



34th District Democrats

West Seattle, Burien , White Center, Vashon and Maury Islands ★ 34dems.org

Chair's Message for January, 2016

I truly believe that we are watching the demise of the Republican party (cue violins). Although stomach-turning to witness this pitiable parade of pariahs, they may force the Republican party to run its own third-party candidate just to get their "establishment" candidate on the ballot. Now, that's a beautiful thing. Truly, they would be getting what they deserve after generations of divisive cultural politics. That party has been focused on the past and as a result has lost the future.

That said, we still have our work to do. The precinct and LD caucuses approach so all hands on deck. At our January 13th meeting, Max Brown, the state party's coordinated campaign leader, will discuss what needs to happen and how important your involvement is to our 2016 success. We will be caucusing for a Presidential candidate but this is an important statewide election as well. We are working on the rest of our program for our meeting but we will also be highlighting Tamsen Spengler's work on the King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee. Save the date of February 15th for the annual trip to Olympia to visit with our legislators and advocate for our values.

This morning I sent out the first membership renewal for the 34th Dems! If you haven't received it, be sure to check with us that your email has been updated and that your spam filters are accepting emails from the 34th Dems. Or visit the website (www.34dems.org) and hit the big blue "JOIN" button! Please select the option to contribute monthly, your monthly \$5.00 contribution will go a long way to help us be the vibrant and diverse organization the 34th Legislative District needs.

Happy New Year!

Marcee Stone-Vekich
Chair, 34th District Democrats
206-465-1963

Meeting Notice January 13, 2016

6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting
The Hall at Fautleroy
9131 California Ave SW
Across from the YMCA

Max Brown, the state party's coordinated campaign leader, will discuss what needs to be done in the state elections as well as the all important presidential, and what you can do to make it happen

Tamsen Spengler,
Legislative Action Committee
Chair

Consideration of Resolution in
Support of Accessible Community-
Based Social Security

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Executive Board

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206-954-7755

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425-785-7502

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206-856-0182

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King County Committeewoman Alternate

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206-935-0798

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503-913-6486

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206-932-2772

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206-948-5423

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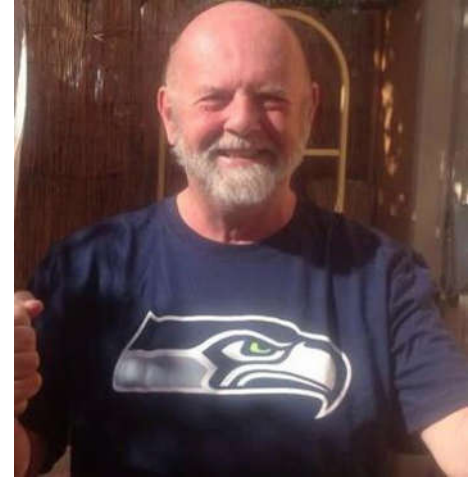
Jackie Dupras
206-935-9683

Former Chair of the King County Democrats is Victim of Hate Crime

It seems like every other day there is a report of someone being injured or killed in a hate crime.

Most of us didn't know George Zander; he left Seattle several years ago, but having served as chair of the King County Democrats, he is part of our history.

George Zander and his husband Chris had just left a popular Palm Springs gay bar when on November 1 they were attacked by one of the men who taunted them with gay slurs and knocked Chris down. The man left and came back with another man and together they beat George and Chris, apparently with tire irons. George's hip was fractured and Chris received a concussion. Both of the assailants pleaded guilty to the crime. George died six weeks after the attack. It is not known whether the attack caused his death. He was 71 years old.



Vashon Island, the Most Liberal Place in the Country?

Crowdpac, an on-line political data service analyzed political donations on the federal, state and local level. and came to the conclusion that Vashon was the most liberal place in the country. Some locals aren't that sure.

According to the Beachcomber, Crowdpac considered Vashon and Vashon Island to be separate. Apparently people living on Vashon Island, are more liberal than those living on Vashon. Who knew!

According to The Stranger, there are three key features to Crowdpac's rating method. One: It is based on donations made to candidates in national and state races. Two: A candidate's political ideology is scored on a scale of 1 to 10, with Rand Paul on the extreme right and Bernie Sanders on the extreme left. Three: The data were drawn from municipalities with a population greater than 6,000. If you put those three things together, Vashon Island has a liberal score of 9.9.

A few years ago, after an election, I would put together a comparison of the votes in Washington State, King County and the 34th District. I noticed if the whole state or King County was included, the 34th looked pretty liberal, but when it was just a Seattle election, no Vashon, the results showed the 34th not quite as liberal as we thought. Vashon Island keeps the 34th District liberal.

34th District Bulletin Board

34th District Democrats Meetings

All meetings of the 34th District Democrats are open to any of our members.

Executive Board

Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.
Puget Ridge Co-Housing Common House
7020 - 18th Ave SW

PCO Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.
Uptown Espresso in the Junction
Agenda will include coordination of what we need to do to support the 34th's coordination of the caucuses. Let Les know if you have any other items to add to the agenda.

