**MINUTES**

**32nd LD Democrats Monthly Meeting**

**February 7, 2024, 6:30 pm**

[**Facebook LIVE ZOOM VIDEO**](https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/227633283755506)

*~ Thanks****Rosamaria Graziani****for your live English-Spanish translation
of this meeting. ~*

**6:30pm WELCOME Chris Roberts, Chair** *(video at 0:03-1:42)*

**1.** [**January 3, 2024 Minutes**](https://32democrats.org/2024-minutes/) **- Adopted**

**2. Chris:** We are going to start off this meeting with several candidates who are running for King Conservation District Supervisor, Position #1. If you are in King County, [**ballots**](https://vote.kingcd.org/app/home) are available to vote online, until Feb. 13.

**3. POTENTIAL ENDORSEMENTS**

• [**King Conservation District, Position #1**](https://kingcd.org/about/board-of-supervisors/elections-and-appointments/)*(video at 1:42-8:22)*

[**Candidate Erik Goheen**](https://www.goheen2kcd.com/)**:** I am running for this position because the Conservation District serves sustainability goals and I’m a sustainability minded person. I have a farm in Redmond. My sustainability goals that I would like the district to prioritize are: fire prevention; supporting local farms for example with regional food programs; and clean water now regarding the salmon runs. *[see endorsement vote near the end of our meeting]*

**•** [**Edmonds School District Bond and Levy Measures, Prop. 1 & Prop. 2**](https://www.yesforesdkids.org/)*(video at 9:10-16:32)*Ballots have been mailed out. Please vote by Feb. 13. **Prop 2, Levy**

**• Speaking in favor: Sally Soriano, PCO**

This levy supports student technology and technology infrastructure to prepare students for future jobs. It’s important for our schools to have a strong technology curriculum, and this levy replaces an expiring levy, so it will have a minimal effect on your pocketbook.

**Moved, seconded, endorsed by voice vote.**

**Prop 1, Bond**

**• Speaking in favor: Carin Chase, Edmonds School Board Member**

Four of our oldest schools will be replaced with this construction bond, and we are building an essential middle school. Prop 1 also funds capital improvement projects to: increase safety, improve athletic fields, and maintain equity.

**Moved, seconded, endorsed by voice vote.**

**4. APPOINTMENTS – 32nd Committee Reps for State Convention** *(video at 16:40-26:51)*

**Platform**

**• Maralyn Chase - elected**

**• Jerry Cronk
• Carol McMahon**

**Rules**

**• Gray Petersen - elected**

**Credentials
• Deborah Viertel – elected**

**5*. Substitute Chair, to replace Chris Roberts*** *(video at 26:52)*

*First Vice-Chair, Cathy Baylor*

**6. WASHINGTON STATE LANDS COMMISSIONER** *(video at 27:27-37:49)*

**•** [**Candidate Dave Upthegrove**](https://upthegrove.org/) **(current King County Council Member):** I made history when I first ran and became the first out LGBT legislator outside of Seattle. What drives me is a passion for justice: LGBT equality, racial equality, gender equality, fighting for tribal treaty rights, and labor rights. When it comes to our public lands, environmental justice means: honoring and respecting tribal treaty rights; fighting to expand the co-management role of tribes; recognizing that climate change disproportionately impacts low-income communities.

**7. WASHINGTON STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** *(video at 37:52-46:55)*

**•** [**Candidate Chris Reykdal**](https://www.chrisreykdal.org/) **(Incumbent):** I’ve been in the role of Superintendent for the last 7 years. I’ll get right to the bottom line. We’ve never seen such a big cultural war and attack on education in our lives. The Republicans in our state are going to run an initiative on so called ‘parents’ rights’. It’s really a students’ rights violation. And, they are probably going to get to an initiative on vouchers. I’m focused on 3 things: keeping our public schools public; fully funding our schools; and changing our learning standards with an additional focus on media literacy, digital literacy, and information literacy.

**8.** [**SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD**](https://snohomishcd.org/elections)*(video at 47:08-58:18)* **•** [**Candidate Bruce King**](https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/bruce-king)**:** This is a voluntary position. The board meets once a month, they do some public contact, and they do some education. The district does important work with best practices so that farming and other outdoor activities have lower impact. They distribute some federal funds from time to time, and the district is funded based on an assessment of property taxes. I’ve been a full-time farmer since 2006. I bought my farm in 2006, and I mention this, because I would like to see the conservation district do a better job on outreach to new property owners. **IMPORTANT:** **For Snohomish County residents to vote in this election, they must request a** [**ballot**](https://snohomishcd.org/elections) **by February 20, 10am, and return it by March 13.**Bruce’s contact info: 206-940-4980 **bruce@electbruceking.com**

