**DRAFT MINUTES**

32nd LD Democrats Monthly Meeting

April 2, 2025, 6:30 pm

[Facebook Live Zoom Video](https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/2662358687308345)

(video starts at approximately 9 minutes into the meeting)

**• 6:30 pm WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER
Chris Roberts, Chair**: Yesterday was a good day to be a Democrat if you were watching what was going on in Wisconsin, Illinois and even in Oklahoma and Mississippi. Lots of good election results, even though they weren’t so good in Florida. Thank you to everyone who donated to those candidates and who helped spread the message of why this administration is unlawful, irresponsible and illegal.

We have a special state election coming up on April 22. King County and some Snohomish County voters will be receiving their ballots by April 4 or 5. In our 32nd LD, King County voters (Shoreline and Seattle) will be voting on the [Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Levy](https://info.kingcounty.gov/kcelections/Vote/contests/ballotmeasures.aspx?lang=en-US&cid=101642&groupname=County) and in Snohomish County, the City of Edmonds voters will be voting on [Edmonds Annexation into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority (RFA).](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/132209/City-of-Edmonds-ED-1-April-22-Special-Election?bidId=)

**Adoption of the** [**March Minutes**](https://32democrats.org/2025-minutes/). Moved, seconded.
*Voice vote: Adopted without objection.*

**• AGENDA SUMMARY
•• Removal of Robert Petersen as State Committee Member**

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** At our meeting last month, there were enough signatures to second the motion to remove Robert Petersen as State Committee Person.According to our bylaws, we have a process to remove an individual from office. The motion has to be made in the previous meeting and therefore at this meeting, we will have this vote. If that happens, we will immediately have a vote to elect a new state committee member.

**•• Welcome Candidates**Each candidate will have 3 minutes to speak followed by a number of questions from the members.And, members, please keep your questions short so we can get through as many candidates as possible.

**•• Endorsement Vote**This will be the first endorsement vote of 2025. The Endorsement Committee has recommended a slate of several candidates for early endorsement. If you would like to pull someone from the slate, please let us know early so we can inform candidates who may not be here. They will be asked to give a 3-minute speech, followed by questions from the members, and followed by pro and con statements. Those who are kept on the slate, however, will just be voted on, up or down.

*Slate of candidates recommended for early endorsement:* • [Rod Dembowski](https://www.vote4rod.com/)for King County Council, District 1

 • [Chris Eck](https://www.electchriseck.com/)for Edmonds City Council, Position 1

 • Kyoko Matsumoto Wright for Mountlake Terrace City Council, Position 4

 • [Chris Roberts](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/christopher-roberts-1)for Shoreline City Council, Position 7

 • Laura Mork for Shoreline City Council, Position 3

 • [Ryan Calkins](https://www.ryanforport.com/)for Seattle Port Commission, Position 1

 • [Toshiko Grace Hasegawa](https://www.hasegawaforport.com/)for Seattle Port Commission, Position 4

 • [Hamdi Mohamed](https://www.instagram.com/hamdi/reel/DHo9IKiO9hY/) for Seattle Port Commission, Position 3
*Recommended for early endorsement, will be considered individually****:***

 • [Jared Mead](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmemberJaredMead/)for Snohomish County Council, District 4

• **WELCOME ELECTED OFFICIALS**

 **• MOTION TO REMOVE ROBERT PETERSEN AS STATE COMMITTEE PERSON** (no video) **Chris Roberts, Chair:** There was a motion last month to remove Robert Petersen as State Committee Member.

**Cathy Baylor, 1st Vice-Chair:** In the last several months, Robert Petersen was arrested for domestic abuse. The 32nd LD Democrats have important work to do. I do not feel now that Mr. Petersen can fulfill his duties to our membership. He will need to spend a great deal of time attending to these legal issues and it will be difficult for other members to work with him, given these distractions.

