

37th LD Democrats Membership Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM.

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Land Acknowledgement
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Adopt February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Minutes are adopted without objection.

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Recognition of Women’s History Month
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Congressman Adam Smith

Situation in Ukraine:

- The U.S. policy approach is to do what we can, without broadening the war. We need to find “off-ramps” to get the war to stop.
- 2022 election: Control of House and Senate is on the line in 2022; sets the platform for 2024.
- Redistricting: Some good news: May be possible to pick up seats, rather than losing. This is the result of hard work.
- Passage of infrastructure bill has been good news.
- Kim Schrier race is all-important. Please support.
- Patty Murray will also face a significant re-election challenge.
- Question regarding where to donate for Ukraine?
Answer: Red Cross is a good start.
- Opportunities for peace rather than war? Answer: Diplomacy and development.
- Question regarding defense spending. Answer: Did not support a 10% defense spending cut because it seemed unnecessary. Thinks it is important to have a strong military in order to have a deterrent effect.
- Question requesting statement of support for Elisa Loncon, the Mapuche woman chosen to lead the drafting of Chile’s new constitution. Follow-up is requested.

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Redistricting Reorganization

(Carrie Barnes appoints Alec Stephens as Chair; Alec takes gavel; then hands gavel back to Carrie after vote)

Overview by Alec Stephens of the 10-year redistricting process.

Michael Wolfe: Were any e-board members districted out or in? Answer: No.

Motion advanced for vote:

To continue the existing officers and continue the bylaws until our next reorganization in January of 2023.

Motion passes.

Overview: March 26th Delegation Selection Caucus for 2022 State Democratic Party Convention

Purpose is to elect a slate of delegate to participate in the State Party Convention.

Highlights:

- 32 delegates, 16 alternates, plus several delegates who are pre-assigned.
- Must be a declared Democrat in order to run.
- Pre-registration forms will be provided.
- Hybrid convention. You can choose in-person or virtually (you will be locked in).
- Information to come, including dates, registration form.
- Please reach out to your communities to solicit participants.
- Work on submissions to the state convention will be in process between March 27 and mid-June.

Candidate Introductions, Part 1

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu

- Appointed in 2014
- Elected in 2016; seeking another term
- Proud to lead on issues of race, diversity
- Supports a fair and bias-free system of justice
- Co-chair of the Leadership Institute
- Teaches at Seattle University

Seattle Municipal Court Justice Faye Chess

- Took efforts to make courts accessible during Covid
 - Debt-reduction program has been instituted
 - Member of Minority Justice Commission
 - Appointed to Oversight Committee for Legal Aides
 - On the Board of Easter Seals
 - In this community for more than 30 years
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Endorsement committee recommendations and voting demonstration

Rory O'Sullivan & Keith Gardner

Recap by Rory O'Sullivan:

- A request was made to convene an ad hoc committee to review our endorsement process and make recommendations for improvement.
- The goal was for a process more accessible to voters and candidates.
- As a result of the review, many changes were suggested to increase ease of use and make improvements.
- One suggestion is the institution of a more permanent endorsement committee which would determine in advance which candidates are eligible for endorsement and collect reference materials on those candidates. Side note: Vote Builder assets may not be used to support candidates who identify as members of another party (not Democrat).
- If there is only one candidate, a vote for unanimous acclamation is entertained.
- Races with 2 or more candidates are subject to vote by ballot.

Provisions of new proposed rules:

- In races where there's a vote, the vote will take place over the 48 hours AFTER the LD meeting. Primarily online, through a secure Google form.
- The 48-hour voting period is intended to increase inclusiveness.
- People who request a hard-copy ballot will be accommodated.
- Suggest that the 60% threshold be maintained.
- Rank-order preference will be allowed.
- If a candidate receives 60% of the vote after first ballot, endorsement is made.
- Otherwise, the fewest-voted candidate is dropped for second ballot, etc.
- If no candidate achieves 60%, there's a possibility for dual endorsement voting at the subsequent monthly meeting.
- A vote for no endorsement is also possible.
- Attendees at the LD meeting can make motions for endorsement, but all members will have the opportunity to vote (whether or not in attendance).

