**DRAFT MINUTES**

32nd LD Democrats Monthly Meeting

May 7, 2025, 6:30 pm

Facebook Live Zoom Video
<https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/685412027521122>

**• 6:30 pm WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER (video at 0:00-3:31)
Chris Roberts, Chair**: I’d like to thank all of the elected officials and PCOs we have here this evening. We will first give all the candidates 3 minutes to introduce themselves, followed by 3 minutes of Q&A. Next week, May 14, we will hold our special endorsement meeting. Also, we hope everyone will become a PCO in their precinct as we want to elect all of our endorsed candidates. Robin McClelland will be Chair of the PCO Committee with Joan Herrick and Sally Soriano as members.

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

**• 2025 CANDIDATES & ISSUES
•• Candidate for King County Executive,** [**Girmay Zahilay**](https://www.electgirmay.com/) **(3:34-11:24**) I am running for King County Executive because I believe King County can be a place of safety and opportunity for everyone. I believe this because I have lived it. As a refugee and someone experiencing homelessness, I benefited from good policies. And, I now represent the King County Council as Chair of the Council. I want to expand opportunities for everyone— affordable housing, public safety, good union jobs that pay a living wage, and protect our environment…

**•• Candidate for Seattle Mayor,** [**Ry Armstrong**](https://armstrongforall.com/) **(11:34-18:54)**In reflecting on the leadership and direction of our city in Seattle, deep down, I found a fire in my belly, not only to find courage in a nation that does not want trans people like me, but to find strength to demand change. I am a third-generation rank-and-file union member, following in the footsteps of my mother’s mother who spent her entire life defying the world. Today, I want to fight for an equitable world. I want to prepare for resiliency rather than status quo…

**•• Candidate for Seattle City Council, Position 9 (at-large seat),** [**Dionne Foster**](https://dionnefoster.com/) **(19:30-27:01)**I worked two jobs in high school to help pay bills. I went on to become a policy advisor, working for the city, to make sure electrical bills would be affordable for everyone. For me, it has been all about fighting. Fighting for equity, opportunity and for real outcomes for working people. I’ve also worked as an adjunct professor at the UW, training young people as social workers to help them take on our challenging problems…

**•• Candidate for Edmonds School Board, District 4,** [**Thom Garrard**](https://www.thomgarrard.com/) **(27:01-33:59)**I am a retired educator and a first-time candidate. I was appointed to a vacancy on the School Board a year ago, and now I want to retain that seat. I am running for office because I could not stand by when public education is under attack at the federal level with Trump trying to dismantle the Dept. of Education, at the state level with education being underfunded and now we even have Republican Brian Heywood getting ready to file initiatives. Our school board is focused on balancing our budget and on on-time graduation…

**•• Candidate for Shoreline City Council, Position 3,** [**Laura Mork**](http://electlauramork.org/) **(34:06-35:30)** Thank you for your endorsement, it means a lot to me. I’ve lived in Shoreline for 30 years. I’ve been on the Planning Commission and on the Ronald Waste Water Board and am working on the City Council to make the city better. I’m running because I’m very concerned about sustainability and about climate. Infrastructure and utilities rates are also a concern for me because high utilities rates can drive people into homelessness…

 **•• Candidate for Edmonds City Council, Position 2,** [**Will Chen**](https://www.friendsofwill.org/) **(35:30-41:09)** I am an immigrant who came to this country when I was 24. I eventually got my BA and MA degrees in accounting and then obtained my MBA degree. Since being elected in 2021, I have focused on community building and public safety. I have worked with the Asian Service Center here in Edmonds, serving the under-served community…

 **••** [**King County Proposition 1, Parks Levy Renewal**](https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/about-us/parks-levy)**, Christie True (41:10-45:49)** King County Prop 1 will be on the August 5 ballot. It is a renewal levy, for another six years, that funds King County Parks. It takes care of all the operation and maintenance for all of the county’s 200 parks. It funds Marymoor Park, the Aquatic Center in Federal Way, maintains our restrooms, repair and re-construction of our ball fields. At the regional level, it funds land conservation and open space, funds the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, Pacific Science Center, and the Waterfront Park in downtown Seattle. Here’s what it covers in the 32nd Legislative District: $5 million for the City of Shoreline for its aquatics program; $19 million for access to waterfront at the north end of Lake Washington; and $5 million for the Interurban North Trail, connecting King and Snohomish counties. It’s costs: for a medium value home in King County, people are now paying about $13.29 a month. This 2025 levy would add to that, $2.49 = $16.38 a month.