**9. IMMIGRATION AND US/MEXICO BORDER ISSUES** *(video at 58:19-1:26:44)* **•** [**King County Council Member Jorge L. Barón**](https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/council/governance-leadership/county-council/councilmembers-districts/jorge-l-baron)**:** Given the questions you might be asked by people in the community,I want to share a quick assessment of where the policy is, and our challenges. We are operating with an outdated immigration system that we have not changed since the 1990s. We need a system that operates in the reality of today. The outdated legal pathways have created a backlog in the refugee system. And, in the past five to ten years, we have seen some tremendous disruptions in places around the world which has led to more people leaving their countries to seek asylum in the U.S. The numbers of people arriving have been high. And, the system that decides who qualifies to stay in the U.S. has not kept up with the number of people arriving. We see the Republicans continuing to move the goal posts because they are not interested in a solution. This is our challenge.

Resources:
[**https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59933**](https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59933)
[**https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/**](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/)

**10. WASHINGTON STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL** *(video at 1:26:46-1:38:50)* **• Elias Gonzalez, representing** [**Candidate Manka Dhingra**](https://electmanka.com/)**:** I am a resident of the 32nd LD and am the campaign coordinator for Manka Dhingra. She is a decades long senior deputy prosecutor with a focus in mental health and domestic violence. As a legislator she focused on: passing the 90-day line which is slowly becoming a national model; and she started a national data privacy bill, called “my health, my data.” which specifically helps women. In the current session, she helped pass the “stop the bleed bill”, supplying kits to schools, and has worked with labor to make sure worksites are supportive of women and follow union guidelines.

Contact info: Elias@ElectManka.com

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**3. POTENTIAL ENDORSEMENTS**

[**King Conservation District, Position #1**](https://kingcd.org/about/board-of-supervisors/elections-and-appointments/) (*video at 1:39:15-2:09:45)*

**•** [**Candidate Brittney Bush Bollay**](https://electbrittneybollay.com/)
I’m running for re-election to King Conservation District. I grew up as an outdoorsy kid which led to environmental work. I’m now with the Sierra Club where I hold both statewide and local positions. I am a veteran of three budget cycles with the conservation district and was chosen by my peers to serve as Vice-Chair and Auditor. My priorities are: fix our elections as online voting excludes many people; make sure our work is done through an equity lens; and expand our impact by finding new funding sources and bringing on more municipalities.

**Moved, seconded, endorsed by ballot vote.**

**• Candidate Erik Goheen**

**Moved, seconded, endorsed by ballot vote.**

 **• Brittney Bush Bollay and Erik Goheen received a dual endorsement from the 32nd LD.**

**11. GOOD OF THE ORDER** *(video at 2:09:45-2:21:16)*

**Report from the 32nd LD Ad Hoc Committee on Public School Funding
• Elizabeth Lunsford, PCO:** I have a slide show presentation. There is a lot of misinformation out there about how our schools are funded. Edmonds School District has a Citizen’s Guide to the Budget. The budget is broken down into five categories. A lot of the confusion is how the general fund gets moved. Most of the general fund comes from the state, 4% from federal and then from local levies. As Carin mentioned, money that is supposed to come from the state doesn’t actually qualify. The state has a model to grant funds based on the number of students in the district. But the district actually formulates how much teachers gets paid. Currently, in the Edmonds School District, there are 120 fulltime employees getting paid through levies. Technically, if everything was right, they would get paid by the state.

So, the state needs to fix this. I pulled up a bill, HB 2494 that is supposed to increase operating costs. If you google this bill, the first thing that comes up is – “you don’t need more money”. Conservatives are really going after these important funding bills. Here’s what their website says: “what public education needs is not more money, but more common-sense reform like additional publicly funded charter schools”.

This is just one example to show that conservatives are driving this narrative *everywhere*, even in the bills at the state level. Ultimately, we need the state to fix the funding. Yes, there is an equity issue with levies. But most importantly lack of state funding for schools is what is really hurting our students and why we need to ask for levies. The levies are not giving us additional services that they are intended for. Right now, levies are just making up the shortcomings of the state.

There is federal oversight from the Dept. of Education, and I heard that Washington State is not in compliance. I have two kids in school and I compare everything in my kids’ school to a school in Walnut Grove, Texas. It has everything that every kid should have. But, in the same state of Texas, they have kids in schools without libraries. So, inequity is a national issue and I’m hoping that our ad hoc committee that we can get more information out, and cut through the noise.

**• 8:51pm ADJOURNED**

**Next 32nd LD Monthly Meeting**

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

**• Drinking Liberally**

**Thursday, February 15**

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)

**• Drinking Liberally**

**Thursday, March 7**
Monthly King County meet-up: First Thursday of each month at [Jerseys](https://jerseysgreatfoodandspirits.com/), Shoreline, 6:30pm (1125 N 152nd St off Aurora)

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Soriano, 32nd LD Secretary

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