

Press Release
37th Legislative District Democrats

14 August 2025

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At its regular monthly membership meeting on August 11, the 37th Legislative District Democratic Party organization voted to condemn Washington Democratic Party Senator Maria Cantwell for her failure to work towards peace and justice for the Palestinian people in Gaza. Specifically, they called out Senator Cantwell for posing for a photo with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his visit to Washington DC during the first week of July, and noted Cantwell's pro-Israel funding stream is compromising her positions, including her refusal to condemn the Israeli genocide in Gaza. Netanyahu has been indicted for war crimes, and is subject to arrest under a warrant from the International Criminal Court.

The resolution passed on a vote of 48 to 2, suggesting a significant change in the Seattle Democratic Party as it shifts towards recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people for peace and justice. "I've been working on this issue for a long time in the Democratic Party," commented resolution author Amy Hagopian. "It used to be very contentious to back a Palestinian state or oppose a Democratic Party elected official's eagerness to send weapons to Israel to use in its violent campaign against Palestinians, but the more vicious and cruel Israeli Occupation Forces become, the more public opinion is shifting."

While a majority of Democratic Party Senators voted July 30 to prohibit the sale of \$675 million in weapons to Israel, such as 1,000-pound bombs and Joint Direct Attack Munition guidance kits used in airstrikes on civilians, Senator Cantwell did not join them, and instead supported continuing to provide weapons to Israel. By contrast, Washington Senator Patty Murray joined the majority in opposing the weapons sale.

Washington's 37th legislative district is one of forty-nine districts in Washington state for representation in the state legislature. The district comprises Beacon Hill, Central District, Rainier Valley, Columbia City, and Rainier Beach. The 37th District Democrats meet monthly, usually on Zoom, to discuss political issues, interview and endorse candidates for office, and hold elected officials accountable to Democratic Party Values. Its platform is on the website, <https://37dems.org/about/our-platform/>

Full text of the resolution as adopted 11 August 2025 by the 37th District Democrats:

11 August 2025

Resolution Condemning Washington Senator Maria Cantwell's role in the official visit of Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, July 2025, and urging other 37th District representatives to reject their pro-genocide funding base

Whereas, on July 8, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to Washington DC to meet with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and Democratic Party Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of NY, along with a bipartisan group of senators who posed for a photo with him See Exhibit 1.

Whereas, The International Criminal Court (ICC) [issued a warrant](#) for the arrest of Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in November 2024. Both officials have [visited](#) the White House since then, under both the Trump and Biden administrations, with U.S. officials purposefully defying the Hague. (citation: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1157286>);

Whereas, Israel is actively targeting, shooting and killing starving residents of Gaza as they queue for food relief (citation: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/07/1165368>);

Whereas, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has contributed \$25 million to Democratic Party politicians this year, comprising 59% of all its political donations (citation: Open Secrets);

Whereas, Total pro- genocide campaign spending so far this year is \$1.5 million, including AIPAC and other donors. Senator Cantwell's top contributor 2019-2024 was AIPAC, \$219,250. See Exhibit 2. <https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/maria-cantwell/summary?cid=N00007836>



Exhibit 1: Picture of Senators Cory Booker (D-New Jersey), Maria Cantwell (D-Washington), Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana), Chris Coons (D-Delaware), Steve Daines (R-Montana), Jon Husted (R-Ohio), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota), Dave McCormick (R-Pennsylvania), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Jacky Rosen (D-Nevada), and Adam Schiff (D-California) posing with Benjamin Netanyahu.

Whereas, Democratic Party elected officials should not be meeting with accused war criminals (those indicted by the International Criminal Court) or accepting campaign contributions from any affiliated organizations;

Whereas, Maria Cantwell failed to join 27 of her Democratic Party colleagues (including Patty Murray) in voting YES on the “Block the Bombs” Act, [S.J.Res.34](#), which would have prohibited the sale of \$675 million in weapons to Israel, such as 1,000-pound bombs and Joint Direct Attack Munition guidance kits used in airstrikes;

Whereas, Maria Cantwell has clearly demonstrated that her pro-Israel funding stream is compromising her positions on this issue, including her refusal to condemn the Israeli genocide in Gaza; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The 37th District Democratic party organization officially condemns Maria Cantwell for affiliating herself with officials responsible for the genocide in Gaza; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 37th Legislative District Democrats urge all members of our elected Congressional delegation to refuse further donations from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and other similar donors complicit in the genocide; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 37th Legislative District Democrats urge our Congressional delegation to push for accountability in the death of University of Washington graduate, Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi, at the hands of Israeli occupation forces while peaceably protesting illegal settlements in near the Palestinian village of Beita. (citation: <https://melc.washington.edu/news/024/09/16/remembering-aysenur-ezgi-eygi>)

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 37th Legislative District Democratic party organization will transmit this resolution to our Congressional delegation, including Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Representatives Adam Smith, and Pramila Jayapal, within one week of passage, along with a request for a specific response in writing explaining their positions on the Be it Resolved points in our resolution.

Exhibit 2: screenshot of Open Secrets report, 17 July 2025.



Submitted by Amy Hagopian, Mady Harlan, Alouise Urness and Carla Curio to the July 28, 2025, Executive Board Meeting of the 37th LD Democrats, seeking recommendation for August general membership meeting.

DO PASS recommendation with 7 yes votes from the executive board, 28 July 2025