**DRAFT MINUTES**

32nd LD Democrats Monthly Meeting

March 6, 2024, 6:30 pm

[**Facebook LIVE ZOOM VIDEO**](https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/1075522400348823)

**• 6:30pm WELCOME Chris Roberts, Chair** *(video at 0:01-4:44)*

**-** **Chris Roberts:** Welcome to our meeting tonight. It’s exciting to see so many Democrats on this call. We have a Supreme Court Justice here, our Lt. Governor is here, and we have our State Representative here.

**We made a** **decision as an executive board,** **to not have a caucus this year** (it was scheduled to be on April 6). Instead, **we will** **have our forum to** **introduce delegates,** to represent us at the state convention, **at our April 3 monthly meeting**.I hope all of you will consider running as a delegate! It’s easy. Register [**here**](https://wadelegateregistration2024.com/)by March 31, 5:00 pm. Also, if you want to be able to vote for our delegates to represent the 32nd, your [**dues must be paid**](https://32democrats.org/membership-information-2/) for 2024, by March 31, 5:00 pm. Or, you can ask for a reduction or waiver of dues: contact Chris at chris.roberts@32democrats.org

**• EARLY ENDORSEMENTS** *(4:45-11:08)*

**- Candidates eligible for consideration this evening:**
Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Lt. Gov Denny Heck
Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti
Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal
State Representative, Lauren Davis, Position 2
State Supreme Court Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Position 9
Snohomish County Superior Court Patrick Moriarty, Position 17
Snohomish County Superior Court Edirin Okoloko, Position 4
Snohomish County Superior Court Jennifer Langbehn, Position 13
Snohomish County Superior Court Paul Thompson, Position 14
King County Superior Court David Keenan, Position 26
King County Superior Court Joe Campagna, Position 39

**- Chris Roberts:** I want to thank our endorsement chair and endorsement committee for going through this first list of candidates to be considered.

**- Stephanie Harris, Endorsement Committee Chair:** Thanks to all the candidates who have sent in their questionnaires. If you haven’t sent in your questionnaire, and want to be interviewed by us, please send it in as soon as possible as we are now scheduling interviews.

**- Stephanie Harris, Motion: I move we endorse all of the candidates who are eligible for early endorsement. Seconded.**

**- Michael Brunson:** **I would like to pull Supt. Reykdal’s name from the list.**

**- Liz Brown, Motion: I would like to endorse these candidates, except Supt. Reykdal, by acclamation. Seconded.**

**- Deborah Viertell, speaking in favor of the motion:** These are candidates we have endorsed before. They are all incumbents and I am in favor of their endorsement.

**- Chris Roberts: There is no objection, the motion has passed, all of these candidates, except for Supt. Reykdal, are endorsed by acclamation.**

**• HEARING DIRECTLY FROM THE 2024 CANDIDATES**

**- Candidate for State Supreme Court, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud** *(11:08-15:46)*

Thank you for your endorsement and thank you for taking judicial endorsements so seriously. I’d like to talk about 3 things: 1) Our State Code of Ethics. We are bound by the code of conduct. 2) State Constitutional Law: it is our job to implement and interpret the Constitution. The Constitution has a right to privacy. 3) Laws against discrimination.

**- Candidate for Lt. Governor, Denny Heck** *(15:46-22:47)*

Thanks for your endorsement. Your support means a lot to me. Thank you for your presentation of a civility pledge that you place before candidates. If I am re-elected, I am going to focus on increased affordable housing opportunities and to make sure efforts like your civility pledge are more far-reaching.

**- Candidate for State Rep, Lauren Davis** (*22:47-28:58)*

Thank you for the endorsement. The final budget rolled out today and I’m really proud of its democratic values: taking care of: immigrants; special education students and teachers; climate change; and early learning. I want to make sure, even though there were some losses, that we account for the many victories in this session.

