



34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

WEST SEATTLE ★ WHITE CENTER ★ BURIEN ★ VASHON AND MAURY ISLANDS

Dear fellow Democrats,

This month you will receive your Presidential Primary ballot in the mail! **Washington state switched from the caucus system to the mail-in ballot primary** to determine which presidential candidates earn our delegate votes. This move was made to increase access to democracy, as more folks participate in mail-in ballots than show up at the caucus. So remember to **TURN IN YOUR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT BY MARCH 10TH.**

If you are a fan of the Caucus, never fear, it's still here. The 34th District Caucus will be used to select who our delegates to the congressional caucus, state convention, and eventually Democratic National Convention, will be. **The 34th District Caucus will be April 26th at Chief Sealth International High School.**

If you're a Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) we have fliers you can use to let your neighbors know about how to participate in the presidential primary and caucus. Email Nick Bonazza to get your fliers or pick them up at the February meeting at pco@34dems.org

Here's how you can turn your anger into action in 2020 with the 34th Democrats:

- **If you didn't renew your membership in January, become a 2020 member now!**
- Join the Mobilization Committee to plan and lead our get out the vote efforts to flip red seats
email DeLancey Lane at fundraising@34dems.org
- Become a Precinct Committee Officer, a.k.a a neighborhood captain for the Democratic Party
email Nick Bonazza at pco@34dems.org
- Join the committee to plan the Democratic Caucus
email Rachel Glass at vicechair1@34dems.org
- Attend our March 11th training on "Washington's New Presidential Primary System and How to Caucus"
- Attend our April 8th Making "The Blue Wave Workshop," geared towards volunteers and activists, and focusing on our 2020 win plan

— **Gina Topp**

Chair, 34th District Democrats

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Meeting Notice

The Hall at Fautleroy, 9131 California Ave SW
9131 California Ave SW (Across from the YMCA.)
On the "C" Metro Line

- 6:30** Potluck Social Time. Please bring a dish to share
- 7:00 Call to Order**
 - Opening Ceremonies**
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - VIP Acknowledgements
 - Review and Approval of the Minutes and Agenda
 - Approval of the Minutes
 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 7:10 Program: Eyes of Immigration**

Immigration policy experts, activists, and attorneys, including a representative of the Khmer Anti-Deportation Advocacy Group, will provide updates on the immigration and refugee crisis in Washington and beyond. Discussion points will include highlighting the Trump administration's tactics for punishing immigrants, the deportations that are happening in our own communities, and state legislation aimed at stopping the targeting of our immigrant communities. Come find out how you can take action to fight for our most vulnerable neighbors.
- 8:00 Report of Officers and Standing Committees**
 - Chair's Report
 - Membership and Treasurer's Report:
 - Review of 2020 Budget
 - Communication Committee
 - PCO Committee
- 8:20 New Business**
 - Election of Second Vice Chair
 - Discussion and Adoption of Code of Conduct
 - By-laws Review
- 8:40 Good of the Order**
- 9:00 Adjourn to Endolyne Joe's**

Renew or Become a Member at

34dems.org

www.34dems.org/contribute

Executive Board

Elected Officers

Gina Topp | Chair
chair@34dems.org

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

Sophia Aragon | 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
kocdcm@34dems.org

Leah Griffin | KC Committeeperson 2
kocdcm@34dems.org

Ted Barker | KC Committee Alt. 1
kocdcma@34dems.org

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

Carla Rogers | Secretary
secretary@34dems.org

Ben Reilly | Treasurer
treasurer@34dems.org

Committee Chairs

Art Chippendale | Bylaws
bylaws@34dems.org

Rachel Glass | Caucus and Elections
vicechair1@34dems.org

Carla Rogers | Communications
digcomm@34dems.org

Sofia Aragon | Diversity & Inclusion
inclusion@34dems.org

Jacqui Morris | Events
events@34dems.org

Dawn Rains | Finance
finance@34dems.org

DeLancey Lane | Fundraising
fundraising@34dems.org

Jesse Greene | Hospitality
hospitality@34dems.org

Les Treall | Leadership Development
future@34dems.org

Jordan Crawley | Legislative Action
lac@34dems.org

Dawn Rains | Membership
membership@34dems.org

Steve Butts & Karen Richter | Outreach
outreach@34dems.org

Nick Bonazza | PCO Coordination
pco@34dems.org

Gina Topp | Program
chair@34dems.org

Other Roles

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor
newsletter@34dems.org

Allan Munro | Parliamentarian

Notes From the State Party Meeting, Jan. 31-Feb. 2

The Washington State Central Committee held its “quarterly” meeting in Vancouver. Friday was limited to the Executive Committee meeting, attended by Chris Porter as co-chair of the Affirmative Action Committee, and the Resolutions Committee consideration of endorsement rules for constituency caucuses. Some events were held in the evening at local venues.