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** Are there any questions? (no questions). Is there a speech against? (no speech against). This is a PCO only vote, either elected PCOs or appointed PCOs (not acting PCOs). The ballot is in the Chat.
*Ballot vote: Unanimous to remove Robert Petersen as State Committee Person****.***

**• MOTION TO ELECT A STATE COMMITTEE PERSON
Chris Robert, Chair** (video 8:55-9:55)We must now elect at State Committee Member who is not female. **Liz Brown, PCO:** I nominate Alan Charnley as State Committee Person. Second. **Chris Roberts, Chair:** Motion to elect Alan Charnley by acclamation?
**Carin Chase, State Committee Person:** So moved.
*Voice vote: Motion passes by acclamation.*

**• 2025 CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS**

**••** [**Claudia Balducci**](https://www.claudiabalducci.com/) **for King County Executive** (video at: 0:26-8:54): I am a King County Councilmember and am running for King County Executive. I am running because I want to continue and elevate my work fighting for King County to be a place where everyone can live and thrive. Especially now when our values are under such direct attack. I come from a family of public servants. My mom was an elementary school teacher, my step-father was a court officer and my brother is a retired fire fighter. I put myself through college and law school and went to work for King County. I also served 3 terms on the Bellevue City Council, including one term as mayor. I’m known for getting things done by fighting over tough opposition…

**••** [**Rory O’Sullivan**](https://www.electroryosullivan.com/) **for Seattle City Attorney** (video at: 10:36-15:05): I am running for City Attorney because Seattle deserves leadership that is as bold as its voters. Our elected officials are failing us. Instead of solving real problems, they are focused on recriminalizing drug possession, pushing poor people out of public spaces and raiding Jump Start funds to fill budget deficits. They aren’t listening to the people of Seattle who have repeatedly voted for solutions. I have spent my career fighting for all of us…

**••** [**Katie Wilson**](https://www.wilsonforseattle.com/) **for City of Seattle Mayor** (video at: 15:28-20:43): It’s great to be here. I have spent the last 14 years building broad coalitions to make major gains for working people in Seattle and King County. We worked on the Orca Fare Program that tens of thousands of riders now use to ride for a lower fare; have worked to establish the highest minimum wage in the country in sections of King County; worked on stronger worker protections in Seattle and King County; and worked on redesigning the Jump Start Pac here in Seattle and this was the reason we didn’t have a devastating budget, last fall. I’m running for mayor because I think we can do better on homelessness and I think we can do better on public safety…
 [**•• Toshiko Grace Hasegawa**](https://www.hasegawaforport.com/) **for Seattle Port Commission, Position** 4 (video at 20:54-24:23): I am your Port Commissioner in Position 4 and I came to you last month and am here again to thank you for including me in your slate to be considered as an “early endorsed candidate”. The campaign is going strong as we have already raised $75,000 which is not bad for 2.5 months on the campaign trail. I am only here because of your support and I considered myself to be the only Democratic Party candidate. Last time I was able to win with 17 out of 17 Legislative Districts. I have the endorsement of the 31st LD and of many labor organizations as well. Thank you so much for supporting the democratic processes during these uncertain times…

**••** [**Rye Armstrong**](https://armstrongforall.com/) **for City of Seattle Mayor** (video at: 24:36-31:32): I hail from the 43rd LD and am glad to be here with the 32nd as I think it is a time when we have to be close together and fight back. I am honored to stand here as a third generation, union rank-and-file native. I follow in the footsteps of my mother’s mother, Luella Armstrong, who spent her entire life defying the world. She was honored in the Museum of Flight and she was the first woman to graduate with a UW Aeronautical Engineering degree back in 1951. Let’s tell it as it is. Right now, families across Seattle struggle to make ends meet. Childcare is unaffordable housing is out of reach, public safety is falling short, and workers face uncertainty under Trump’s regime…

**• CHAIR TURNS GAVEL OVER TO VICE-CHAIR, CATHY BAYLOR**

**• RECOMMENDED SLATE FOR EARLY ENDORSEMENTS** (video at 31:35-43:05)  **William Paige, Chair, Endorsement Committee:** I am William Paige, the newly elected Chair of the Endorsement Committee. We have several people who are up for early endorsement and Chris has already posted their names in the Chat.