**- Candidate for State Treasurer, Mike Pelliciotti** *(28:58-38:24)*

I’m so glad you have such an emphasis on the judicial races. Thank all of you for your support. As you know, I’ve always rejected all corporate campaign donations, since first running for office, and I was the only state-wide campaign executive in the country in 2020 to beat a Republican incumbent. This was because of the grassroots support of folks like you in the 32nd. We then made it a law that a State Treasurer can no longer invest in corporations that fund their campaigns. We have a record of returning investment to the people of the state that was formerly sent to Wall Street.

**CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF CHRIS REYKDAL FOR STATE SUPT. OF EDUCATION** *(38:24-51:41)*

- **Stephanie Harris: I move we endorse Supt. Reykdal. Seconded.**

**Chris Reykdal:** I was formerly a State House Democrat for 3 terms in the Legislature. I’ve met with many of you, and have the endorsement of over 30 elected officials in Snohomish and King counties, and over 100 from across the state.

We are seeing across the country, a total assault on our public school system: vilifying teachers, attacking our LBTQ youth, banning books, privatizing the system, and sending vouchers to faith-based institutions and for-profit companies. It is here now in our state. There are folks trying to get to a signature gathering campaign going to put this in front of us. **My number one job over the next four years** is to keep building a coalition for our public schools which keeps them public with locally elected boards, publicly funded, and accountable to the public.

**Second,** is to fully fund them. You heard Treasurer Pellicciotti, who is supporting me, talking about how we didn’t get it right several years ago to full fund education. We need a billion dollars to just get back to where we were five years ago.

And, **third**, I am changing learning standards because our students are being bombarded by propaganda on social media. We must keep the public system public as we are on a slippery slope to privatization. We are seeing this happen all over the south. It has led to segregation by race, gender, and income, and this is not the democracy that our public schools help create.

**- Speech in favor of endorsing Supt. Reykdal, Sally Soriano:** I strongly speak in favor of this endorsement. I am former educator and I am extremely impressed by Supt. Reykdal’s 3 goals: keeping public schools public, fully funding our schools and changing our learning standards with an additional focus on media literacy. I think he is an outstanding State Superintendent and I wholeheartedly support him for that position.

**- Speech in opposition of endorsing Supt. Reykdal, Michael Brunson:** Mr. Reykdal gave a pretty good answer to my question, but we don’t know who else will be running. I think we should wait until we see who files in May, as there may be someone else running that we like even better.

**- Speech in favor of endorsing Supt. Reykdal, Ted Hikel:** Our endorsement committee has interviewed candidates and we find them to be very positive in their service to the community and the state. In this case, Mr. Reykdal has one of the most difficult jobs in the state because of people attacking anything to do with education. I think that he has done a very good job, I think he has earned our endorsement and I hope the vast majority of us here tonight will vote to endorse Mr. Reykdal.

**- Chris Roberts: By ballot vote, Supt. Reykdal is endorsed, with 96% yes.**

**• HEARING DIRECTLY FROM THE 2024 CANDIDATES (CONT.)**

**- Candidate for Snohomish Superior Court, Judge Edirin Okoloko** *(51:41-59:14)*

Thank you for your past support and continued support. When I first came before this body. I told you how my passion for the law was from my lived experiences, growing up in Nigeria, seeing what a devastating effect the military rule had on Nigeria, and how vital it was to have an independent, fair, judiciary. Since coming on to the bench, I have tried to do everything I can to promote access to the courts, making sure people are treated fairly and respectfully. I want everyone to have a fair chance before a judge, because that judge is willing to re-examine their own biases and make sure they are not influencing their decisions.

**- Candidate for Snohomish Superior Court, Judge Patrick Moriarty** *(59:14-1:07:27)*

I want to express my gratitude to the 32nd for their support and encouragement in last year’s election and their endorsement tonight. I just had my first-year anniversary in my rotation in juvenile court. We started by implementing the “Keeping Families Together Act” which was passed by the legislature. This has been a sea change in the law involving dependency and termination proceedings with families, and we have been implementing it in the midst of what is a very serious fentanyl crisis in our community. So, it has been a challenge.