Question:

Will we be able to support non-Democratic candidates?

Answer:

Vote Builder access will be removed if we use those assets to support a member of another party.

Question:

To confirm, part of the reason for convening this committee was to address our lengthy voting process, right?

Answer:

Yes. 2 recommendations address that: 2-day voting and the ranked-choice ballot.

Question:
How would judicial candidates be handled?

Answer: The rules are slightly different for judges, as compared to partisan offices. (We can still endorse judicial candidates.)

(Demonstration by Keith Garner of option to modify ballots as needed during the meeting.)

Rory O’Sullivan:
At the end of meeting, ballots can be modified to delete unanimous ballots, leaving multi-person races, or races with at least one candidate plus a motion for no endorsement.

Ranked choice voting is optional, but not necessary. (OK to just vote for one if desired.)

Michael Wolfe:
Motion for no endorsement must be formally moved. No endorsement must be “treated like a candidate.”

Question:
In the tally, is it 60% of remaining ballots, or 60% of all voters?

Rory O’Sullivan:
60% of the people who voted in that race. (That’s the voting threshold.)

(Explanation of ranked-choice voting.)

Question:
Regarding paper ballots?

Answer:
Online voting is encouraged, but at in-person or hybrid meetings, a paper ballot would be available for those at the meeting. A post-meeting hard-copy ballot process has not yet been fully worked out.



Candidate Introductions, Part 2

King County Prosecutor Candidate Leesa Manion

- Advocates for public safety
- Intends to reduce racial disproportionality
- Diversion program to keep people out of the system
- 3 interns have returned to full time work (measure of success)
- Partnering to reduce theft and increase safety in downtown corridor
- Would be first woman & POC to hold this office

King County Superior Court Candidate Justice Kristin Ballinger

- Appointed a few months ago
- Family of public servants
- Has been a prosecuting attorney
- Worked with Skagit Tribe on treaty rights
- Now in Dependency Court (foster kids)

Seattle Municipal Court Candidate Cat McDowell

- Appointed in 2020
- From Ohio
- Has been in the community since 1997
- Initially in private practice; joined public sector in Seattle
- Part of Remote Access Work Group
- Worked to reduce implicit bias in jury selection)

Stephanie Gallardo

Running for Congress in 9th Congressional District

- Daughter of refugees
- Intends to center schools and affordable education
- Intends to center affordable housing
- Intends to elevate diversity

PCO appointments

Justin Baird

Mary Pat DiLeva, precinct 1880

Logan Bowers, precinct 1831

Kassandra Penning, precinct 1643

(Discussion of pending redistricting and redistricting-related details.)

Good of the Order

Vincy Fok, Senator Patty Murray's Campaign

- Working on Prevent Pandemics Act
- Voting Rights Protections
- Build Back Better
- Infrastructure bill (signed in November)
- Clean School Busses
- Confirming diverse judges

Joanna Cullen: Reminder: School board boundaries will also be changing.

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(Results of voting demonstration, with additional clarifications of how ranked-choice voting works.)

Alec Stephens: We will debate these proposed changes more fully at the next meeting.

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Julia Bobadilla Melby:
Last Friday new president of Chile achieved a grassroots victory. (Personal narrative as a former refugee.) A better Chile is now possible. There needs to be an end to the taking of political prisoners. Question: Are our leaders working for equity? Disappointed by Land Acknowledgement. Last week WA Equity Now met with staff at the attorney general's office about bringing back affirmative action.

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Gwen Rensch:
Welcome new members

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Mary Williams:
Domestic Violence Awareness
Movement to create humane centers for people existing sex industry

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Julia Bobadilla Melby:
Jim Buchanan lobbied the legislature for equitable licenses for marijuana licenses.

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Carrie/Andrew:
In April our representatives will visit; we can ask them about their votes as part of a panel discussion.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:18PM.