



34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

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

Attend our Virtual May 13th Meeting at 7pm

Our May meeting will feature U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal, Senator Joe Nguyen, Representative Eileen Cody, Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmember Joe McDermott, Seattle City Councilmember Lisa Herbold, and Burien City Councilmember Jimmy Matta. Our local elected leaders will provide us with updates on the work they are doing to support our region during this crisis. We will also provide an update on our delegate selection process and upcoming ways in which you can volunteer this election season. [Register for our May 13th virtual meeting HERE \(to attend you must register\).](#)

Do you have an announcement to include in the good of the order? Submit it [HERE](#).

If you have not used Zoom before, don't worry, we are here to help. Reach out to me at chair@34dems.org and I will help get you set-up for our May meeting.

Renew Your Membership for 2020

We have a lot of work to do to elect the leaders we need to recover the health of our country. ["It may not feel like it now, but out of this crisis there is a chance to build a better America."](#) This chance starts by electing the leaders who can do this difficult work. [Click HERE to renew](#) your Democratic status for the most crucial election in modern politics—to maintain membership donate any amount that is comfortable to you.

Join Me in Conversation

["The United States has a chance to emerge from this latest crisis as a stronger nation, more just, more free, and more resilient. We must seize the opportunity."](#) I found this special section in the NYT particularly beautiful and moving. What do you think? Let's share our ideas and thoughts. I am starting a virtual discussion group focusing on the topic of, how to build a better America. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please email me at chair@34dems.org.

— **Gina Topp,**
Chair, 34th District Democrats



WEAR WITH PRIDE

Order your
IGNITE CHANGE
34th District Dems T-Shirt!

\$25 Available in S-M-L-XL-2XL
<https://bit.ly/ignitechangegetshirt> or
email secretary@34dems.org to
arrange delivery.

[Click to Order!](#)

May 13, 2020

Meeting Notice A Special Virtual Gathering

[Register Here](#)

(to attend you must register)

Meeting Agenda

7:00 Welcome

7:05 Updates from Elected Officials

7:45 Delegate Selection Update

7:50 Virtual Phone Banking Training

7:55 Good of the Order

[\(Do you have an announcement to include in the good of the order? Submit it here.\)](#)

8:00 Adjourn

In This Issue

Chair's Message of Unity.....	Page 2
Letter: Moving Forward	Page 3
KCDCC Notes.....	Page 3
PCO Filing.....	Page 3
Virtual Campaigning.....	Page 4
Voter Registration Training.....	Page 4
Nick Licata on Eviction Ban.....	Page 5

In accordance with
Governor Inslee's
"Stay at Home" request, this is an
online issue only.

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

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
kocdcm@34dems.org

Leah Griffin | KC Committeeperson 2
kocdcw@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

A Call for Unity

Dear Fellow Democrats,

As you have certainly heard by now, Senator Bernie Sanders has suspended his campaign for President. To the many folks who supported Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, or another candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination: thank you for your fight, spirit, and work to make our country a more just and worthy nation.

I know it'll take time for many to come to terms with what now appears to be the outcome of the primary. I encourage you to take a look at Joe Biden's statement praising Senator Sanders and the movement he inspired.

I will say this as a committed Democrat: we can be a formidable force if we can unite in this moment. We need you – we need all people regardless of their politics - to join together in a united movement to send Donald Trump and his toxic, petty politics packing. Donald Trump has shown himself to be the most disruptive, deceitful, corrupt, and incompetent president in modern history. His behavior and policies are a national disgrace that tear apart what makes America truly great: our ideals of equality, liberty and justice for all and our ongoing drive to build a more perfect Union. The task of defeating Trump at the ballot box this November is one of historic significance for our country and its future

For many progressives, Joe Biden was not your first, fifth, or fifteenth choice among the candidates in the race. However, Biden will run on the most progressive platform of any Democratic nominee in history, in part due to the efforts of other candidates who brought important issues to the forefront.

Joe Biden will fight to expand healthcare to millions of people. With Senator Sanders he will fight to make public college tuition free. With Senator Warren he will work to expand consumer protection laws. And with our very own Governor Inslee he will make combatting climate change an urgent national priority. And most importantly Joe Biden will restore basic decency and competence to the White House.