**-** **Candidate for** **Congressional District 2, U.S. Representative, Josh Binda** *(1:08:36-1:16:29)*

Good to see all of you again. I’m Josh Binda, currently a City Council Member in Lynnwood and a PCO for the 32nd. I’m now running for Congress. I am running to bring a voice to this district and to bring innovative ideas to the Congressional District. I want push us into a more progressive future going forward – affordable housing, transportation, and public safety. I want to advocate at the federal level for what we need locally.

**-** **Candidate for King County Superior Court, Judge Joe Campagna** *(1:16:36-1:18:23)*

Thank you for your support. When I first came to meet with you 6 years ago, you were instrumental in me running for the King County District Court in Shoreline. I’m on the Superior Court now, and I value your support every bit as much now. My views are the same now as they were then. It is a public trust. Every single time someone is in court, who is not used to being in court, it can be terrifying, frightening, and confusing for them. Things that are routine for judges are not for litigants. I try to remember this every single day. Everyone who is there, needs at all times, to be treated with respect, and dignity, I try to incorporate this into every interaction I have. I try to work to make the whole court system better.

**-** **Candidate for Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Jennifer Langbehn** *(1:18:23--1:20:59)*

We’ve talked a lot tonight about the obligation of courts to their communities. Our focus since Covid has been to put a spotlight on the impact the court has for everyone who uses the court. I represented indigent parents for 13 years. I understand how scary the justice system can be for individuals who don’t know why they are there, who don’t know what is going on, and don’t have any positive experiences with authority figures. It is very important to me that we serve our communities better.

**-** **Candidate for Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Paul Thompson** *(1:20:59-1:23:14)*

It means a lot to me to be endorsed by the 32nd District as I live in the middle of the 32nd. You are endorsing me now for the 3rd time. I want to echo the comments of my colleagues. We’ve heard from Judges, Okoloko, Moriarty and Langbehn. We spent the majority, if not the entirety of our practicing careers in public service. The path the judiciary is now very different than it was five years ago, and definitely different than it was 10 years ago. As Judge Okoloko said, we are really evaluating our internal processes, how we give access to people. I think a lot of that goes back to the energy and the changes that we have in the personnel. You are going to be hearing from Judge Weiss. Many of us started when he was the presiding judge, and he really gave us the ability to run with some of the ideas we had as new judges.

**- Candidate for Washington State Governor, Fred Grant** *(1:23:14-1:30:58)*

I’m Fred Grant and I’m running for Governor. I know it is super ambitious but our founding fathers believed in citizen politicians, not really career politicians. Politicians used to be made up of farmers, lawyers, teachers, inn keepers and many other professions. Unlike professional politicians, citizen politicians bring fresh practical ideas from their real-world experiences and that’s what I plan to do. I graduated from Georgia State with a degree in Digital Media and a minor in Marketing. I’ve been running my own production company with clients like AT&T, Weather Channel and Sony Pictures. I’ve traveled the world to learn about other cultures. I think this background will make me a better leader to benefit us all. Objectively, we have gun, suicide, mental illness and drug problems. Healthcare is just plain unaffordable. Women’s rights are under attack. I am a problem-solver, I’m 36 years old and I have the energy and the drive, and I’m asking you to invest in me because it is my generation’s time now, and it’s not just about our future, it is about our present.

**-** **Candidate for Snohomish Superior Court Judge, Anna Alexander** *(1:31:03-1:34:16)*

As Justice McCloud mentioned in her remarks, we are constantly under certain ethical guidelines. It is therefore, only during our election years, that we are permitted to come to some of these groups. One of the main reasons I’m here is to listen to my constituents and hear their questions. It’s always nice to see lots of familiar faces that I haven’t seen in a while. I do miss coming in person. Thank you for having us here and letting us re-introduce ourselves.