General Sessions were held on Saturday morning and on Sunday. Committee and constituency caucus meetings were held Saturday afternoon. They now begin with a tribal welcome and a recognition that we are on tribal ancestral lands, which is true for any place we meet.

After roll call, which was critical to the voting that followed, the body approved changes to Democratic Central Committee (DNC) election rules. The changes, which were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee, on which Ann Martin serves, by earlier telephone conference, were necessary to include non-binary candidacies and voting. The new rules were approved as presented.

Eleven candidates (five men, five women and one non-binary) were nominated to fill four positions. All spoke with passion and demonstrated talent. In the first round of voting David McDonald and Marie Perez were elected. David continues in his long-time role and Marie is a new, young face to the DNC from Washington. A second round of voting between two men and two women added Sharon Mast, longtime DNC member, and Javier Valdez, newly elected, but a Democratic state legislator and longtime Washington state Democrat.



Retiring DNC member Ed Cote was recognized for his longtime contributions to the state and national party. His words of wisdom rang through the room. Nancy Monacelli was not reelected to the DNC, but she will undoubtedly continue her contributions to the party, particularly her representation of rural Washington interests.

Discussion ensued about the nomination process and the work being done to organize around the primary/caucus/convention cycle. The presidential primary will give the party access to the public record of who voted “Democrat” in that primary, an invaluable resource. It was noted that automatic voter registration has added about 200,000 voters to the rolls. By November, up to 600,000 new voters will be registered automatically. Tina Podlodowski, state chair, noted the importance of the August primary, saying that 96 to 98 percent of the people who vote in that primary will vote in November. Roughly half of those who don’t vote in the primary vote in the general election. This information will help us GOTV.

The state’s theme this year is “Every race, every place,” meaning whether it’s a partisan or non-partisan race, we want to find a candidate who is a Democrat to run for that position. This is how we build our bench. Staff of the Coordinated Campaign were identified.

Resolutions delayed from the previous meeting, when we ran out of time to consider them, were acted on based on the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee.

Committee and caucus meetings followed the general session. Ann participated in a lengthy Rules Committee meeting, which reviewed, revised and recommended passage several items including model rules and tally and credential procedures. The bulk of the discussion was dedicated to consideration of Charter and bylaws amendments to “create” constituency caucuses within the state party. Rules were also discussed. These caucuses have long been associated with the party, but have had no official status or boundaries. These groups are important sources of information to the party, so this effort will strengthen their role by giving them status and access to the resources of the party.

Continued on Page 7...

34th District Bulletin Board

Executive Board

Open to all of our members

Puget Ridge Co-Housing Common House
7020 18th Ave SW

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.

Other Meetings or Events:

West Seattle Drinking Liberally

Pizzeria 22, 4213 SW College St.
Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Evergreen Democratic Club

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
601 SW 153rd St., Burien
Tuesday, February 11, 12pm

Metropolitan Democratic Club

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
911 Stewart St., Seattle 98101
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 12-1:30 pm

West Seattle Democratic Women

For info about evening vs. luncheon schedule
check: www.westseattledemocraticwomen.org
Or inquire at: wsdwomen@yahoo.com

Burien Drinking Liberally

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
601 SW 153rd St.
Wednesday, February 26, 6:30pm

King County Democrats Monthly Meeting

Carpenters Union Hall
231 Burnett Ave N
Renton, WA 98057
Tuesday, February 25, 7:00 pm

Please mark your calendars for the

All 34th District Dems PCO Meeting

February 22, 2020, 9 to 11:30 am

at **Kenyon Hall** (7904 35th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126)

We're taking what you've been asking about, what you've accomplished, and your plans, and combining them with information on key issues that affect each of us to hold an interactive informative meeting to prepare for what will most likely be the most critical election of the decade.

This workshop is for Precinct Committee Officers and those who would like to serve their communities as a PCO. Attendees will be joined by elected officials, Democratic Party staff, and campaign experts to learn the art of canvassing and phone banking your neighbors, how to track your data and use our smartphone app, and how to file for office.

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/iidTWA7ZaIMWckAW>

or by emailing Nick Bonazza nick5669@gmail.com

We'll have information and exercises on topics including the art of canvassing and phone banking your neighbors, how to track your data and use our smartphone app, and how to file for office. We'll have the latest on voter registration. You'll hear about data driven voter mobilization efforts and how they play out in the 34th and across the state, and there will be information on our LD Caucus.

