Attorney General
Bob Ferguson

WA Commissioner of Public Lands
Hilary Franz

WA Auditor
Pat McCarthy

WA Supt. of Public Instruction
Chris Reykdal

WA Insurance Commissioner
Mike Kreidler

State Rep, District 34, Pos. 1
Eileen Cody

State Rep, District 34, Pos. 2
Joe Fitzgibbon

Judicial Candidates

Hilary Madsen, KC Superior Pos. 13

Carolyn Ladd, KC Superior Pos. 30

Justice G Helen Whitener,
WA Supreme Court, Pos. 6

Resolution Defending Immigrant Rights

WHEREAS the Trump Administration's immigration enforcement policies are restrictionist, prioritizing deportation of legal immigrants, restriction of the visa process, and rejection of asylum claims; and

WHEREAS the Trump Administration's designs its immigration enforcement policies to intimidate immigrants and deter immigration through fear, pain, suffering, and trauma – making them cruel by definition; and

WHEREAS these policies permit arrests in courthouses and the State Clemency Board, effectively excluding immigrants from participating in our justice system and public life; and

WHEREAS the executive branch, having authority over US immigration courts, has been allowed to deny due process and hold people indefinitely without charges or bail; and

WHEREAS when arrested, immigrants face extensive detention without access to legal representation and separation of children from their parents; and

WHEREAS these policies damage communities and tear apart American families – frequently target documented, law-abiding immigrants and refugees; and

WHEREAS life-long American residents are deported to countries they have never known and often do not speak the language; and

WHEREAS interacting with the court system is one of the only methods of relief for immigrants targeted by the Trump Administration; and

WHEREAS applying for clemency is one of the only methods of relief for immigrants charged with crimes targeted by the Trump Administration; and

WHEREAS the Trump Administration's intimidating tactics and Washington's overloaded State Clemency Board are insurmountable obstacles for our immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS Washington's House Bill 2567 and its companion Senate Bill 6522, *Courts Open to All Act*, would prohibit civil arrests inside or near state courts, prohibit inquiries into or collection of immigration or citizenship status information, prohibit disclosure of nonpublic personal information about individuals to immigration authorities, and establish processes in the event of law enforcement action at court facilities; and

WHEREAS the US House Resolution 5383, *New Way Forward Act*, would end mandatory immigration detention, end automatic deportation and summary proceedings for people who have had contact with the criminal legal system, end local police engagement in immigration enforcement and over-policing of communities of color, and decriminalize illegal entry and reentry into the US; and

WHEREAS expansion of the Washington State Clemency Board would improve relief for Washington's immigrant communities and increase assistance for those people facing deportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 34TH DEMOCRATS:

- Reaffirm our support for immigrant communities; and
- Call on the Washington Legislature to pass the *Courts Open to All Act*, defending the rights of immigrants to freely access our justice system; and
- Call on the US House of Representatives to pass the *New Way Forward Act*; and
- Call on the US Senate to turn away from the injustices imposed by the current administration, support and pass the *New Way Forward Act*; and
- Call on our Governor to expand the Washington State Clemency Board to improve assistance for Washington's immigrants who have had contact with the criminal justice system.

Submitted by Ben Reilly

Resolution in Support of Washington Democrats' Commitment to Israeli-Palestinian Peace, and in Opposition to any Further Occupation, Settlement Expansion, or Other Unilateral Annexation of West Bank Territory

WHEREAS the Washington Democratic Party's 2018 platform rightly states support for serious negotiations between Israel and Palestine in order to evolve a solution that would include a sovereign state of Palestine and a sovereign state of Israel; and

WHEREAS the Trump administration has upended decades of bipartisan support for such a two-state solution, and the Israeli government has accelerated settlement expansion and implemented several steps toward annexation of much of the West Bank, seriously threatening a peaceful two-state solution; and

WHEREAS the U.S. State Department issued an opinion in 1978, defining Israeli settlements in the West Bank as illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention – an official position in effect for over 40 years, until reversed by the Trump administration on November 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in response to the above reversal by the Trump administration, 106 members of Congress wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on November 21, 2019, expressing their vehement opposition to the State Department's decision to consider Israeli settlements legal – a decision that greenlights further annexations and threatens any genuine two-state solution; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives, on December 6, 2019 – with 192 cosponsors, including all seven Washington Democrats – adopted H. Res. 326, expressly supporting a two-state solution and opposing settlement expansion, drawing a red line against unilateral annexation of West Bank territory and declaring that such roadblocks to a peace agreement “pose a threat to the ability to maintain a Jewish and democratic state of Israel and [to] the establishment of a viable, democratic Palestinian state”; and

WHEREAS Rep. Pramila Jayapal (WA-7) has endorsed J Street U's #ChangeThePlatform campaign to add to the Democratic Party's national platform a statement of opposition to the Israeli occupation, illegal settlements, and annexation, calling such a statement “essential”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we support the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to govern themselves, each in their own viable state, and we oppose any further occupation of Palestinian territory in the West Bank or Gaza, whether by settlement expansion or unilateral annexation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support adding to the national Democratic platform a statement opposing occupation, settlement construction, annexation, and demolitions of Palestinian communities in the West Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Chair and Co-Chair of the Democratic National Committee, our state's members of the DNC, and Washington's Democratic Party Chair.

Submitted by Ann Martin

Previously adopted by LDs 32, 36, 37 and 43;

Originated by Jeremy Voss, Co-Chair, J Street U at UW; co-sponsored by the Young Democrats of UW.

References:

UN Security Council, “Special Coordinator Reports Largest Expansion of West Bank Settlements in 2 Years” (June 20, 2019), <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13853.doc.htm>

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