**- Candidate for Snohomish Superior Court Judge, Bruce Weiss** *(1:34:18-1:37:10)*

I was appointed to Position 15, in 2007, by Gov. Christine Gregoire. Before I came onto the bench, I had a private practice of my own for 19 years. I was the Presiding Judge during the pandemic. We had never seen anything like that before as we had to allow ways for justice to continue in a safe manner, and we did so successfully. In 2020, I was given by the Snohomish County Bar Association, the award for Snohomish County Judge of the Year, and in 2012, I was awarded the Drug Court Judge of the Year for Washington State.

 **- Candidate for Snohomish Superior Court Judge, Cindy Larsen** *(1:37:10-1:40:46)*

I’ve been a judge with Snohomish County since 2017, prior to that I was an attorney for over 20 years, in public practice in Snohomish County. Since becoming a judge, I have worked hard to make sure that everyone that comes in front of me feels heard and receives a fair hearing. I really strive to understand the individuals that are coming in front of me and meet them where they are and understand where they are coming from. I found that was very helpful when I served as a Drug Treatment Judge. I worked very closely with parents who had substance use disorders or health disorders, These disorders were preventing them from parenting their children and from reuniting their families.

**- Candidate for Snohomish Superior Court Judge, Karen Moore** *(1:41:10-1:45:17)*

I am a fairly new judge on the bench. After 30 years of practice, Governor Inslee appointed me to Position 9, in 2021, and I ran unopposed in 2022. I began my career as an attorney at the Pierce County Prosecutor’s Office and then joined the Snohomish County Prosecutor’s Office. I’ve argued cases in trial courts, appeals courts and the Supreme Court both in Idaho and Washington. In 2021, I made a decision to leave the Snohomish County Prosecutor’s Office and join a law firm as I wanted to gain experience in family law cases and criminal cases. In the Snohomish County Superior Court, we have a robust program both with our Adult Recovery Court and our Family Recovery Court. My goal is that I will be remembered as a judge who is knowledgeable, thoughtful and caring.

**UPCOMING ELECTIONS** *(1:46:09-1:47:03)*

**- Sally Soriano:** At last month’s meeting, we heard from Bruce King, one of the three candidates running for the Snohomish Conservation District Board position. Bruce reminded us that ballots for their District Board election must be postmarked by Monday, March 11.

**- Chris Roberts**: Please return your Presidential Preference Ballot by Tuesday, March 12. I think it is important to vote in the Democratic Primary.

Another reminder, please [**register**](https://wadelegateregistration2024.com/)soon to become a delegate representing the 32nd at the state convention.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** (*1:48:01- 2:26:53)*

**- Jenna Nand, Council Member, Edmonds City Council**: I am going to be hosting Supreme Court Justice Gonzalez on Saturday. Please contact me and I’ll send my information to you.

**- Michael Brunson, PCO:** In 1998, our platform included several very strong planks dealing with the issue of adult guardianship vs human rights, including an ombudsman. The legislature is in the process of removing human rights from an increased number of people, and I want to work with the platform committee in order to include those strong, 1998 planks.

**- Chris Roberts**: Platform Chair, Maralyn Chase posted some information about the Platform Committee process in the Chat. Since we are not going to have a 32nd LD Caucus, **we will be adopting our 32nd LD Platform during our June 5 monthly meeting.**

**- Maralyn Chase, 32nd LD Platform Committee Chair**: Assisting me on this committee will be Carol McMahon and Jerry Cronk. I’m hoping that all of our members will give us suggested changes, for both the [**Washington State Platform**](https://www.wa-democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-Washington-State-Democrats-Platform-Passed-6-25-2022.pdf) and our [**32nd LD Platform**](https://32democrats.org/platform/).

Our **deadline for input into the State Platform is April 1**. Our 32nd LD delegates will submit our proposed revisions to the State Platform Committee on May 4. The finalized 2024 State Platform will then be voted on at the State Convention on Saturday, June 22 in Bellevue.