Not a PCO?

Help us win in 2020 by helping to make your neighborhood Blue, or adopting a vacant precinct. Find out what a PCO does here:

<https://www.wa-democrats.org/local/pco>

Contact Nick Bonazza at nick5669@gmail.com

To see if your precinct, or one near, is vacant

Track Our 2020 State Legislation!

Our Legislative Action Committee put together a legislation tracker for this session based on the policy priorities our members submitted. If there is a bill you would like to follow, if there is an issue you are curious about, or even if you just want to browse, the legislation tracker is an excellent tool.

Follow along, advocate, and engage. Together we can shape a more progressive Washington!

Follow the activity on our Legislation Tracker.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GndCrf4De16DQcuhP5vJhjHsWbFP8UingSGM1bGEw3U/edit?ts=5e30af3d#gid=973187962>

Email our LAC Chair Jordan Crawley at lac@34dems.org if you have questions, feedback or would like to request additions to the tracker.



Grace Stiller submitted this photo of the cake that greeted the new members of the Burien City Council as Sofia Aragon, Cydney Moore and Kevin Schilling assumed office at the beginning of January.

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

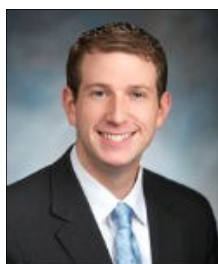
303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7978



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 March newsletter will be Friday February 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...

As has been customary first-time guests were asked to introduce themselves. Nine new people were present at our January meeting and rose to speak of their reasons for attending. One woman, an instructor at the University of Washington told us of increasing bias against minorities, and the fear that they have shared with her. The anxiety she expressed aligned perfectly with the meeting's program.

Chair **Gina Topp** led us into the program with her chair's message. We've talked about our frustrations with the actions of the current administration for three years, and this is the year that we can finally do something. We live in a blue area, but we can use our volunteer time to make a difference in swing areas. Trump and his allies and their toxic values they project...racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia...not just in other parts of the country, but they are being spread here in our community. Her hope for this month is that, as we honor Dr. Martin Luther King and the late Rep. John Lewis, we will make them proud.

Presentation of the evening was on bias and hate crimes in Washington State. The panel consisted of **Monisha Harrell**, Chair of Washington Equal Rights, and **Ximena Velazquez-Arenas** from the Economic Opportunity Institute. Chris Porter also participated and moderated.

Chris gave an overview. Concern brought forth at the November meeting for safety of new PCO, an African American, when canvassing Burien made Chris wonder if others of us in our mostly white organization would be able to understand this fear. One exercise he suggested later was to observe "who isn't there" at social gatherings.

2019 saw a record 228 hate crimes in Seattle, doubling since 2012. Though it may seem out of character for our state, Washington is 4th in the nation for these types of crimes. Trump sets the climate. Though he is incompetent in running an effective administration, he is skilled with the use of social media and he can spread intolerance via Twitter postings to his admirers. Chris pointed to a chilling development: Once disorganized and on the fringe, hate groups are now better at recruiting, often from the ranks of veterans who are familiar with

weapons.

See Seattle's bias/hate crime database: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/bias-crime-unit/bias-crime-dashboard>

In 2012, R74 was passed in 10 counties. In 2019, I-1000 was only passed in 5. What changed? Language creeps into our lives unnoticed until something happens, and characters like Rep. Matt Shea from Eastern Washington operate under the radar of the media. Republicans have been quiet about him, unsure about how to deal with him, and did



Chris Porter gives his pitch for his King Conservation District Board candidacy.



Ximena Velazquez-Arenas

Monisha Harrell

nothing until the FBI showed that he was active in supporting domestic terrorist groups.

Bias/Hate crime data tracking has been increased over the past 10 years, and particularly in the past 4 years. A recently passed hate crime law refined laws on the books to better categorize and define offences. This will aid law enforcement officers to recognize and separate between other types of aggression – from property crimes to assault – as a victim may not be initially aware that bias was a primary reason for crimes against them:

<http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1732-S.SL.pdf?cite=2019%20c%20271%20c%27%202;>

Bias against Immigrants can be seen in the drop in enrollment of K-12 nationwide due to fear, causing long-term problems for persons who may not be able to access proper educational opportunities. This is seen primarily in the Latino population. A sad fact: The January panel makeup had to be changed due to the holdup of those of Iranian descent at the Canadian border recently, drawing previously scheduled guests away to deal with the fallout.

