

**37th LD Democrats Membership Meeting
Monday, October 10, 2022**

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Meeting Called to Order: 7:01pm
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Land Acknowledgement – Carrie Barnes
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Adopt September Minutes

Lyn McKay requests a correction to the September minutes. The question she asked was the difference between RCV and Approval voting, not Bottom Up voting.

The September minutes will be approved with this correction.
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State Senator Rebecca Saldaña Addresses our Members

Welcome on Indigenous People’s Day. Partnership with indigenous communities is important for our community.

Thank you to those PCOs who are knocking on doors. We need to get out the vote.

A GOTV event is planned for 10/23 event in the 47th LD. We need progressive votes across the region, and the 47th LD needs assistance.

To RSVP please email rebecca@rebeccasaldana.com or call 206-380-4684.
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Seattle Proposition Proposed New Method of Voting

Rory O’Sullivan moves to vote “yes” on adopting a new method of voting.
Seconded.

Lem Howell moves to vote “no endorsement” on adopting a new method of voting.
Seconded.

Dianne Ramsey moves to vote “no” on adopting a new method of voting.
Seconded.

Rory O’Sullivan speaks in favor of voting yes on a new method of voting. He is enthusiastic about Ranked Choice Voting, which has been endorsed by a number of groups.

Dianne Ramsey speaks in favor of voting no. We will not know which choice will we get if we vote yes on this first question on the ballot. Also, she is unhappy about proposed restrictions on the number of voters who can be ranked.

Lem Howell speaks in favor of voting no endorsement. He thinks we need further study on this issue, and he opposes “herd mentality.”

Lyn McKay speaks in favor of voting yes. She has seen Ranked Choice Voting in action, and it works.

Joanna Cullen speaks in favor of voting no. She feels that we need to know more about what we’re voting for, in case we get something we don’t want.

Ellen Barnhill asks for clarification on how the voting will be conducted.

Alec Stephens clarifies that the ballot will go out after the meeting, and that the vote needs to be 60% to pass.

Mary Scanlon clarifies that only those who were members by August 19, 2022 will receive the ballot after the meeting.

Joanna Cullen asks whether a non-Seattle member may vote. Alec Stephens clarifies: yes.

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U.S. Congressman Adam Smith Addresses our Members with a brief Q & A

Important races this year:
Kim Schrier
Patty Murray
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

Please help support these candidates by phone banking and/or knocking on doors.
Democrats have a better message for what voters need; this gives us something to run on.

Our opposition — the cult of white, male, Christian nationalists is a threat to our democracy.

Comments on King County Prosecutor’s race: He has endorsed Jim Ferrell, who is a long-time mayor of Federal Way.

Rep. Smith states that he supports diversion for offenders, and that Jim Ferrell said he does as well. He said that Jim Ferrell also wants offenders to be accountable.

Rep. Smith states that his conversation with Lisa Manion, by contrast, did not go well, and she did not return a subsequent phone call he made to her. Rep. Smith states that Manion also did not request his endorsement.

Lem Howell asks what efforts are being made to get out the Hispanic vote (Marie Gluesenkamp Perez district). Rep. Smith said he sees a good chance for success in her district.

Jeanne Legault asks for Rep. Smith's view on reproductive choice.

Rep. Smith states that the Christian coalition has organized an anti-choice agenda for decades, and that Democrats have taken reproductive choice for granted, to their detriment.

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Seattle Propositions 1A & 1B

1A Approval

Keith Garner moves to endorse Approval Voting.
Seconded.

1B Ranked Choice

Lyn McKay moves to endorse Ranked Choice Voting.
Seconded.

Lem Howell moves for No Endorsement.
Seconded.

Andrew Ashiofu clarifies that we will not be voting as part of the meeting. The ballot will go out after the meeting.

Keith Garner speaks in support of Approval Voting.

Rory O'Sullivan speaks in support of Ranked Choice Voting.

Dianne Ramsey speaks in support of No Endorsement.

Lyn McKay speaks in support of Ranked Choice Voting.

Bob Rosenberger votes in support of Approval Voting.

Joanna Cullen speaks in support of No Endorsement.

Hispanic Heritage Month Discussion

Featuring Karen Gamez Lopez, Angie Hinojos, Ray Corona and Lillian Ballesteros

Moderator Julia Bobadilla Melby introduces the panelists.

Questions:

What are your thoughts on the terms Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, Latine and how does that shape how you identify?

AH: We need to avoid placing people in categories they don't identify with. Some people don't recognize or use these terms.