**•• Candidate for Mountlake Terrace City Council, Position 3, William Paige, Jr. (46:08-50:55)** I’ve been an active member of the 32nd LD Democrats. I was appointed to serve on the 32nd Endorsement Committee and then was elected to be the Chair of the Committee. On April 3, 2025, I was appointed to the open seat on the MLT City Council. Last summer I was honored when you, the 32nd LD Dems, appointed me to serve at the Washington State Convention. I believe the MLT City Council appointed me for two reasons: 1) my work history of 35 years as a manager at UPS where I was successful with budgeting and managing and 2) my community involvement over the last 5 years on the Diversity Commission and as Chair…

**•• Candidate for Lynnwood City Council, Position 5,** [**Robert Leutwyler**](https://www.robertleutwyler.com/home) **(50:55-54:37)** I was recently appointed to the Lynnwood City Council and am now coming to you to hopefully receive the endorsement of the 32nd as I seek to retain office. I have been a consistent advocate for housing, which is a major priority for Lynnwood. I have offered solutions of the city making sure there are truly affordable prices at all levels of income by making sure renters, home owners, senior citizens and everyone has safe and secure housing. I have also been an advocate for affordable transportation which is also critical for climate change…

**•• Candidate for Shoreline City Council, Position 1, Valerie Snider (54:46-1:04:09)** I’ve lived in the Seattle area for the last 30 years and now live in Shoreline in the Ridgecrest area. I’m a few blocks from the light rail, so I’ve seen all the activity taking place. I have been following Shoreline Trees because I’ve seen a lot of trees go down which is really difficult to witness. I’ve been on the PTA and was a legislative advocate for Shorecrest working to fully fund schools. I’m also advocating for safety within the schools…

**•• Candidate for Lynnwood City Council, Position 2, Isabel Mata (1:04:09-1:10:51)** I’m running for the Lynnwood City Council because I believe everyone in our community deserves to be safe, cared for and included. I own a home in Lynnwood and am deeply invested in building a Lynnwood that works for all of us. I bring over eight years of professional experience across community building and social impact leadership. I’m running for office because our democratic values are on the line. Too many electeds are playing it safe and we need leadership that puts people before profits and compassion before politics as usual…

**•• Candidate for Lynnwood City Council, Position 5, Mpiima Mugambe (1:10:51-1:20:34)** I’m running for the Lynnwood City Council. I am an immigrant from Uganda and arrived in the United States as an asylum seeker in 2012. I am now raising my four boys in Lynnwood. I work at the Downtown Emergency Center as a mental health professional with the crisis team. Also, I am the founder of Immigrant Guide which helps newly arrived immigrants. I’ve worked part-time at the UW School of Social Work. I’ve been an advocate on many levels, such as harm reduction…

**•• Candidate for Seattle City Attorney,** [**Erika Evans**](https://electerikaevans.com/) **(1:20:48-1:28:34)** I’m running for Seattle City Attorney. My family’s roots are deep here in Seattle and are deep in civil rights. My grandfather was one of the protestors in the 1968 Olympics. He raised his fist, after just winning the gold medal, to protest racism here in America. He stood up and because of him, I stand. In my professional roles, I have only worked in public service roles. I’ve worked in the same office that I am running for to lead. I worked as a city prosecutor and I learned there that the law is not just about punishment but it is about balancing accountability with justice and compassion…

**• CHAIR TURNS GAVEL OVER TO 32ND LABOR LIASON, PRO TEM CHAIR, GRAY PETERSEN**

 [**• RESOLUTIONS**](https://32democrats.org/2025-adopted/) **•• In Support of City of Seattle Development of Low-Income Housing on Surplus Fort Lawton Land (1:29:02-1:52:18)**

**Submitted by Shoreline City Council Member Keith Scully on behalf of Rep. Cindy Ryu**

**CM Keith Scully:** Rep. Ryu sponsored this resolution. This is about Ft. Lawton and Discovery Park. The proponents of this resolution are asking that every Democratic district in Seattle endorse this resolution. A little bit of Discovery Park, in the NE corner is Ft. Lawton. In 2019, they came up with a plan to make it affordable housing focused on diversity and equity. This plan is the latest iteration and there is a big push to get this project done. Right now, the land is parking lots and former military housing. It does not touch the footprint of Discovery Park and the plan maintains open space that was originally part of Discovery Park.