Harrell stated that for every big win (like R74) there tends to be a backlash resulting in spikes of bias/hate speech on social media, and aggression. Hate crimes are not only increasing, but also escalating in severity.

Harrell is part of an Attorney General Hate Crimes Work Group to make recommendations for legislation and submit them

within a year. We are invited to submit our ideas to the group. She is hoping to ban anti-trans and gay panic defenses. Banning “Swatting” harassment – a means of harassment by using 911 calls of fake scenarios against targeted individuals to incite possible violent police SWAT team action – is also hoped for. Seattle is the only city in the state that has a swatting registry for police to check before initiating an aggressive response.

As we continue to work to solve bias and hate crimes, call out hate speech when you encounter it, and as Chris asked us, pay attention to “who isn’t there”.

Chris Porter is also one of two candidates for a position on King Conservation District Board of Supervisors. election. He mentioned the issues with the election last year and helped with its improvement as he has been appointed as an Associate Supervisor for the district. Ballots are due by February 11th, either by voting online, or printing a ballot and sending it in. Chris has become an avid beekeeper, and he urges us, as we plan our gardens this spring, to “think native plant species”...and perhaps give up your grass in favor of natural planting. This is a sure way to draw pollinators into our yards and to help their survival.

Changes to the Executive Board include a new committee. Led by **DeLancey Lane**, the Mobilization Committee will work on GOTV outside of the 34th to help turn Red seats Blue, and **Art Chippendale** has been appointed as Bylaws Chair.

We passed a resolution in support of Zero Emission Vehicles. This is a piece of legislation that has been presented by Sen. Joe Nguyen.

Joe McDermott was recognized and announced that Councilmember Claudia Belducci from Bellevue was voted in as Chair of the King County Council. He spoke about the new work for the regional approach to homelessness governance.

Treasurer **Ben Reilly** delivered good news regarding our budget. We will start the year with \$6,000, as well as a \$20,000 set aside for the April 26th District Caucus.

PCO Chair **Nick Bonazza** reminded us that are PCO vacancies we need to fill, especially in Burien. There is a list on our website to see what precincts are open. Nick is planning a February 22 kickoff/ training event at Kenyon Hall. **John Dolan** was appointed PCO in Precinct Seattle Precinct 1255.

Mayor **Jimmy Matta** was on hand to receive his award for 2019 Elected Official of the Year, and Secretary **Carla Rogers** was present to accept her recognition as 2019 Executive Board Member of the Year.



Newly appointed PCO for Precinct 1255, John Dolan, introduces himself.



Gina Topp praises Carla Rogers, the 2019 E-Board Member of the Year.

Meeting Photos by Jon Shields

...State Party Meeting notes (continued From Page 2)

Sunday's general session was the "business" meeting of the party, which means we adopted minutes of the September meeting, reviewed and approved the financial report and adopted the budget, listened to DNC and committee reports. Of particular note, Tina explained how she is working to put together a "Democratic Data Exchange," that will allow party and independent groups to exchange "fresher" data. Currently hard money (party) and soft money (independent groups) cannot exchange data until after elections, meaning the information is stale. By putting data into an exchange, which allow the data to be provided to the party without knowledge of who it comes from, the data can be accessed immediately and allow, for example, groups from knocking on the same doors and asking the same questions in the same time frame.

Ranked Choice Voting is on the radar thanks to the work David McDonald is doing. It was suggested that Gael Tarleton may be able to affect change in this regard should she be elected as Secretary of State (hint, hint!). The cost of attending the national convention was also noted as a concern; while nothing is likely to happen in this regard this year (about \$400 per night being the estimated cost), the state will be looking at ways to ameliorate the costs so that economics don't become the limiting factor for participation in our nomination process.

Some time was spent raising the state party's consciousness about missing and murdered indigenous women and their

efforts to protect themselves by taking self-defense courses taught by native women.

The party is working hard on the issue of equity and some time was spent during the Affirmative Action Committee report to address the issues of equity and white privilege. The central issue being that it is not enough to talk about, and to have people acknowledge that there is and they have his privilege, but to use it To seek out, mentor, bring only, support ,and help elevate People/person of Color (POC) and get them elected into the leadership of the Legislative District (LD). Also that those that do this must agree not to run as the point of using this privilege is not necessarily for their advantage, but the person that are supporting. We always wait for others to show, but we could seek out those that we know and bring them along.

During the Affirmative Action Committee meeting, the delegate selection plan was reviewed and the affirmative action plan for an LD.

