

**37<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats Membership Meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2022**

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**Meeting Called to Order: 7:00pm**

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Statement from Carrie Barnes:  
Please consider what you can do to support our candidates before the General Election.

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**Land Acknowledgement** (Carrie Barnes)

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**Adoption of August Minutes**

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**Agenda Notes**

Endorsement-related presentations this evening:

- Washington Congressional District 9
- Washington State 37<sup>th</sup> LD Representative, Position 2
- Ballot Measure King County Prop. 1: Conserve Our Future

Additional presentations this evening:

Washington Initiative 134 Vote Format, 1A (Approval Voting)

Washington Initiative 134 Vote Format, 1B (Ranked Choice Voting)

At its August meeting the executive board recommended moving the endorsement voting on the I-134 initiative to our October meeting.

Alec Stephens moves to hold the endorsement voting on I-134 at our October meeting.  
The motion is seconded.

The motion passes; the endorsement voting on I-134 will move to October.

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**Endorsements**

**Washington Congressional District 9**

Jeanne Legault moves to endorse Adam Smith.  
Seconded.

Alec Stephens clarifies that the possibilities are Adam Smith and No Endorsement.

Rory O’Sullivan moves to endorse Adam Smith by unanimous acclamation.

Nancy Raiken moves for No Endorsement.  
Seconded.

Andrew Ashiofu: Can we go back to No Endorsement?

Alec: Yes, we can go back to No Endorsement because we did not make an endorsement originally.

Statements:

Shaun Stuart speaks in favor of Adam Smith.

Nancy Raiken speaks for No Endorsement.

Jeanne Legault speaks in favor of endorsing Adam Smith.

Brett Abercrombie speaks for No Endorsement.

Lyn McKay speaks in favor of endorsing Adam Smith.

Keith Garner in favor of endorsing Adam Smith.

The ballot options for this office will be Adam Smith and No Endorsement.

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**Washington LD37 State Representative, Position 2**

Lem Howell moves to endorse Chipalo Street.  
Seconded.

Jeanne Legault moves to endorse Emijah Smith.  
Seconded.

Statements:

Chipalo Street speaks in support of his candidacy.

Emijah Smith speaks in support of her candidacy.

Lem Howell speaks in favor of Chipalo Street.

Jackie Vaughn speaks in favor of Emijah Smith.  
Mark Hatcher speaks in favor of Chipalo Street.  
Andrew Ashiofu speaks in favor of Emijah Smith.

The ballot options for this office will be Emijah Smith and Chipalo Street.

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**King County Prop. 1, Conserve our Future** (in support of parks & green space)

Guillermo Zazueta speaks in support of the measure.

Devin Glaser moves to support KC Prop. 1.  
Seconded.

Diane Ramsey moves for No Endorsement.  
Seconded.

Additional statements:

Devin Glaser speaks in favor of KC Prop. 1.  
Diane Ramsey: speaks for No Endorsement.  
Robert Stephens in favor of KC Prop 1.  
Nancy Raiken speaks for No Endorsement.

The ballot options for KC Prop. 1 will be yes (to endorse,) and no endorsement.

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**Executive Board Vacancies**

37<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats Third Vice-Chair

Jeanne Legault nominates Jennifer Slemp.  
Seconded.

Jennifer Slemp accepts nomination.  
Jennifer Slemp is elected by acclamation.

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King County Councilperson, Female or Non-Binary

Andrew Ashiofu nominates Camille Walton.

Camille Walton declines the nomination.

Jeanne Legault nominates Mary Williams.  
Mary Williams declines the nomination.

Lyn McKay nominates self.  
Seconded.  
Lyn McKay is elected by acclamation.



King County Councilperson, Female or Non-Binary, Alternate

Mary Williams has been moved and seconded to serve as alternate. Elected by acclamation.



King County Councilperson, Male or Non-Binary

Nimco Bulale nominates Khalid Bulale.  
Seconded.  
Khalid Bulale is elected by acclamation.



Secretary:

Nancy Raiken nominates self.  
Seconded.  
Nancy Raiken is elected by acclamation.



King County Councilperson, Male or Non-Binary, Alternate

Andrew Ashiofu nominates Logan Bowers.  
Logan Bowers declines the nomination.

Andrew Ashiofu nominates Devin Glaser.  
Devin Glaser declines the nomination.

Joanna Cullen nominates Robert Stephens.  
Robert Stephens declines the nomination.

Jeanne Legault nominates Herman Huggins.  
Seconded. (Herman is unable to respond; technical issues.)