For now, we are all rightly focused on getting through this COVID-19 crisis and keeping our loved ones and neighbors safe. We are being reminded of many things, some of which we had forgotten - how much we all depend on each other, how much compassion and kindness really matter, how much we owe our healthcare workers and first responders, how amazing teachers are, and how many people are struggling in this economy.

However, one of the most important elections in history is just around the corner. When the time is right, I hope we can work together to restore decency to the highest level of government in our nation. Let's fight side-by-side for the best of who we are as a nation, and for who we can be.

Take care-

Gina Topp

Chair, 34th District Democrats



Letter to the Editor: On Rebuilding Our Country

I don't know if I can contribute much to the "how" part. But I'd like to share one thing I've noticed about this time that has changed my thinking and brought me a great deal of comfort and hope. After Trump was elected and during his time as president, I've felt very cynical and hopeless, in terms of the people of this country. I never thought enough people could put their trust and support in a person of his character to get him voted into the position in the first place, let alone continue to support him as we see and hear him in action. One of my best friends is a supporter, and it's made things difficult for us to engage in talk around him. And after I read that his ratings were going up in this time of pandemic, with many people believing that he was doing a good job, I felt like the bottom (of our country's political future) was really falling out!

I don't know if you've caught any episodes of John Krasinski's "Some Good News (SGN)" episodes on Youtube, but they have been a great reminder to me of the goodness in people. It's been so great to see and hear about the things that all kinds of people are doing all over the country (and all over the world) to help and support others, both known to them, but largely to strangers. The levels of generosity and creativity are amazing! I've just got to believe that with that many good people out there, something good will come out of all this as we regain our normal lives. I know that some of these good people are indeed Trump supporters, but if this terrible thing can move so many people to do so much good, surely people can be moved (or convinced) to do what is good for this country!

Peace to you,

Layne Bautista

Editor's note: Here is on of John Krasinski's recent videos :<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1zlgTwENPg>

Notes from the April 28th KCDCC Meeting

Washington State's restrictions on gatherings in response to COBVID-19 will require that the KCDCC Executive Board meet distantly for the next several months, therefore new rules were presented and adopted for virtual meetings. The 2020 King County Democratic Convention has been cancelled also in response to the pandemic.

Updates from the State Party included news about the State Convention, scheduled to be in Tacoma this year. How it will be conducted is still up in the air at this time. The logistics are being worked out about how to pass bylaws and a platform. Once delegates are certified, the delegation can recruit vacancies and alternates. The Congressional Delegate deadline has been extended to May 11th.

Max Brown gave an update from the Platform Committee. There will be a process for member feedback on the platform coming soon. Hillary Madsen, who is running for King County Superior Court, was present to speak to her campaign.

A budget for the year was introduced and adopted.

The deadline for PCO filing is Friday, May 15.

Submitted by Leah Griffin, KCDCC Committeeperson

PCOs.....It's time to run again!

Online candidate filing for PCOs starts

May 11, 2020, at 9:00 AM.

Whether you were elected, an Appointed, or Acting PCO in the 34th District who volunteered in 2019 - 2020, your role as a PCO has never been more critical.

Your party needs you.

File here: bit.ly/34-PCO

Questions contact Nick Bonazza at: pco@34dems.org
or nick5669@gmail.com (or call 206-259-0820)

The Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network announces a new immigrant & refugee database.

Our immigrant neighbors are living in fear, with little to no support from the federal or state government. This is why the WAISN Resource Finder has been launched.

The [WAISN Resource Finder](#) is an online tool that allows anyone to search through a comprehensive database of resources available to immigrants and refugees in their county. Each resource includes services, contact info, accessibility, languages spoken, and whether or not the service requires identification.



Press Release: bit.ly/ResourceFinderPressRelease

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 May newsletter will be Thursday May 28, 2020

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

Become a Part of the Virtual WA State Democrats 2020 Campaign!

[Talk to voters from the comfort of home!](#)



[Click here for a schedule of digital organizing opportunities – then sign up!](#)

The Washington Democrats will be hosting virtual phone banks, virtual organizing academies and webinars. Once you have signed up for an organizing opportunity, check out the [step by step process](#) our 2020 Coordinated Campaign team provided to help you get started!