The items noted above in the Rules committee discussion took up the rest of the meeting. We also considered Code of Conduct revisions, which were delayed from the September meeting because we ran out of time for their consideration. Action was taken on rules for submitting resolutions as well as approving the committee recommendations on newly submitted resolutions. You really don't want to know the sausage making process. Suffice it to say, we left the meeting at approximately 3:30 with a long drive home.

Submitted by Ann Martin and Chris Porter

January 28th KCDCC Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order with an acknowledgement of Tribal Lands. The group then heard from representatives of the Warren campaign, and our very own Delancey Lane representing the Bloomberg campaign.

County Auditor Julie Wise explained the primary process, and the King Conservation District voting process. Some important things to know are that on the Primary ballot, you must choose a party. If you select more than one party, the ballot will be automatically disqualified. Chris Porter spoke about his run for the King Conservation District. After Chris left, the committee voted spontaneously and unanimously to endorse Chris Porter in the race.

The committee also adopted new endorsement questionnaires for 2020, and made a minor rules change in regard to the endorsement committee in order to streamline the process. The committee then endorsed several school levies in Bellevue, Issaquah, Tahoma, Auburn, Kent, and Tukwila.

KCDCC also passed two resolutions. We passed one to "protect our orcas by curtailing suction dredge mining," and one stating that "King County needs rent control."

KCDCC is also creating a "Platform Committee" to help craft a party platform. Members of the committee have been selected,

but there will be ample opportunity for online input from members of the party.

The main priority for the committee right now is increasing the number of PCOs in King County. If you would like to be a PCO, please reach out to Nick Bonanza.

Submitted by Leah Griffin, KCDCC Committeeperson



Members of the 34th Dems attended the KCDCC New Year Kickoff Party and the Duwamish Longhouse. With State Chair Tina Podlodowski on the left are Leah Griffin, KC Chair Shasti Conrad, Carla Rogers, Sen. Joe Nguyen, Jesse Greene, Chis Porter, Anthony Porter, and Nick Bonazza. Photo provided by Leah Griffin.

Letter to the Editor: Concerns About the Proposed Code of Conduct

At the February meeting, this organization will be asked to approve a Code of Conduct (Code), which describes how members are expected to behave towards each other and describes a mechanism to punish members who violate these prescribed norms. I intend to speak against this Code but will not be able to present my concerns in the allotted 2-minute speech. I beg your indulgence.

I believe whole heartedly that we should all treat each other with respect and dignity. I try to live my life with that as a guiding principal. That said I don't want to force my ideals upon others by codifying it.

Most of us are here because we are passionate about an issue, or many issues. Being passionate about issues, we hold strong opinions and we don't always agree. We often debate how to achieve our goals and who should be elected. Several of our most active and passionate members use social media and our meetings to speak "their truth". Sometimes that truth is hard to hear or counter to the beliefs of others. I think that is OK, even good. If someone says something that makes you angry or hurt, good. Use that to motivate you to do more and express your own opinions.

I have three primary concerns with this Code. First, if a grievance is filed, the board will use a bunch of it's precious and limited time to investigate and potentially try the complaint. Second, it will stifle the free expression of thoughts and ideas, and third, it could be weaponized to remove some of our most passionate and active members.

Board time: I was elected as one of our delegates to King County Democrats in January of 2017. In January of 2018, they adopted a similar Code of Conduct. Three days later, a grievance was filed against the Chair, and we spent until August resolving the issue. That board spent almost all of every meeting in between, often running late, litigating the complaint. In that period, the only substantial work done towards their mission, was getting the candidates questionnaire assembled so that endorsements could be made. There was tremendous turnover on the board including 3 of 4 vice chairs, the treasurer and eventually the Chair. The January, 2018 meeting had almost all 48 delegates in attendance. By August, barely half were attending. They raised only enough money that year to keep the lights on and distributed none to candidates. It also alienated everyone on the board from each other.

Last year, here in the 34th, there was an incident at our endorsement meeting involving some of our most passionate members. The Board spent two meetings, one 6 hours long and one 3 hours, figuring out how to resolve the complaint. We spent about 200 volunteer hours in meetings for this instead of working to elect Democrats. There were countless other hours spent in communications and discussions. In the end we suspended 3 of our most active members until after the election in November. I suggest that our board has more useful tasks to attend to.

Stifling free speech: This year, during our City Council race, one of our members posted comments on social media that were unflattering to towards one of the candidates (both candidates are members). A grievance was filed by one of our other members citing ad homonym arguments, cyberbullying, harassment and other conducts. The board spent much of another meeting on this grievance. I had seen those posts and while the member used verbiage I would not, I saw it as a member speaking their truth. I felt it was OK and frankly, I wish more folks would speak their truths. I worry that, if the Code passes, fewer will speak, in fear of reprimand.