Our **deadline for input into the 32nd LD Platform is April 15**. Our 32nd LD membership will vote on our 2024 32nd LD Platform at our June 5 Monthly Meeting.

Please send your suggested changes as soon as you can to: **maralynchase@gmail.com****.**

Our State Democratic Party Platform and our 32nd LD Democrats platform are written to inform our elected officials and candidates of our priorities for public policy. Any and all assistance in making these documents as strong as possible is greatly appreciated.

**- Carl Larson, PCO:** I am a veteran of the Ukrainian military. Everyone who follows national news, knows the anti-American actions of a small number of Republicans, who are holding our government hostage on Ukraine aid. I want to encourage you to join Ukraine Defense support. We meet every Thursday at European Foods in North Seattle.

**- Lillian Hawkins, 2nd Vice Chair:** I am sharing that I will be running for national delegate, representing the 32nd. A little bit about me. I’ve worked in the court system for a very long time. As you can see this evening, who we elect and who serves on the bench really matters. Currently, we really have awesome judges that serve in our area.

**- Chris Roberts**: Everyone here tonight needs to [**run**](https://wadelegateregistration2024.com/) to become a delegate so we can make sure that Lillian gets a full set of votes from our delegation!

**- Winona Hollins Hague, Diversity & Inclusion Chair, PCO:** A neighbor of mine, Dr. Bruce Amundson has organized a task force to collect data on the issue of ‘driving while Black’ in Shoreline, Lynnwood and Edmonds. Also, I talked with Congresswoman Jayapal about the difficulty in passing the Voting Rights Act and she responded that the problem was the persistence of the filibustering which shows the importance of getting rid of the filibuster. Lastly, I will be hosting a panel on June 11 about what happened this past legislative session regarding gun violence prevention.

**- Alan Charnley, State Committee Person, PCO:** I wanted to remind everyone that I will be running for elector, at-large position. If you are at the state convention, I would really appreciate your vote. I’ve posted by platform on 32nd FB and will post it in the Chat as well. I want to make sure our voice is being heard, even though we have the Electoral College. Hopefully in the future we can move to a national popular vote.

- **Gary McCaig, PCO:** I have been a delegate over 6 times and I have served on the platform committee 3 times. I am able to attend all meetings. I started my attendance at state conventions as a Jesse Jackson supporter in the 1980s. I am familiar with the process and procedures. I am also willing and able to speak. I am a lifelong learner with especial interest in political systems, philosophy, economics, international relations, and World and American history.

**- Deborah Viertel, PCO**: I am running as a delegate to the state convention. I first joined the 32nd LD Democrats in 1992. I will be attending the state convention because you have elected me to represent you on the State Credentials Committee and I would like to attend as a delegate as well.

**- Carin Chase, State Committee Person, PCO:** I am an automatic state delegate but I want to encourage everyone to [**file**](https://wadelegateregistration2024.com/) to be a state delegate as we only have 21 more days to do so. The 32nd LD has 25 delegates and 10 alternates. If we meet our affirmative action goals, we will be awarded an additional 10 delegates. This is a great time to reach out to the community to folks who want to be engaged and ask them to join us by running to be a delegate. Take note: there is no age limit, you just have to live in the 32nd and say you are a Democrat. Please contact me if you have any questions about running for delegate: carin.chase@32democrats.org

Also, I have a resolution on Ranked Choice Voting that I will be bringing forward at future meeting. As Alan talked about it earlier, it might be a better way to hold elections for our presidential primary.

**• 8:57pm ADJOURNED**

**Next 32nd LD Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 3**, **6:30 pm on Zoom**[**32democrats.org**](https://32democrats.org/)

**• Drinking Liberally**

**Thursday, April 4**
Monthly King County meet-up: First Thursday of each month at [Jerseys](https://jerseysgreatfoodandspirits.com/), Shoreline, 6:30pm (1125 N 152nd St off Aurora)

**• Drinking Liberally**

**Thursday, April 18**

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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