

37th LD Democrats
Membership Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024

On Zoom & in person, Ethiopian Community Center

Call to Order
Land Acknowledgment

1. The August 2024 Meeting Minutes were adopted.
2. **Coordinated Campaign** introduction was given by Ben Williams. He gave a stirring speech asking each of us to give at least two hours to the campaign.
3. **Sal Mungia** spoke and touched on three things. He was happy that he came in first in the primary. He thanked Bob Ferguson. He is going full speed ahead and did very well in King County. He's concerned about getting the word out. Tell your family and friends—it makes a huge difference.
4. **Jamie Fackler** requested that David Ritt be approved as the **new PCO** of 37-1898. The appointment was approved without objection.
5. Alec Stephens moved to endorse **Pat McCarthy for re-election to the office of state auditor**, and the motion was seconded. As there was no additional motion the endorsement was voted on during the meeting and Pat McCarthy was endorsed.
6. Calvin Jones (Calvin@fusewashington.org) talked about the **four initiatives** that will be on the ballot and he took questions. WA Cares benefits don't start until 2026, Calvin said. We can improve the program. Ruby Holland said the public needs to be educated and most people DO want to age in place in their homes.
7. Kirk Hovenkotter, Executive Director of Transportation Choices Coalition, came to talk about Prop 1, the **Transportation Levy** renewal. It will build more sidewalks, more investment in bike lanes, and include the largest transportation and safety improvements. Theresa Huey talked about Lake WA Blvd and that it should be open to everyone, including drivers. Ingrid Clair asked for clarification on what it will cost: \$44/month for the median household but what about low income folks? Jamie Fackler said we need to invest in our roads which are in an abysmal state; he wanted to encourage everyone to vote on this. Motion not to support this measure was made and seconded. There may be an exemption for low income and seniors. Yes, No and No Endorsement will go to ballot. Kirk said if we don't pass it, it will mean a 30% cut in Seattle Dept. of Transportation's budget. Joanna Cullen said there is no guarantee for bridges or potholes; also she spoke as to why she didn't support the measure, and that it includes renters, not just homeowners. She wants a lot more questions answered before she supports this. Mary Pat DiLeva clarified how qualifying for property tax exemptions work; a levy like this will still increase your taxes. This was moved to a ballot vote with Yes, No and No Position options.
8. Bob Rosenberger wanted discussion on Initiative **2124**, the long-term care opt-out initiative. The executive board recommended a No vote on this initiative. Bob said that this tax is only on the

employee, not the employer, and exempts the gig workers, and the benefit is very low. The ballot will have Yes and No Position options, per motions in the meeting.

9. 2066 proposed natural gas ban, executive board has recommended a No vote on this initiative. Alec moved to vote NO on 2066. A motion was made for a Yes vote and was seconded by Ingrid Clair. Statements in support of NO: the first statement was by Calvin Jones who said this was a late initiative by the builders industry. This repeals common sense planning laws and would drive up rates in the long run. Also for a No vote on 2066, Ben Mitchell, a 37th LD PCO, said it will drive up costs of building houses that include putting natural gas, and that it wasn't well thought out. It was a close vote in the legislature. Jamie Fackler spoke in support of a No vote; he said a lot of housebuilders are not putting in natural gas. He said, what are we even doing? Vote no on all of them, Jamie urged. There was no one to speak on Yes on I-2066. Options on our ballot will be Yes and No.

10. Treasurer's report: Ingrid Clair provided statements for review. There weren't any questions. She will put together a budget, probably in October. So far what we have in the bank in Savings is \$14,677. The fundraiser in early August raised about \$1,000. We will have a treasurer's report at every meeting.

11. Review of proposed bylaws amendments

Parliamentarian Gwen Rench reviewed proposed bylaws amendments. These will be voted on in the future. Question by Ingrid: can we change from having to have a monthly meeting? Bob Rosenberger said the Legislative Action Committee has been discontinued and reference to it should be removed.

12. Chirag Vedullapalli from Adam Smith's campaign spoke. He said Congress is back in session and they are considering funding the government by October 1st. Republicans want to delay the decision until after the election with a CR or Continuing Resolution. They want to ban non-citizens from voting, making it easier to purge voter rolls. Also, Rep. Smith made it through the primary with 54% of the vote. He would like to invite us to the "Annual Taste of the 9th" event is on Wednesday, October 9th from 6:00-7:30 pm at LiUna 242 Union Hall, 22323 Pacific Hwy S in Des Moines. It is a free community celebration featuring the diverse cultures of the 9th Congressional District and Congressman Smith's 2024 Champion of Justice awards. Email chirag@electadamsmith.com to RSVP.

13. Sharon Tomiko Santos spoke: There is a lengthy Seattle initiatives booklet that can be downloaded. She noticed 36% of one of the set of improvements is going to district 5 (north part of Seattle), 22% going to District 1 which is southwest Seattle, and District 2 is getting either 16 or 18%. Let's get out there for our President and VP nominees.

14. Alec Stephens asked that we encourage people to vote for Harris and Walz and put it at the top of our endorsement card. There was a motion and a second to do that. It passed unanimously.

15. Michael Connolly wanted to tell people that we will send a survey out to members about their experiences of this hybrid meeting.

16. Carl Frank talked about No on 2117 on campaign volunteer solicitation. He wants to connect every PCO to the priority list. He will send it to Mary. He would like to call PCOs, if that's okay.

17. Good of the Order

- Joanna Cullen wanted to thank the board for making the hybrid meeting happen.
- Robert Stephens asked us to deal with the density of the Central District and that now they are dealing with 4-way stops and it is doubling density.
- Melissa Chaudry: we have two Democrats going head-to-head, a party lock out which is exciting. She is also a PCO.
- Mary Williams talked about Aurora Avenue and her group, WASE (Washington Against Sexual Exploitation), and that tomorrow there will be testimony at City Council; she encourages people to watch the testimony or look up some of the articles. She is asking us to pay attention.
- Theresa Huey spoke about drivers and the transportation levy.
- Former 37th LD PCO Julia Bobadilla asked whether Adam Smith had reached out about the U. of WA student killed on the West Bank. Chirag answered that Adam Smith had called for an independent investigation into the death of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, the Turkish American student. Melissa Chaudry's husband said they knew her personally.
- Her other comment was about long term care insurance. Her union at work offered it but with private insurance and that you have to pay out of pocket for the first 90 days. Her other comment was about the importance of bridges and infrastructure; she was in Minneapolis when the bridge fell down but there should be some other way to pay for it besides increasing property taxes; perhaps the state can get a tax to pay for improving infrastructure.

9:00pm

Adjourned

Carla McLean, Secretary