Weaponization: I fear the code will be used to drive some of our most active and passionate members out of the party and to discourage them from running for office. I felt it was used that way in the case of the King County Democrats Chair and I felt it was used that way in our Council race last year.

In summary: I want everyone to treat each other with respect and dignity but I don't think this is how you do it. I also understand that our members can be passionate about an issue or a candidate. I understand how one's passion can overcome judgement and that we are not all friends all of the time. I have also witnessed members being really upset at another member about something said or done and then seen them call the same person seeking advice a year later. I've done it myself. We can move on.

We already have mechanisms in the bylaws to address serious misconduct. We can censure a member; we can suspend a member and we can remove officers from the board. If there should be a serious misconduct, we can refer it to the police and/or the courts. We do not have the time, or energy to manage every member's personal behavior. I ask that you use the Code to model your behavior but that you not codify it in the bylaws.

Finally: Politics is all about conflict and the resolution of conflict. Don't run and hide from it. Stand your ground and speak your thoughts as best you can to defend your values. In the end, come together and move on.

Submitted by Les Treall, PCO SEA 34-1498

(See the proposed Code of Conduct attached at the end of the newsletter.)



Newsletter Editor
10254 36th Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98146

Return Service Requested



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, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

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

Email _____ * Occupation _____

*Employer _____ * Employer City _____

Please consider paying your dues in monthly installments...Go online to www.34dems.org/contribute

- \$3 Living Lightly \$34 Friend of the 34th \$50 Sponsor \$1,000 Endowment
- \$100 Benefactor \$250 Sustaining \$500 Underwriter

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

Paid for and authorized by 34th District Democrats. 6523 California Ave SW Box 183, Seattle, Washington 98136. Contributions to this committee are not tax deductible.

State campaign finance law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, employer and city and state of employment for

34th Legislative District Democratic Organization Code of Conduct

Commitment: This document is to define and state our commitment to the expected behavior and conduct of any person participating in events or meetings of the 34th Legislative District Democratic Organization (34th Dems).

Diversity is the strength of the 34th Dems. To foster and build on that diversity, members are urged to acknowledge and celebrate that diversity. Given that the 34th Dems is an all-volunteer organization, we are committed to the following:

- Our central mission is to work to elect Democrats and engage in local, county, and state politics.
- Members are expected to engage with each other and the community with respect and civility. We will avoid negative politics; negative political action increases apathy and is likely to discourage membership and participation.
- Members are responsible for fostering a safe, open, and welcoming environment that encourages participation at any and all events and meetings in which the 34th Dems are involved or sponsoring.
- Elected and appointed executive board members have an additional responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that facilitates a positive environment at all times.
- In order to increase participation, meeting and events happen in a variety of venues including online. Online meetings, events, and conversations can pose a challenge for members to remain civil during political discourse. Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram are some of the platforms used by the 34th LD Dems. Avoiding conversations that can be construed as cyber-bullying should remain a priority in maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all members and guests.

I. Purpose

The 34th Legislative District Democratic Organization (34th Dems) is dedicated to maintaining a culture of respect, inclusion, and equity. This Code of Conduct (Code) defines the standard of behavior by which all who participate in meetings or events hosted or sponsored by the 34th Dems must abide. The Code establishes a process to address alleged violations. In defining and enforcing standards of behavior, it is the goal of the 34th Dems to keep and enhance membership and public trust in this organization. As an organization taking part in public affairs, we must commit to maintaining a safe environment for all, to educating voters, and to facilitating civil dialogue **that** builds communities, improves diversity and inclusion, and increases participation.

II. Scope

A. This Code applies to the language and actions of all who attend or otherwise participate in:

- Meetings of the 34th Dems;
- Meetings of the Executive Board (Board);
- Events hosted by or on behalf of the 34th Dems;
- Events participated in by or on behalf of the 34th Dems;
- Events sponsored by the 34th Dems;
- Official correspondence or publication of the 34th Dems;
- Any correspondence, communication, or publication (including social media), wherein a member of the 34th Dems identifies their current or previous membership or appointed/elected position within the 34th Dems; and
- Duties or responsibilities as an appointed or elected officer of the 34th Dems.

B. The language and actions violating this Code of Conduct include but are not limited to; ad hominem arguments, cyberbullying, assault, bigotry, discrimination, harassment, hate speech,

34th Legislative District Democratic Organization Code of Conduct

oppression, and suppression. If warranted after review of an alleged violation of this Code of Conduct, any member or appointed/elected officer of the 34th Dems may be subject to one or more of the penalties specified herein for violation of the Code of Conduct. Any visitor or guest violating this Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the meeting or event.