Other Meetings or Events

Drinking Liberally in Seattle

Tuesday, January 5, Anytime after 6:00 p.m.
Pizzeria 22, 4213 SW College St.

Evergreen Democratic Club

Tuesday, January 12, 11:00 a.m.
Angelo's Restaurant, 601 SW 153rd, Burien

Drinking Liberally in Burien

Wednesday, January 27, any time after 7:00
Mark Restaurant, 918 SW 152nd in
Old Burien

West Seattle Democratic Women

Thursday, January 28, 1:00 p.m.
West Seattle Golf Course
Check westseattledemocraticwomen.org
for meeting information

Metropolitan Democratic Club

12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.;
Wednesday, January 13 and January 27
Plaza 600 Building, 6th and Stewart, Site 208

King County Democrats Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.
Renton Carpenters Hall,
231 Burnett Ave N.

Our Volunteer Day at the

White Center Food Bank

Wednesday, January 27;
5:00 to around 8:00 p.m.

Town Hall Events

Tickets \$5 Unless Otherwise Marked

January 14 7:00 p.m.

Women's Funding Alliance Presents
Debbie Walsh, Liz Berry and Lisa Shin
Political Gender Watch 2016 \$10

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m.

Nick Licata -

Take Power: Become a Citizen Activist

Tuesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Planned Parenthood Presents It's Our Right
43 Years of Legal Abortion \$10 - \$20

January 27, 7:30 p.m., Downstairs

Ending Our Dependence on Blood Oil

Dependence on oil—from the cars we drive to the internationally-produced products we consume—has risen to a dramatic rate. According to King's College of London professor Leif Wenar, this "blood oil" has taken over—and, in the process, contributed to the rise of dictatorships worldwide. He'll look at examples from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and others to explore the commonly-asked questions: Where does the oil money go? Who

While the City Slept

February 3, 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Eli Sanders and Jennifer Hoffman, with Marcie Sillman - *The Stranger's* Eli Sanders, whose reporting on the incident earned him a Pulitzer Prize, expertly ties mental health issues, violence, and the justice system together for an in-depth picture of how this seemingly random act occurred.

34th District Democrats; 2015 in Review



The Legislative Action Committee in Olympia on Presidents Day



Chris Weiss and Les Treall running our booth



Photo Ops before the West Seattle Parade



TRamsen Spengler taking a picture of the Casey MacGill Duo at our annual Garden Party



Candidate Forum, left to right Shannon Braddock, Chas Redmond, Tom Koch, Phil Tavel, Brianna Thomas
At I believe at one of our early candidate forums

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator

Sharon Nelson

Senate Democratic
Leader
Rules
316 Legislative 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

Chair, Environment
Finance
305 John L. O'Brien
Building
PO Box 40600



City Council District 1 Lisa Herbold's Committee Assignments



**Chair: Civil Rights, Utilities,
Economic Development and Arts**

**Vice Chair: Affordable Housing,
Neighborhoods, and Finance**

**Member Planning, Land Use
and Zoning**

**Alternate: Sustainability and
Transportation**

**Contact Information:
Lisa.herbold@seattle.gov**

Phone 206-684-8803

Changes in the State Legislature

Senator Jeanne Kohl Wells won a seat on the King County Council, leaving a vacancy in the Senate.

The PCOs in the 36th District voted to recommend three persons to fill the vacancy: First, State Representative Reuven Carlyle; second, Belltown community organizer Liz Campbell; and third, small business owner David Kaplan. It is usual, but not required, for the County Council to choose the first person on the list.

Since it is highly likely that the County Council will appoint Reuven Carlyle, the PCOs also voted for his replacement in the State Legislature. Noel Frame was named first, followed by Jeff Manson, and third, Sarah Reyneveld.

Resolution in Support of Accessible Community-Based Social Security Administration Service Delivery

WHEREAS record numbers of clients are visiting and calling Social Security Administration (SSA) offices to receive the services and benefits that they have earned over a lifetime of work, and facing record waiting times before finally having the chance to speak to an SSA employee trained to assist in navigating the agency's complex programs; and

WHEREAS SSA has cut hours and is eliminating certain services at field offices in these times of greatest need, while aggressively steering the public to Internet self-service both inside and outside of those offices; and

WHEREAS identity thieves have had an easy time filing fraudulent Internet retirement applications that rob the Social Security trust funds, because there is no authentication of applicant identities; and

WHEREAS the monthly payments of an estimated 120,000 beneficiaries have so far been redirected to the bank accounts of thieves because MySSA is neither safe nor secure; and

WHEREAS SSA has closed over 70 field offices and 1500 contact stations in recent years, and placed many of the remaining offices in locations that are costly and difficult for elderly, disabled, and low-income clients to reach; and

WHEREAS SSA Acting Commissioner Carolyn Colvin now says she will consider additional office closures on a case-by-case-basis, following an 18-month moratorium on closures due to adverse public and Congressional reaction; and

