

**37<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats Membership Meeting  
Monday, April 11, 2022**

**Meeting called to order at 7:08pm.**

.....  
**Land Acknowledgement** (Carrie Barnes)

Members of indigenous communities are invited to participate in future land acknowledgements.

.....  
**Adopt Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2022 Minutes: <https://bit.ly/37DWc3Q>

.....  
**Discussion of proposed new endorsement rules**

Proposed new endorsement rules: <https://bit.ly/3Jx7OmJ>

Proposed bylaws amendment: <https://bit.ly/3LWW6mZ>

**Special Note**

There was a request to postpone consideration of the proposed bylaws amendment associated with the proposed new endorsement rules. (Discussion of whether this would preclude consideration of the endorsement rules. Consensus: No. That discussion will proceed.)

Motion to adopt the new standing endorsement rules. (Alec Stephens). Seconded.

Comments in favor of adopting the new standing endorsement rules:  
(Michael Wolfe)

- Ranked choice voting will reduce time for voting
- Allowing a voting period increases inclusivity of voting process

Question: Regarding the implications of ranked choice voting for influencing voting behavior in subsequent voting rounds.

Answer: Each individual's vote will be ranked choice according to that individual's preference. The process will change, but with the benefits of increased inclusivity and reduced meeting times.

Question: Did the committee explore other voting options?

Answer: Yes, and these options were explored and discussed at meetings last year.

Question: Can individuals join by phone and vote?

Answer: That depends on whether we decide to have hybrid meetings.

Comments against adopting the new standing endorsement rules:

(Bob Rosenberger)

Described instance of ranked choice voting in which the vote was split and a less-than-desirable candidate was elected. Advocating for another option instead, such as approval voting.

Comments in favor: (Alec Stephens)

He has been convinced. Lengthy meetings have been a problem. Efficiency is improved and meeting attendance toward the end of meetings will be improved. Also allows for deliberation, with a 48-hour voting window.

Comments against: (Dianne Ramsey)

States that Robert's Rules advocates against this process. However, allows that it might work for less contentious races.

Comments in favor: (Michael Wolfe)

The proposed process allows for a top-two approach, which both allows for a dual endorsement and lessens the possibility of an undesirable candidate getting through.

Comments in favor: (Justin Baird)

There were extenuating circumstances that influenced the races described by Bob Rosenberger, which were not associating with the voting process.

Comments in favor: (Jim Hutchins)

Endorsement meetings are too long. It's time to try a new approach.

Robert Stephens: Calls for the question, which will cut off debate. Seconded.

Motion to cut off debate:

37 votes to cut off debate.

1 vote against cutting off debate.

The debate is cut off.

Vote on whether to adopt the proposed new standing endorsement rules:

39 votes for

3 votes against

1 abstention

The motion passes. Proposed new standing endorsement rules are approved for implementation.

Michael Wolfe: Thank you to the committee, with special recognition to Keith Garner.

## **Town Hall**

Featuring

Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley and Sen. Rebecca Saldaña  
(Introduction by Andrew Ashiofu)

### **Sen. Saldaña:**

Appreciated having the Zoom option for this year's legislative session.

Covid recovery efforts have been paramount in policy discussions this year.

Special mentions:

Passage of \$17 billion transportation funding package, funding roads, bridges, rail, transit, bike and pedestrian projects. Investments in roads and highways which focus on equity and environmental justice.

Mention of HEAL Act, Climate Commitment Act, Clean Fuels Act

### **Rep. Tomiko Santos:**

Recognizes Sen. Rebecca Saldaña, and Rep. Harris-Talley. An all-female group, all women of color.

Comments regarding Education, Capital budget, Consumer Protection committees.

Spending: This was a short session. \$88 million was left over from last year. That would be the equivalent of about \$88 for an individual. The \$88 million would have needed to cover all capital expenditures this year. However additional federal expenditures have helped tremendously.