III. Standard of Behavior

Disagreements happen but are not an excuse for poor behavior. We must ensure everyone is heard, understood, and respected. It is expected that all attendees and participants:

- Treat everyone with dignity, respect, and worth;
- Use welcoming and inclusive language;
- Assume good intent on the part of speakers and participants;
- Avoid profane, prejudicial, exclusionary, abusive, and sexualized language; and
- Respect the personal space and property of others.

It is expected that, if an attendee or participant experience or witness behaviors that may violate these or any related standards, the violation can be reported to a member of the Executive Board.

IV. Definitions

Ad Hominem – an argument or statement directed against a person (rather than their position) relating to any real or perceived difference, characteristic, or preference; includes spoken and written defamatory language.

Assault – unwelcome, non-consensual, or inappropriate physical contact; physical violence or attack.

Bigotry – language or actions demonstrating intolerance toward those holding different opinions.

Chair – the Chair of the 34th Dems.

Correspondence or Publication- formal or informal debate or discussion, email communication, print or internet media (official statements, comments, letters to the editor, etc.), social media (comments, messages, etc.), and any document published or dispersed by or on behalf of the 34th Dems.

Cyberbullying – any electronic expression perceived as ad hominem attack, intimidation, or harassment having the effect of instilling fear, creating a hostile environment, oppression, or suppression (may also be classified as bigotry, discrimination, bullying, harassment, or hate speech).

Discrimination – language or actions demonstrating unjust or prejudicial treatment of a person or persons based on real or perceived differences.

Executive Board (Board) – the appointed and elected officers and committee chairs of the 34th Dems.

Harassment – aggressive pressure or intimidation; unwelcome, non-consensual, or inappropriate remarks or physical advances.

Hate Speech – speech that offends, threatens, or insults groups based on race, color, religion (or lack thereof), national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, sex gender identity or expression, LGBTQI (Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual Transsexual Queer Intersex), disability, veteran status, or other traits.

34th Legislative District Democratic Organization Code of Conduct

Oppression – language or actions demonstrating prolonged discrimination.

State Committeeperson – one of the two State Committeepersons elected by the 34th Dems.

Suppression – language or actions intended toward or having the effect of preventing the development, action, or expression of feelings or ideas.

Vice Chair – the First or Second Vice Chair of the 34th Dems.

V. Initiation of Complaint

- A. Any participant may initiate a complaint. The complainant need not be the alleged victim of a violation in order to initiate a complaint.
- B. A complaint should (1) describe the alleged incident, (2) identify persons involved, and (3) identify any known witnesses to the alleged incident.
- C. A complaint must be submitted in writing to the Chair with a copy to a Vice Chair and a State Committeeperson. ***If the complaint is against the Chair, the complaint will be submitted to the Vice Chairs and a State Committeeperson. If the complaint is against a Vice Chair, the complaint shall be submitted to the Chair with a copy to the other Vice Chair and a State Committeeperson.***
- D. In advance of accepting a complaint, the complainant must be advised that in the case of potential criminal conduct, law enforcement may be notified.

VI. Initial Procedures

- A. The Chair must notify the Board of any filed complaint within two days and, with consultation of at least two additional members of the Board, shall review the complaint within five business days of filing. The Chair may recommend disciplinary action or further investigation to the Board.
- B. Upon reviewing the complaint, the Chair shall call a special meeting **of the Board** to consider the complaint within ten business days of the conclusion of the Chair's review. Notice of such special meeting will be given to all members of the Board. A quorum shall consist of five Board members (Bylaws – Article III, Sec. 4(1)). Action by the Board may continue during an investigation by law enforcement.
- C. Once a meeting is established, the complainant, victim, witnesses, and the alleged violator shall be (1) notified with the time, date and location of the meeting, (2) provided with an outline of the next procedural steps, and (3) reminded of the confidential nature of the proceedings.
- D. The Chair may, with agreement of at least two additional members of the Board, impose an interim suspension of an alleged violator for up to 30 days from all 34th Dems activities and appointments pending an investigation. The Board may, by majority vote (50 percent plus one vote) of Board members present and voting, extend the interim suspension until the conclusion of the investigation. *If an elected or appointed PCO has been suspended, that individual shall have the right to vote on those items that are limited to PCO votes.*

34th Legislative District Democratic Organization Code of Conduct

- E. If the complaint is against the Chair, Vice Chair, and/or other Board member(s), the lead role in these procedures shall be assumed by an officer that is not involved in the alleged violation in order of succession.