***Moved, seconded.***

**Speaker for: Carol McMahon:** It is timely and there is urgency. I would like to follow Rep. Ryu’s leadership on this to build more housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

**Speaker against: Robin Fleming, PCO:** Daybreak Star is a city treasure that is open to everyone and that should not have housing on it. Secondly, it is not close to any transportation services. Thirdly, I’m not sure this resolution is a good way to hold the city to the intent to build low-income housing. It seems there are a thousand and one unknowns that people are discussing tonight that need to be sorted out before we get behind this?

**Speaker for: Christopher Braxton, Member:** One of the greatest crises that we have is too many unhoused people. I don’t see any corruption taking place and I think it is an excellent use of public property.

**Speaker against: Sen. Maralyn Chase:** I agree that we need more affordable housing. I am reluctant to say that the city would not sell the property to a developer. I don’t think the 32nd District knows enough about this project to approve it.

***Ballot Vote: Passes by 79.2% “Yes” Vote.***

**•• To Call for a Senate Trial Now to Remove Donald J Trump (DJT) from the Presidency (1:59:02-2:11:01)**

**Submitted by Deborah Viertel, PCO**

**Deborah Viertel:** Back at the end of March, I was thinking of all the things I was doing to save my country – lobbying my members of Congress, protesting…and asked myself what else could I do? And, basically since March, things have just gotten worse. Maybe we can be the first LD to pass this resolution as a model for other LDs in our state and across our country.

**Gray Petersen, Chair Pro Tem:** Does anyone oppose this resolution?

**Speaker against: Hammad Hashmi, Member:** I’m not speaking against, but want to make the point that right now, we don’t have the numbers in the Senate to impeach. It’s important for us to work on getting a Democratic majority in the Senate.

**Speaker for: Carol McMahon, PCO:** With this resolution, we are asking the state to pass a similar resolution stating that we demand an impeachment hearing. Resolutions are one of the main tools of the grassroots to tell leadership what we want to have done.
***Ballot Vote: Passes by 66.7% “Yes” Vote.*•• Supporting the Guardians of the Constitution and Rule of Law (2:11:25-2:22:45)**

**Submitted by Sen. Maralyn Chase**

**Sen. Maralyn Chase:** I move we adopted this resolution, by suspending the rules, with a 2/3rds vote, as this timely resolution was submitted today.This morning, I received an email addressed to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, signed by 150 judges. It has to do with the continual attacks by the Trump Administration on the judiciary, particularly with the recent arrest of Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan.

**Carin Chase, State Committee Person**: I move we suspend the rules for consideration of this timely resolution. Second.
**Gray Petersen, Chair Pro Tem:** Hearing no objections, the rules are suspended.

**Speaking in favor: Sen. Chase:** This resolution would put us on record that we reject the Trump Administration’s assault on the judiciary, the Constitution and the rule of law and those who administer it, including Judge Dugan.

**Lael White, PCO:** You might want to add a footnote with the quotes you have read to us.

***Voice vote: Resolution “Supporting the Guardians of the Constitution and Rule of Law” passes by acclamation.***

**•• Decline to Sign Heywood Initiatives (2:22:46-2:25:34)**

**Submitted by Carin Chase, State Committee Person**

**Carin Chase:** This is a timely resolution for consideration and I therefore ask to suspend the rules. We know that Brian Heywood is a multi-millionaire hedge fund manager and he has filed a 2025 initiative that would do great harm to public education. I therefore urge the 32nd to support a “Decline to Sign Heywood Initiatives Resolution”.

Second.

***Voice vote: Resolution “Decline to Sign Heywood Initiatives” passes by acclamation.***

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

(2:26:16-2:37:55)

**• 9:08 PM ADJOURNED**

**Next Meeting – Special Endorsement Meeting**

**May 14, 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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