\$737 million was transferred from the operating budget to the capital budget. Allowed for investments in housing, tiny homes, parks, Seattle Vocational Institute, public health facilities.

Transportation budget was also activated, due to the infusion of federal funds.

Education: Kids have suffered greatly during the pandemic. Children's mental health is prioritized. Investment has been made in more social workers, school psychiatrists, etc.

### **Rep. Harris-Talley:**

Collaboration with Senator Saldaña and Rep. Tomiko Santos has been instrumental in programs investments and other successes this year.

2020-2021 was a time of clarity for police accountability.

During this session: Some budgetary adjustments made sense; some didn't.

Lots of good housing policy did not make it through. Some of this has to do with the time available to take up the many issues.

Some good workers' rights bills did make it through the State Senate.

There is a tide turning on making families whole when a member is incarcerated.

HB1881 passed: Doulas for All, establishing a pathway to birth doula certification and eventual Medicaid reimbursement.

### **Sen. Saldaña:**

Regarding vehicle pursuits:

A bill that would have eased some of the restrictions imposed last year on vehicular pursuits did not receive a final vote on the last day of the session.

HB2057 passed, strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion in the state patrol workforce.

HB1815 passed, cracking down on rising catalytic converter thefts.

HB2037 passed, allowing police to use force if suspects are not complying, or fleeing the scene. (Senator Saldaña did not like this one.)

### **Rep. Tomiko-Santos:**

Regarding SB5264: This bill would have declared January Chinese History Month. It did not pass. The concern was that API members of the House did not feel that there was enough opportunity to engage on the bill. Why was January selected, and what was the intention? The effort must have the support of both House and Senate, and communities throughout the state.

### **Rep. Harris-Talley:**

Reiterates Rep Tomiko-Santos comments regarding lack of community input on proposed legislation benefiting those constituencies.

### **Q&A**

- Question regarding Central District disruptions with new construction.
- Question regarding payment for long-term care insurance, opt-out, expected tax break.
- Question regarding lack of support for sex work bill.
- Question regarding failure of HB1099, improving the state's climate response.
- Question regarding support for HB1773, concerning behavioral health disorders.
- Personal anecdote regarding catalytic converter theft.
- Question regarding possible redress for the school-to-prison pipeline.

- Question regarding what the district can do to be future-focused.
- Question regarding the possibility of creating a full-time state legislature.

---

## **2022 State Convention**

Discussion of the upcoming Democratic State Convention, which will take place on June 25, 2022. The membership is invited to propose resolutions and suggest amendments to the Proposed State Platform.

We have until May 25 to advance two resolutions to the state committee.

Regarding amendments: Please contact [info@37dems.org](mailto:info@37dems.org) or Carrie Barnes at [carriebarnes868@gmail.com](mailto:carriebarnes868@gmail.com) with suggested amendments.

---

## **Good of the Order**

### **Introductions from candidates seeking endorsement:**

Judge Adam Eisenberg  
Judge Willie Gregory  
Judge Kristin Ballinger

### **Additional Good of the Order items:**

Vincy Fok, for Senator Patty Murray  
[vincy@pattymurray.com](mailto:vincy@pattymurray.com)

Special mentions:

Supreme Court confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson  
Daylight Savings Time  
Infrastructure: clean fuels

Arshia Nilchian, for Congressman Adam Smith  
[arshia@electadamsmith.com](mailto:arshia@electadamsmith.com) or (206) 308-8986  
4/19 Virtual Town Hall – Environmental issues

5/4 Campaign kickoff. Registration: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/tasteof9th2022>  
Hosted event with 10 community funding projects that were funded in appropriations bill.  
AfricaTown affordable housing, healthcare: <https://bit.ly/3JSn11W>

Andrew Ashiofu

Announcing candidacy to run for State Representative in the 37<sup>th</sup> LD.

---

**Adjournment: 9:59pm.**