*Slate of candidates recommended for early endorsement:* • Rod Dembowski for King County Council, District 1

 • Chris Eck for Edmonds City Council, Position 1

 • Kyoko Matsumoto Wright for Mountlake Terrace City Council, Position 4

 • Chris Roberts for Shoreline City Council, Position 7

 • Laura Mork for Shoreline City Council, Position 3

 • Ryan Calkins for Seattle Port Commission, Position 1

 • Toshiko Grace Hasegawa for Seattle Port Commission, Position 4

 • Hamdi Mohamed for Seattle Port Commission, Position 3
*Recommended for early endorsement, will be considered individually****:***

 • Jared Mead for Snohomish County Council, District 4

We would like to move to endorse this slate of eight candidates and ask for a second. Second.

**Cathy Baylor, Vice Chair:** Is there any discussion? I don’t see any discussion. Is anyone opposed to accepting the slate by acclamation?

**Pat Weber, PCO**: Yes, I am opposed. Nobody is happy with our current status quo. As much as I respect most of these candidates, I still think with the state of confusion the entire country is in, I think it is important to ask some questions to find out what they have gained from their experiences and are willing to present to the voters. I am not going to vote for early endorsement.

**Robin McClelland, PCO:** In response, I would like to say, I am very comfortable recommending these incumbents as a bundle. I am familiar with almost all of them because I live in Shoreline. I think moving ahead with this endorsement is expedient. Each of them will have a chance to come back and say a few words.
**Ted Hikel, PCO:** I would take that as a motion to approve the slate and ask that we have a vote on accepting this slate of candidates as presented by the Endorsement Committee.

**Cathy Baylor:** We will go with a ballot in the Chat.

**William Paige:** These candidates have submitted their questionnaires, were previously endorsed by the 32nd LD Democrats, and are running for the same position.

**Carin Chase: “**Early endorsement” means to be endorsed before the filing week which is May 5-9th. So, there is a higher threshold for endorsement. *Ballot vote: Shall the 32nd District Democrats vote to early endorse all eight candidates. Yes= 93.3%***• VICE-CHAIR TURNS GAVEL BACK OVER TO CHAIR**

**• COMMENTS BY EARLY ENDORSED CANDIDATES
•• Chris Roberts for Shoreline City Council, Position 7** (video at: 43:24-43:43): Thank you everyone for your support and thank you for working through this first endorsement process of the year and remembering all the rules and procedures.

**•• Rod Dembowski for King County Council, District 1** (video at**:** 43:53-46:04): I want to extend my gratitude to the members of the 32nd Democrats for my endorsement and for supporting me on the King County Council from the beginning, holding me accountable and educating me. I was inspired by Senator Chase’s question and I want share with you a few words about my work on protecting people’s individual rights and freedoms and dignity. I have passed legislation creating a new and stronger Civil and Human Rights Commission at King County…

**•• Ryan Calkins for Seattle Port Commission, Position 1** (video at: 46:10-48:33—audio is difficult to understand): I want to thank you for your early endorsement. We are in need of your support for getting out the vote for Port Commissioners as we are way down on the ballot…

**• CONSIDERATION OF JARED MEAD TO BE AN EARLY ENDORSED CANDIDATE** (video at: 49:26-1:04:18)

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** Jared has been recommended for early endorsement by the Endorsement Committee. It comes with an automatic motion and second. He will have 3 minutes to speak; followed by 3 minutes of questions; followed by pro and con statements about the motion to endorse.

**•• Jaret Mead for Snohomish County Council, District 4:** I am one of your Snohomish Council Members. I was born and raised in South Snohomish County. I am a proud product of the Everett School District. I am raising my children here and am very committed to this county. I have been saddened to see some of the directions we have been headed when it comes to the issue of affordability and also with some other key policies issue that we’ll get into…

 **Chris Roberts, Chair:** This is the pro-con portion of the meeting. William, would you like to speak in favor of endorsement?

**William Paige:** Jared, thank you for your accomplishments and for your passion and the fact that we endorsed you before and you did what you said you were going to do is a huge plus. And, I think the body would agree that it sounds like you have a whole lot more on your plate that you are looking forward to do and we are looking forward to that.

**Elizabeth Lunsford, PCO:** I will speak against this endorsement because I want to bring awareness to a large population that feels uncomfortable with Jared’s participation in the “Building Bridges Tours”. This tour is heavily Republican and caters to extremists.