AGL: We are trying to be inclusive, which is why there are multiple identity labels. Part of the goal is to educate the community with evolving terms.

LB: Language has changed. Her team has had many discussions about these terms. The census for example, and how data is read, is problematic when identity isn't reflected.

RC: Culture is not a fixed concept. Self-identification is not to be imposed by outside forces. The structures of power have been created by white people.

What do you wish people understood about your experience as a Latina/Latino/Latinx/Latine/Hispanic living in the United States?

AH: Geographical boundaries are artificial boundaries. Her family has crossed the border many times over the years. She is proud to be both an American and a Mexican American.

LB: Conflicted feelings based on the way her family has been treated. Her mother has just voted for the first time. Her own experience and identity is deeply connected to her community.

KGL: We need to reframe how we talk about community. Latinos have been disadvantaged, but they are increasingly working together. She is attuned to her privilege, and how aspects of her identity intersect.

RC: We need to recognize that the Latino community is young, and that there is a need to recognize when it is time to pass the baton to the next generation. He questions the perspective that current political messaging to the community is clear; he says it is not.

What are the most dangerous biases you see playing out every day?

What does better allyship look like to you?

AH: Black and brown communities learn one history at school, and a different history at home. Well-meaning others think they know what this community needs. This is a mistake – people are just being corralled along. Members of the community need to be at the table, making decisions. Why do we always support the white candidate? Also, it is a myth that Latinos don't value education, or don't want to be vaccinated, or politically involved. All myths.

LB: We need to stop blaming the Latino community and speaking in terms of deficits. It is a dangerous bias that Latinos are not capable.

KGL: Talk about immigration is often around criminalization. Survival often implies actions that criminalize. Discussion of restrictions on academic advancement.

RC: An observation: We often leave political organization to members of a directly-affected community. Then that community is blamed when candidates don't win. Too few elected representatives have to carry the weight of too many people. More broad-based organizing is necessary.

Are you a Democrat? if not, why not? What would need to happen for you to become one? How can we attract more Latinos?

AH: Yes, the values of our party are important. It is still possible and important to be more inclusive and reflective of diversity. We don't have to do things the same as they were done in the past. We need to harness the capabilities of new, young voters.

LB: Yes, with a heavy dose of criticism. Where is the political money being spent?

KGL: Yes, although the national organization can be criticized. They keep following the status quo. The community has a lot of mistrust; they will not just vote for someone on a stranger's recommendation.

RC: He holds the Democratic values, but does not believe in party politics. The two-party system has created stagnation.

What is one thing you need to start your day?

AH: Connection with her kids at the beginning of the day.

LB: Connection with family, and a moment to herself.

KGL: Dance, movement, natural light.

RC: Coffee.

What are the battles you have fought to live and work here?

AH: She was born in the U.S.; she gained a lot of privilege through the fact her parents went through so much. The lessons she learned has shaped who she is.

LB: Unlearning, not being comfortable.

KGL: Caught in the middle of two cultures. Aspirations vs. traditional roles; societal lack of belief in capabilities. Negative stereotypes.

RC: Being undocumented, being gay, being authentic in various spaces.



37th Legislative District Sate Representative Position 2 Endorsement

Chipalo Street
Speaks in support of his candidacy.

Emijah Smith
Speaks in support of her candidacy.

Lem Howell speaks in support of Chipalo Street, mentioning editorial endorsements.

Jennifer Slempe speaks in support of Emijah Smith, mentioning pro-choice considerations.

Bob Rosenberger speaks in support of Chipalo Street, mentioning his high-tech expertise.

Senator Saldaña speaks in support of Emijah Smith, mentioning her grounding in, and attentiveness to, our community.



Good of the Order

Vincy Fok from Patty Murray’s campaign: 1 month from the election. Please canvass or phone bank. The candidate will be crossing the state in upcoming day. Contact: vincy@pattymurray.com

Na’eem Shareef: Women of Black Panther Party event this weekend 10/16, 1pm at Washington Hall.

Mary Williams: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this Saturday from 12-4. Please attend if possible. Andrew Ashiofu will also speak.

Sharon Tomiko Santos: Fundraiser on Wednesday, 10/12 Steward Park Audobon Center, 6:00pm.

Julia Bobadilla Melby: Washington Equity Now Alliance: There will be a summit on 11/30 at University Place.

Emijah Smith: Please respect our elders, who may have trouble with the technology during the meeting.

Jennifer Slemp will be providing PCO training as needed.

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Meeting adjourned 9:36pm