Here are some tools to help you get started with being a digital organizer:

[Welcome Letter from the WA Dems 2020 Coordinated Campaign](#)

[How to Open a Virtual Phone Bank](#)

[Script Training & Data Integrity](#)

[Click here for some helpful instructional videos on tools that we'll be using for digital organizing](#)

Voter Registration Resources and Video Training

We have added a page to the 34th District Democrats website that includes handy links to voter registration documents. The page also features a thorough YouTube video produced by Seattle Indivisible that describes the registration process and the forms used. It also gives helpful tips on ways to do voter registration in public places.

We will emerge from our "Stay at Home" orders one day soon, and we will resume our efforts to see everyone is registered to vote...and encourage people to take part in each election. The more people voting...the better chance we have to elect Democrats!



Check it out on our website!

<https://www.34dems.org/voter-registration/>

Seattle - First US City To Ban Rental Housing Evictions During Winter

An Analysis by Nick Licata

The groundwork was laid down through citizen involvement in local government – it can happen anywhere.

Seattle's City Council has banned renter evictions during the winter. The legislation, that passed unanimously on February 10th, is not a total ban and it will not end homelessness. However, it will stall evictions from November 1 through March 31 to prevent mostly low-income and people of color from winding up on the street if they cannot pay their rent during the coldest and wettest months of the year. Councilmember Kshama Sawant, the sponsor of the legislation, said it was a "humane approach to the homelessness crisis that voters have called for". This was in reference to a major theme of every candidate elected to the council last November – we must not abandon those who are homeless.

Evictions push renters out of their homes and most often it is due to economic hardships. According to a study, by the Seattle Women's Commission and the King County Bar Association's Housing Justice Project, Seattle experienced 1,218 evictions involving nearly 1,500 people in 2017. About half owed one month's rent, with a median rent of \$1,250 or less.

What Does the Legislation Accomplish?

Seattle's legislation goes beyond providing what a few other cities do to help renters from being evicted. For example, New York and San Francisco guarantee the right to legal counsel during an eviction. While Seattle has offers low-income incarcerated people access legal aid, it does not guarantee a lawyer for people facing eviction. In Washington D.C. the US Marshall Service will not complete evictions when precipitation is falling or when the temperature is forecasted to fall below 32 degrees Fahrenheit that day. The eviction will be completed on the next available date on which the temperature and precipitation permit. It is a humane approach, but hardly a solution to stopping or even reducing evictions.

Seattle's legislation truly breaks new ground. Rather than starting from scratch to write a new law, the existing Just Cause Eviction Ordinance was amended, which already prevented landlords from arbitrarily ending rental agreements. The legislation provides a new legal right to defend against an eviction. A memo from the city council's staff said a tenant or their attorney would raise a legal defense in response to the landlord's claim for the right of possession during the eviction proceedings in Superior Court. Presumably a judge would either rule in favor of the tenant and the landlord could refile a complaint to obtain possession

after April 1, or the judge will simply delay execution of the writ of restitution until after that date.

Before the legislation was passed unanimously it was amended in ways which accommodated the needs of non-profit housing providers to protect all of their residents and to also lower the probability of a court challenge or trigger an attack from reactionary political forces. The council trimmed the period covered by the legislation from five months to three months; limited the rule to low- and moderate-income tenants; exempted landlords with four or fewer housing units; established a "mitigation fund" to pay landlords rent owed to them during the moratorium months; and ensured that landlords could still evict a tenant for not only criminal activity, but also for activity that threatens the health or safety of other tenants or the owner.

How did they do it?

There were 2 factors that allowed for passing this legislation. The more subtle one was Seattle government's infrastructure that empowers its residents to influence public policy through citizen run commissions. They create a political environment that counters the perception of a government that is separate from the average citizen. Rather than just seeing government as simply providing them benefits or obstructing their activities, the commissions allow citizens to see politicians as possible allies in pushing for structural changes that are not tied to contributing to their reelection campaigns.

Seattle has a robust array of citizen commissions that have helped shape legislation. It's important to understand how citizen commissions need to be formed and operated to be something more than window dressing.