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## **Washington Initiative 134 (Vote Format) Presentations**

### **Approval 1A: Approval Voting**

Logan Bowers speaks in support of Approval Voting:

Proposal is to vote for ALL candidates that you approve of.  
Top 2 candidates advance.  
Voter pick between final 2 in general election.  
Other communities have passed and are using Approval Voting.  
It is in use the Seattle are by LDs 45 and 46.  
Prevents similar candidates from splitting the vote in the primary.

Comparison to 1B (Ranked Choice):

Bowers states that Ranked Choice has unintended consequences; most popular candidate may actually not be the one elected. States that a minority of voters may be able to affect the outcome of the election with Ranked Choice.

More information:

<https://seattleapproves.org>

Contact:

logan.bowers@gmail.com

info@seattleapproves.org

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## **Q&A**

Keith Garner: Why is Approval Voting better?

A: You will always get a winner approved by the most voters.  
Also, it's powerful to give approval to more than one candidate.

Robert Stephens: (Question regarding the ballot format.)

A: (Visual demonstration comparing types of ballots.)

Justin Baird: Questions presumption that all choices are equal.

A: Typically people have a limited number of strong preferences. The general election can be used to sort out exact preferences.

Lyn McKay: Asks the difference between Ranked Choice and Approval Voting.

A: Ranked Choice allows for the voter to establish an order of preference. Approval Voting allows for indication of all “approved” candidates without having the voter distinguish between them.



**Approval 1B: Ranked Choice Voting**

Lisa Ayrault speaks in support of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV):

About half the states use a form of RCV.

Several even use it for presidential primaries.

(Visual demonstration of ballot.)

Allows for more positive campaigns; candidates often campaign together.

RCV doubled the number of women and POC on the 2022 NYC City Council.

Popular with voters.

Other communities locally are considering adopting RCV.

More information:

<https://rcv4seattle.org/>

[fairvotewa.org](http://fairvotewa.org)



Q&A:

Keith: Why support RCV over Approval Voting?

A: Increases voter engagement. The backup only comes into play if your person doesn't come in. Problem with Approval is that all choices are equal on the first ballot. People are recommended to vote for one person, rather than multiple. (Less engagement.)

Dianne Ramsey:

How do you establish transparency?

A: Full release of cast-vote record.  
There is 20 years of modeling with this method.

Logan Bowers: Have there been hand recounts with RCV?  
A: Yes, and it's quite doable.

Alec Stephens: Observes that both presenters are speaking against each other's alternative. It seems possible that that approach will undermine both efforts.

Rory O'Sullivan (explaining how the issue will appear on the ballot): First there will be a question as to whether a change in voting method is desired. Then a second question will ask whether the voter prefers 1A or 1B in the event a change is made.

Joanna Cullen: Takes issue with how this issue will appear on the ballot.

Logan Bowers: Comment regarding the Seattle City Council, specifically about the timing and deliberation regarding how the voting issue appears on the ballot.

Lisa Ayrault: Comments that the RCV campaign has been in conversation with the City Council for years and that the inclusion of RCV was not a last-minute addition.

Alec Stephens: Rory O'Sullivan and Michael Wolfe are requested to work on a logical endorsement sequence for the October meeting.

Dianne Ramsey: Thanks the LD team for instituting RCV here at the district level.

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**Good of the Order**

**Robert Stephens:**

Voter endorsement pamphlets are mailed. Can the LD provide address labels for area voters so volunteers don't have to hand-write this information.

Carrie Barnes: Yes, we can do that.

Alexander Erickson of the WA State Coordinated Campaign, introduces self. (Info in chat).  
There are lots of opportunities to canvass and phonebank, locally-focused. Mentions 10/1-10/2 Columbia City Library event.

Alec Stephens: Shares that on 9/26 he and his wife Helena will be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Nimco Bulale: Please share (regarding even-year voting):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIQ\\_f2axW0g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIQ_f2axW0g)

Andrew Ashiofu: Involved with a \$300 million outreach effort to undocumented people. Send them his way: [Andrew.ashiofu@live.com](mailto:Andrew.ashiofu@live.com)

Nancy Raiken: Wednesday 9/14, 3:30pm rally to support teachers.

Mary Williams:

Requests that eliminated candidates please remove their signs from the neighborhood.

10/1: REST fundraiser Hyatt Regency: [iwantrest.com](http://iwantrest.com)

10/23 Seattle Women's Commission, Domestic Violence Awareness event

Carrie Barnes: Can we register voters at these events?

A: Yes!

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**Meeting adjourned 8:59pm.**