

37th LD Democrats Membership Meeting

Monday, August 8, 2022

This meeting is chaired by Second Vice-Chair Yuan Tao

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Meeting Called to Order: 7:00pm

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Land Acknowledgement

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Adoption of July Minutes

[July 11, 2022 Minutes](#)

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Senator Patty Murray Campaign Update

(Vincy Fok)

Yard signs will be available at the Othello International Festival on Sunday, August 14.

Contact Vincy@pattymurray.com for any general questions and yardsign@pattymurray.com for any yard sign request questions.

(Comment from Alec Stephens regarding an attack ad.)

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King County Executive Dow Constantine regarding

Conserve our Future King County Prop. 1

[Yes on KC-Prop-1 Endorsement Resolution.pdf](#)

Climate change is a great threat to the planet. King County Prop. 1 would reinstate Conservation Futures funding to its original rate, allowing King County to be competitive in the property market and obtain more land for green space conservation, wildlife and salmon habitat restoration. The cost would be approximately \$1.81 per household per month.

<https://conserveourfuturekc.com/>

Any questions about Prop.1, please email logan@conserveourfuturekc.com

(Questions and discussion regarding property tax burden, location of proposed new parks and open areas. Comment that local control is paramount. Discussion of techniques to protect urban trees in order to affect the tree canopy.)

Question regarding how this effort might dovetail with other priorities, such as health care and disabled individuals.

Answer: Adequate tree canopy is needed in every community. The work on this land conservation initiative has refocused effort in this direction. The team is working to increase capacity to center disability as a critical responsibility.

Question regarding identification of parcels.

Answer: General areas and types of properties are publicly identified, but not specific parcels. This is to prevent speculation.

Question regarding the Garfield Park renovation (Garfield Superblock). The group is still trying to raise funds to complete the project.

Answer: There is money set aside for every urban area to achieve funding for green space.

Question regarding property tax burden on fixed-income citizens.

Answer: There will be fee exemptions for low-income and other categories.

Question regarding how to define the areas underserved by green space, especially with increased population.

Answer: Everyone must be able to walk to a park, trail or wooded area in the county. Yes, more green space would be needed with increased population. (Cited example of South Lake Union to illustrate an area that was developed with inadequate attention to green space.)

Question regarding the challenge for those who are disabled and unable to walk.

Answer: Acknowledging the challenge, and thank you for bringing it to attention.

Question regarding whether the state legislature is being lobbied on this issue?

Answer: Yes. The tax code must be revised so that everyone will pay their fair share.

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Andre StackHouse regarding the Universal Healthcare Effort Whole Washington
[More Information](#)

Andre Stackhouse contact info:

Phone: 206 715 7085

Email: andre.stackhouse@wholewashington.org

General points:

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- Health care is key to a full life.
 - Whole Washington is a 501(c)(4)
 - Its goal is to make universal healthcare a reality
 - Founded in 2017
 - 100% volunteer-run
 - Working to get I-1471 on the ballot
 - wholewashington.org/volunteer
 - wolewashington.org/sign
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The group is advocating to have Washington state finance universal, single-payer public health insurance. The resulting organization would be a non-profit called the Washington Health Trust. It would cover all medical services, with no out-of-pocket expenses.

Regarding how it would be funded:

Employers, employees, sole proprietors and investors would all contribute.

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Benefits:

- Would save money
- Would be more efficient
- Would be more stable
- Would be more fair
- 95% of Washington would be paying less

Regarding how Whole Washington would be enacted:

As background: A bill to move this effort forward has been stuck in committee for several years. Now, initiative I-1471 has been filed instead. It is in the signature-collection phase. If enough signatures are collected the initiative would go on the ballot next year.

After 30 days, any WA resident would be eligible.
ALL medical needs would be covered.

Nonprofit
Transparent
No shareholders, CEO bonuses, no stock buybacks

Free at point of use. (Similar to fire department, etc.)

Benefits? Saves money, more stable, more simple, more fair.

The process? It is currently in a legislative committee, without a public hearing. Therefore, it is being pursued as a ballot initiative.

(Discussion of signature gathering)

Question regarding Medicare eligibility.

Answer: Everyone on Medicare will be eligible upon request.

Whole Washington will offer more than Medicare, which will make it eligible for a waiver. Eventually the current program would be folded into the Washington Health Trust.

Those covered under the Affordable Care Act would be covered by the Washington Health Trust.

Question regarding timing of taking this to the ballot in 2023, as opposed to 2024, which election would have higher voter turnout.

Answer: The timing is related to demand for this activism. This is the way to grow the movement and spread awareness. It is a process.

Question regarding employer/employee contributions in case of unemployment.

Answer: Those who lose a job would not need to pay.

Question regarding potential savings.

Answer: Greater efficiencies in administrative costs are a large factor in the savings. Savings would also come from more preventive care, and reductions in negative externalities like crime.

Question regarding out-of-state care.

Answer: Yes, the coverage would work in the same way that a regular healthcare plan works when you are out of state.

Comment regarding the fact that most other countries offer universal health care. We should emulate this.

**Motion and second to support the Whole Washington campaign.
The motion passes 18-0. The 37th LD Democrats support the Whole Washington campaign.**

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**Othello Festival Voter Registration Booth
Sunday, August 14**
[Sign up to volunteer](#)

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2022 Primary Election Recap

Statement from Carrie Barnes, read by Yuan Tao:

“Since late Tuesday, Democrats have held strong in races across the state, at all levels of office — from Congress to legislature. The threat of a red wave turned out to be little more than a droplet (and that’s being generous), as this was the best primary we’ve had in almost two decades. All of our hard work over the last six years to organize communities, train candidates and volunteers, hire top-notch staff, and invest in our data and modeling operation paid off. The GOP wasn’t able to gain a foothold anywhere in Washington state, despite spending millions on blatantly false digital and TV ads, as well as horribly outrageous and inaccurate mailers (up to 10 in a single district).

Even with the involvement of Donald Trump and various dark money PACs, Sen. Patty Murray leads Republican Tiffany Smiley 53.18% to 33.06% as of 6 p.m. Thursday. Regardless of those vote totals, Smiley — the best-funded GOP challenger in the country, apart from Herschel Walker — has spent \$1 million in attack ads against Murray in the last two weeks alone. And starting Wednesday, Rick Scott’s National Republican Senate Committee is spending nearly \$700,000 on TV and digital ads statewide, marking the first time in more than a decade that the NRSC has invested in a race here.”

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Comments from Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos: Thanks the district for its support.

State House Democrats are cautiously optimistic about results. There’s a possibility that the Dems may actually gain seats, nearing a super majority.

Endorsement process for the open house seat will re-open, along with the CD9 seat.

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Comments from Senator Rebecca Saldaña:
Thank you for support and for voting. State Senate is also cautiously optimistic. Turnout could be higher. We need to support other districts aso. Kim Schrier in CD8 e.g.

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Good of the Order

Lyn McKay: Thank you to the e-board and Rebecca Saldaña and Sharon Tomiko Santos for representing us well.

Julia Bobadilla-Melby: Thank you for endorsing Washington Equity Now. (Discussion of history and additional efforts.)

Alec Stephens will need to miss the Othello Festival because of his birthday.

Mary Williams: Joe Brazil festivities have been postponed.

Justin Baird: His technology has been repaired and he is back online.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.