**DRAFT MINUTES**

32nd LD Democrats Monthly Meeting

February 5, 2025, 6:30 pm

[32democrats.org](https://32democrats.org/)

**Facebook Live Zoom Videos**

**(Part I)**<https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/978641291068423> **(Part II)**<https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/594719823363546>  
  
 *~ Thanks* ***Rosamaria Graziani****for your live   
English-Spanish translation of this meeting. ~*

**• 6:30 pm Welcome** (Part I Video at: 0:30-5:38)> **Chair, Chris Roberts**

Thank you everyone for being here. It’s important that we all know that we are going to stand up for our Constitution, stand up for people’s rights and stand up for treating people with dignity.

> **Welcome Elected Officials**   
This is a busy election year. We will be considering candidates for: King County Executive, school boards, municipal offices, and Legislative and Congressional representatives.

> **Adoption of** [**December, 2024 Minutes**](https://32democrats.org/2025-minutes/). Moved, seconded, adopted without objection.

• **Candidate Introduction**

**Will Chen, Edmonds City Council**(Part I Video at: 5:38-22:05)  
Right now as a council, we are facing some very critical decisions about the South County Fire Authority. The Special Election is coming up on April 22. As a Council Member I want to be fully transparent. We have chosen 3 people to be on the pro-committee and 3 people to be on the con-committee. My job is to provide all the information needed for residents to be able to make informed decisions. Q&A

**• Election of Officers**(Part I Video at: 24:04-56:48) **> King County Democrats Central Committee, Representative**

*Robin Fleming, elected by acclamation.*

**> Snohomish County Democrats Central Committee  
2 Representatives**

*Ted Hikel, elected by acclamation.*

**> 32nd LD Secretary**

*Sally Soriano, elected by acclamation.*

**> 32nd LD Treasurer**

*Eric Valpey, elected by acclamation.*

**• Candidate Introduction   
Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Seattle Port Commission**   
(Part II Video at 0:39-12:34)

I am pleased to inform you tonight that I am seeking to retain my Port position, in position #4. I am very proud to appear before you as Port of Seattle Commission President, the first Asian American woman, in the Port’s over 110- year history, to serve in this capacity. I entered office 3 years ago with a vision to support a triple bottom-line philosophy, that: a healthy economy, a healthy environment, and equity— all go together. Q&A

**• SPECIAL ELECTION – FEB. 11 BALLOT** (Shoreline voters only)

**Prop. 1, Proposed Shoreline Fire Dept. Authority   
Speaker: Matt Cowan (Chief), Shoreline Fire Department**  
(Part II Video at 0:39-26:07)

About 3 years ago we entered into a contract with the Northshore Fire District to provide services and we gained a lot of operational efficiencies through this contract. Now we are looking to solidify that relationship in a long-term relationship – it’s time to get married – as we don’t want to lose what we’ve already gained! We have been actually working on this possible plan for about 10 years. With the RFA there will be geographic representation. Q&A

*Endorsed by the 32nd LD Democrats without objection.*

**• Election of Officers (continued)**

**> Snohomish County Democrats Central Committee  
2nd Representative**(Part II Video at: 26:09-40:420)

-Rosamaria Graziani

-Maralyn Chase

*Maralyn Chase elected by ballot.*

**• Diversity Council of Snohomish County**

**Speaker: Yaretzi Ramirez**

(Part II Video at: 47:43-51:13)

We would like to extend our solidarity to our transgender friends. Our transgender friends and our immigrant community are both currently being unfairly targeted by this administration. Many parents are reporting that their children are having panic-attacks and are experiencing severe anxiety. In these trying times we have to stay together and support each other.

**• SPECIAL ELECTION – FEB. 11 BALLOT** (Seattle voters only)

**City of Seattle — Social Housing**

**Yes, and Proposition No. 1A**

**Speaker: Suresh Chanmugam, House Our Neighbors**

(Part II Video at: 53:56-1:06:25))

I think all of you know that cost of rent here in Seattle and the surrounding region has grown to a staggeringly high and unaffordable level. Two years ago, House Our Neighbors brought forth voter Initiative I-135 to create a publicly owned Seattle housing developer. It was passed by the voters by a 57% yes vote. Social housing is mixed income, affordable housing, modeled after successful housing in Vienna and Singapore. Prop 1A is an initiative to fund social housing through a very progressive tax. It is a 5% marginal payroll tax on businesses anytime they pay an individual more than $1 million a year to do work in Seattle. It taxes wealthy individuals to fund deeply affordable housing. Q&A

*Endorsed by the 32nd LD Democrats without objection.*

**• SPECIAL ELECTION – FEB. 11 BALLOT** (Seattle voters only)

**Seattle School District No. 1**

**Prop. 1 – Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy  
Prop. 2 – Building Excellence Program, (BEX) VI -- Capital Levy**

**Speaker: Sai Ellis, Schools First!**

(Part II Video at: 1:06:25-1:18:19)

The Seattle Public School system has historically had a large funding gap. We run these levies to provide for the important funding for schools, such as building repairs and keeping technology up-to-date. It is important to note that this is a renewal of a levy, it has increased to a degree to account for the cost-of-living increase. It is therefore not new taxes but is renewing our investment in Seattle Public Schools. Q&A

*Endorsed by the 32nd LD Democrats without objection.*

**• Appointments by the Chair, Chris Roberts**

(Part II Video at: 1:27:40-1:28:11)

I am appointing Stephanie Harris and Ted Hikel to the Snohomish County Democrats Endorsement Committee and I am appointing Pat Weber and myself to the King County Democrats Endorsement Committee. I am also appointing Deborah Viertel as Communications Chair.  
*Deborah Viertel is ratified as Communications Chair without objection.*

**•** [**Resolution**](https://32democrats.org/2025-adopted/) **Require an Environmental Impact Statement for the Port of Seattle Sustainable Airport Master Plan**

**Submitted by Lael White, 32nd LD Environmental Caucus**(Part II Video at: 1:28:29-1:39:03)

This resolution is to require an environmental impact study to be done for the Port of Seattle’s SeaTac Airport’s Environmental Master Plan which is the plan to expand the airport. Currently, it is only going to be subjected to an environmental assessment. This is not a very thorough assessment considering all the factors that must be taken into consideration when expanding a major airport.

*Resolution adopted by the 32nd LD Democrats without objection.*

**• Good of the Order**

(Part II Video at: 1:39:03-1:47:23)

**• 8:10 pm Adjourned**

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**March 5, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

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

**Thursday, March 6**  
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, March 20**

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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