WHEREAS SA claims to be responding to growing public demand for Internet self-service, but a November 2014 public policy polling survey revealed that only 11% to 13 % of respondents wanted to file for retirement benefits or for replacement Social Security Cards online rather than at a field office, with only 3% to 4% of those under 30 years of age wanting that option; and

WHEREAS over 1 million Americans, many of them veterans, are waiting for decisions on their disability benefit application appeals, many enduring years of delay from the date of filing to receive a final decision; and

WHEREAS austere administrative budgets and inadequate front-line staffing have crippled the SSA's ability to provide the prompt, equitable, accurate services that American workers have paid for and deserve, even though trust fund surpluses have grown to \$2.8 trillion, and administration of the Social Security program consumes less than 1% of annual program income;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th Legislative Democrats ask that SSA office hours should first be restored and then expanded; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that closed offices be reopened, that offices with access problems be moved, and that the overall number of offices be expanded; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SSA should take down the fraud-plagued Internet retirement application and MySSA systems until they can be made safe and secure; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since most SSA administrative costs are reimbursed from trust funds that are in surplus, and because some of the surplus is desperately needed now to fund front-line staffing increases for much-needed service improvements, the SSA's administrative accounts be taken off-budget in order to shield the accounts from sequestration cuts and other fiscal attacks; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 34th Legislative Democrats send copies of this resolution to our Congressional delegation and to the Seattle and national SSA offices.

Submitted to the 34th Legislative District Democrats meeting of January 13, 2016 by Martha Koester, Democratic PCO, Sylvan Precinct

Disposition:

Marcee Stone-Vekich, Chair

Legislative Action Committee Agenda for 2016

Revenue & Tax Reform:

Progressive new revenue, including capital gains tax to fulfill the state's paramount duty to fund basic education in compliance with the McCleary decision (Budget)

Close corporate tax exemptions that lack accountable performance objectives and results

Require the legislature to adopt a Tax Expenditure Budget (HB1239, SB5492)

Support Washington Investment (State Bank) (SB 5553)

Education

Increase school construction funding as required by McCleary (Capital Budget)

Eliminate high stakes testing as a high school graduation requirement; reduce regional testing to the minimum required by federal law;

Restore a fair and accessible nonprofit GED test (SB5676, HB 1743;

Significantly increase the state's share of higher education costs;

Support free tuition for two years of public college and technical school (Budget)

Election Reform

Support I-735 requesting the legislature to ask Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to affirm that corporations are not people and money is not speech.

Require campaign disclosure of "dark money" spending by nonprofits (SB5153)

Automatically register U.S. citizens to vote when they apply for a drivers license or State ID

Environment Support the introduction of a meaningful price on carbon in Washington State; Defend renewable energy standards and solar production initiatives

Labor : Raise the minimum wage statewide towards a goal of a living wage (HB 1355; SB528)

Provide sick leave for workers statewide (HB 1356)

Pass wage theft bills (HB 1354 SB5569)

Housing and Human Services Increase the social safety net, especially for homeless children and families

Increase low-income housing in the capital budget

Reform and effectively fund the public mental health delivery system with a focus on preventative and supportive services

Pass the Fair Tenant Screening Act - accurate portable background checks (HB 1257 SB 5123)

Disallow rental discrimination based on Section 8, government or other sources of income (HB 1565, SB5)

Restore local authority over the ability to regulate rents

Criminal Justice: Pass criminal and juvenile justice reform, including legal financial obligations (HB 5752)

Re-institute parole and support ex-prisoner re-entry programs

Pass a workable medical cannabis regulation that respects the needs of parents

The King County Democrat's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and the 34th District's LAC will be planning a trip to Olympia to visit with our legislators and discuss this year's agenda of areas that matter most to us. Please join us! **Mark your calendar for February 15, 2016, Presidents Day.** Details will follow at our members January meeting and next month's newsletter. Also, please join us at the next KCDCC's Legislative Action Committee meeting on January 17th to discuss the agenda and plan our visits. The location is still to be determined and will be posted on our website. Or contact Tamsen Spengler at: tamsenspengler@q.com.



Return Service Requested

Newsletter Editor
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Seattle WA 98116

Join the 34th District Democrats!

Sign up by filling out this form and mailing it with a check made payable to the 34th District Democrats, to Membership, 34th District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879

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If you use a P.O. Box, do you live in the 34th District? Yes _____ No _____

Email: _____ * Occupation _____

*Employer _____ * Employer City _____

* Required by Washington State Public Disclosure Commission/ Contributions are not tax deductible.

\$34 is the actual cost per member of running the organization.

"If interested in paying your dues in monthly installments, contact the treasurer for more info."

\$15 Basic Dues \$3 Living Lightly \$34 Friend of the 34th \$50 Sponsor

\$100 Benefactor \$250 Sustaining \$500 Underwriter \$1,000 Endowment

In the interest of protecting our environment and building funds to support endorsed candidates, the 34th District Democrats wish to communicate electronically

Please check this box if you do not have access to electronic communications and need to receive a mailed newsletter