Generally, a city council has the authority to introduce legislation creating a citizens' commission on any topic it wishes. It can define who is on it, how they are appointed and what their focus should be. The mayor would usually have the power to approve or veto such legislation. But the council can initiate its creation and if the council controls or has to approve the city's budget, it can also allocate funds for staffing the commission.

The Seattle Renters Commission is an example of how a citizens' commission was created and how it initiated the ban on renter evictions. The ordinance creating SRC was unanimously passed by the Seattle City Council in March 2017, with the most progressive and conservative council members co-sponsoring it.

Seattle had long been a city dominated by single-family neighborhoods. With 136,000 people moving into the city from 2010 to 2018, by the end of that period 48% of its residents



were living in rented units, whose rents had dramatically increased. Zillow tied these rent increases to a rising homeless population, estimating that Seattle's homeless population was the third highest in the nation by absolute number not by pro-capita.

Renter concerns in general were not being represented on the city council, which traditionally had no tenant or only one on it. Renters have different public needs than homeowners, particularly since the median income for renters is less than 50% of homeowners in Seattle, according to the US Census Department. Consequently, council members concluded that having a renters' citizen commission to weigh in on city policies would help the council guide its legislation. Other city councils could check to see what percentage of its residents are renters and compare it to the percentage of renters that sit on their council.

The SRC has 15 members, six appointed by the council and six by the mayor, with two selected by the commission and one youth appointed to fill a slot saved on every commission for such a person. It's important to divide the number commissioners appointed so that both the mayor and the council have a direct connection to its membership. A commission's composition should be determined through the legislation. In SRC's case, appointees must represent varied perspectives that reflect historically underrepresented groups like the low-income, LGBTQ, immigrants, former felons and those who had been homeless. The city's Department of Neighborhoods funds staffing for the commission.

All of SRC's characteristics described above are similar to the other citizen commissions that have been established. All of them have a councilmember who has direct oversight of their operations, all have city funding for staffing, and all have open public meetings. Their members have set terms and are uncompensated. Their importance however is determined by their own leadership

and by the willingness of councilmembers to work with them to promote an agreed upon legislative strategy.

This is what happened when the SRC wrote a letter to Councilmember Sawant urging her as chair of the council committee overseeing renter concerns to support a renters' eviction ban, "Passing such a moratorium will keep neighbors from being displaced to the streets during the months with the harshest weather and poorest living conditions for neighbors living unsheltered." This is particularly true for the nearly 52 percent of tenants who faced eviction in 2017 who were people of color, with a high portion of them being black women. In response, Sawant agreed to bring forward legislation to put a ban into effect.

The second critical factor contributing to passing the eviction ordinance was having a councilmember who is willing to not just verbally support legislation but to actually work with citizens and other councilmembers to get legislation passed. Citizens need someone who knows how to work the labyrinth of laws, and who can mobilize people outside city hall.

In this instance, Sawant worked with those inside city hall to expand the coverage of an existing law. While she opposed all but one of the amendments that were made to her legislation, she did not withdraw her support from it. She recognized and celebrated its passage as a tremendous victory for Seattle's renters. Sawant also organized directly with community based organizations to have supporters appear at the city council's chambers to testify and visibly show that the legislation was of immense concern for many residents.

Other councilmembers also played a critical role in proposing constructive amendments and supporting the legislation as a whole. Unlike the candidates that ran and lost in the most recent city council elections, they did not oppose legislation because it regulated the private market to limit its negative impact on those who are most vulnerable.

Seattle's eviction legislation may seem like a something that could only happen in Seattle. However, it could be adopted in other cities if they develop government portals to involve direct citizen participation in policy issues and have elected officials who can be organizational leaders. Progressive solutions are not arrived at spontaneously, it takes a road map to reach them.

Nick Licata served 5 terms on the Seattle City Council, named progressive municipal official of the year by The Nation, and is founding board chair of Local Progress, a national network of 1,000 progressive municipal officials.

Originally published in Licata's newsletter "Urban Politics" and "Medium".

Submitted here February 22, 2020



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 _____

\$ 180 Suggested Membership Donation Recurring Monthly Donation* \$ _____ One-Time Donation \$ _____

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

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 each individual whose contribution exceeds \$100 in the election cycle.