VII. Duties of the Executive Board

- A. The Board shall receive any recommendation of the Chair (Sec. VI, A) and investigate all submitted complaints to the extent reasonable considering (1) the severity of the alleged violation, (2) the specificity of the statement, and (3) the availability of witnesses. The Board may determine no further investigation is necessary by a two-thirds vote of Board members present and voting. (Article IV, Sec.7).
- B. Prior to their decision, the Board shall offer the alleged violator an opportunity to present witnesses and their version of events.
- C. During the special meeting to review the complaint, the Board may establish an ad-hoc committee (by two-thirds vote of Board members present and voting) to further investigate the complaint and recommend any actions to be pursued by the Board.
 - 1. Alleged violators, victims, witnesses, and complainants shall not serve on this ad-hoc committee.
 - 2. With the consent of the new organization, members of the ad-hoc committee may continue serving through the disposition of the complaint, even if their term of office has expired.
 - 3. Members shall be appointed to the ad-hoc committee by the Chair, or by 1st Vice Chair should the complaint be against the Chair.
 - 4. The ad-hoc committee must complete their investigation and submit a report, including any recommended actions, to the Board within ten business days **unless there is some reason for an extension**.
 - 5. The Board must reconvene within ten business days of receiving the ad-hoc committee report to decide on any disciplinary actions.
- D. Any disciplinary action must receive a majority vote (50 percent plus one vote) of Board members present and voting to be imposed.
- E. Absent extraordinary circumstances, all investigations of the Board and any ad-hoc committee shall conclude within thirty-five days from the initial filing of the complaint. If no decision is reached within thirty-five days from the initial filing, and there are no extraordinary circumstances, the complaint shall be dismissed.
- F. In the event a complaint is summarily dismissed from the Board, the complainant and alleged violator shall be notified of the extent of the investigation undertaken and the reason the complaint was dismissed.
- G. In the event a penalty is imposed, the complainant and violator shall be notified of the extent of the investigation and the reason for the penalty.

VIII. Penalties for Violation

The following penalties may be imposed for violation of the Code of Conduct. Any suspension, removal, or expulsion imposed shall conclude at the term of the penalty or on December 31st of an even numbered year (whichever is sooner).

34th Legislative District Democratic Organization Code of Conduct

- A. Warning/Reprimand/Censure: The Chair shall review with the violator, in the presence of the complainant at the complainant's option, the violator's conduct. The Chair will explain to the violator that the conduct was inappropriate, and that repetition will lead to further and potentially more serious disciplinary action. The Chair will obtain from the violator a commitment and plan to reform the inappropriate conduct. The Board may also adopt a resolution, which shall be made part of the minutes of the Board meeting, describing the conduct violating the Code and formally explaining the punishment to the violator.
- B. Suspension: By affirmative majority vote (50 percent plus one vote) of the Board members present and voting, the Board may immediately suspend the violator from all 34th Dems appointments, meetings, events, and activities. **PCO cannot be excluded on vote to replace elected official holding a partisan office, reorganization and vote for Chair, vice-chairs, and state committee persons.** (Article III& IV, Sec.7)
- C. Removal from Position: The Chair may remove the chair of any standing or ad-hoc committee effective immediately. At the next membership meeting, members may vote to uphold or overturn the Chair's decision. If a majority (50 percent plus one vote) of members present and voting do not vote to overturn the Chair's decision, the removal will stand. Prior to any vote, the violator and the complainant shall be entitled, but not required, to address the 34th Dems present during debate on the motion to remove. ***Removal of elected officers is governed by Article IV, Sec. 7 of the Bylaws.***
- D. Expulsion: By affirmative two-thirds vote of the Board members present and voting, the Board may recommend the expulsion of the violator. Given ten days' notice, the membership of the 34th Dems will vote on the violator's expulsion from the body. This expulsion is confirmed with an affirmative two-thirds vote of members present and voting. Both the violator and the complainant shall be entitled, but not required, to address the 34th Dems membership during debate on the motion to expel. **Suspension or expulsion of a PCO is governed by Article III of the Bylaws.**

IX. Confidentiality

All parts of these proceedings shall remain confidential. Violation of the confidentiality of these proceedings shall be a violation of the Code of Conduct subject to any of the Penalties for Violation.

X. Robert's Rules

In matters not expressly addressed in these Rules, Robert's Rules may be consulted for guidance but need not be followed if, in the opinion of the Board, it would be more appropriate in the specific circumstances to follow an alternative course.