**Ted Hikel:** Politics is the art of compromise. The ability of Jared to work with other members of the County Council has been outstanding, never giving up his principles and getting things done. I highly recommend an endorsement of Jared.

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** We are putting a ballot in the Chat. It is a 2/3rds vote to endorse.

*Ballot vote: Jared Mead has received an early endorsement. Yes= 82%*

**• CONSIDERATION OF LINDA RICHARD FOR PCO APPOINTMENT**

**Sally Soriano, PCO Committee** (video at 1:04:26-1:06:56): I recommend Linda Richard be approved to be an Appointed PCO for SHL 32-0711. She has completed her paperwork and has been approved by the King County Democrats.
*Voice vote: Linda Richard is approved to be an Appointed PCO by acclamation.*

**• JARED MEAD DISCUSSES POLITICAL CIVILITY & THE NON-PROFIT**

**Jared Mead** (video at: 1:06:55-1:11:20): It is not actually a tour, it is a non-profit. In 2021, myself and a Republican Council Member, Nate Nehring, talked about the destruction we saw on January 6. We wrote an op-ed in the *Everett Herald* that said we should start becoming more politically civil with each other and try to find ways where we can work across the aisle to find agreement. We created a non-profit project called BuildingBridges.org...
 **• RESOLUTIONS** (video at 1:12:06-1:32:39)

[**•• Supporting Freedom of Conscience and the Principle of Separation of Church and State**](https://32democrats.org/2025-adopted/)**, Submitted by Senator Maralyn Chase**

**Maralyn Chase, SnoCo Rep.:** One of the things that Thomas Jefferson was most proud of was his resolution about religious freedom. This resolution honors that work of the Virginia General Assembly in 1786 regarding religious freedom for this young country. It says that citizens and residents should be able to choose their faith without coercion. It separates church and state and it acknowledges that while future assemblies could change the law, if they did, this would be an infringement on a natural right. I think at this time when we are having to deal with white Christian Nationalism, we need to be reminded of the separation of church and state because it is part of our commitment to the rule of law and to the Constitution.

**Sally Soriano:** I suggest changing the word “treasonous” as it could be construed as an overstatement.
**Robin McClelland:** I suggest: “Whereas **those** individuals, groups and institutions **who** persist in deliberately misrepresenting…

**Marilyn Chase:** I accept Robin’s revision as a friendly amendment.

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** Is there anyone who disagrees with adding these two words? *Voice vote: Friendly amendment passes.*

•• [**Calling on Members of Congress to Obstruct Trump,**](https://32democrats.org/2025-pending/) **Submitted by the 43rd District Democrats**

**Janet Way, PCO:** This is confusing to me. I’m not really very clear what it is asking.

**Robin McClelland:** I think it is asking a lot. We can’t know every day the strategies that our elected officials use.

**Maralyn Chase**: We are going to have to fight for this resolution at the state level and I don’t think it is ready. Can it go back to the Resolutions Committee?

**Hammad Hashmi:** There is a resolution supporting Pramila and Bernie Sanders that I would like us to look at. I think we want to have their backs.

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** Yes, we will refer this resolution to the Resolution Committee.

*Voice vote: The Resolution “Supporting Freedom of Conscience and the Principle of Separation of Church and State”, with the friendly amendment, passes by acclamation.*

**• PCO COMMITTEE**

**Chris Roberts, Chair:** There will now be two more members on the PCO Committee: Robin McClelland and Joan Herrick.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

(video at: 1:32:44-2:04:51)

**• 8:43 PM ADJOURNED**

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**May 7, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

**Join us at a 32nd LD Dems Meet-up—**

**Thursday, May 8**
Monthly King County meet-up: First Thursday of each month at [**Jerseys**](https://jerseysgreatfoodandspirits.com/)**,** Shoreline, 6:30pm (1125 N 152nd St off Aurora)

**Thursday, May 22**

Monthly Snohomish County meet-up: Third Thursday of each month, at [**Diamond Knot Brewpub**](https://diamondknot.com/brewbrewpubmlt)**@MLT**, 6:30pm (5602 232nd St SW)

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Soriano, 32nd LD Secretary

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