**MINUTES**

**32ND LD MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 6:30 pm

For those of you unable to attend our last meeting, here is a link to the video recording.

Video log time for each section is on the left margin of this recap.

[**https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/564746661384866**](https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/564746661384866)

*~ Thanks* ***Rosamaria Graziani*** *for your wonderful, live English-Spanish translation. ~*

• 6:30 PM - Welcome, **Chris Roberts**, Chair

• Land Acknowledgment and Pledge of Allegiance

• Approval of Agendawithout objection

• Approval of the [**July 7th Minutes**](https://32democrats.org/download/draft-minutes-wed-july-7-2021/) without objection

**8:11-28:11 -** **CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**Rosamaria Graziani, President of** [**The Latino Academy**](https://www.academia-latina.org/home.html) **-** academia.latina.info@gmail.com

**Rosamaria**: Tonight I am going to talk about my community. I am a citizen and I am grateful to live here, more than you can ever imagine. I grew up in Peru under a dictatorship. My story though, is nothing compared to what many Latino immigrants have had to endure in their country of origin -- killing and torture combined with abject poverty. It's important to understand that many undocumented immigrants have filed their papers for citizenship more than 20 years ago. Right now, it takes 24 years for the spouse of a Mexican citizen to get a visa. In the meantime, this person is deportable. So next time you hear some one say, 'immigrants should just get in line,' the answer back is, 'they do, and about 3 million Mexicans have been waiting for 20 years'.

**Trudy Bialic**: You mentioned that farm workers often do not get paid minimum wage. There are two fundamental reasons that I would like to see Democrats take on to remedy this situation through Congress: the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 and the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act. Neither of them cover agricultural workers or domestic workers. And there were racial reasons for those laws to be written with those exclusions -- it was because they had get Southern votes for passage. It needs to get fixed, is 100 years overdue, and would solve a lot of the labor problems and inequity in our communities.

**Rosamaria**: I completely agree with you Trudy.

**31:04** - **ENDORSEMENTS**

**Stephanie Harris, Chair, 32nd Endorsement Committee**

All of our recommendations are posted. At our last endorsement meeting, the committee interviewed Nicole Thomas-Kennedy for Seattle City Attorney (she is recommended for endorsement); Lorena Gonzelez (she is recommended for endorsement) for Seattle Mayor and Bruce Harrell for Seattle Mayor. Also, we interviewed Nikkita Oliver for Seattle City Council, Position 9. Previously, we had interviewed Sarah Nelson for Position 9. She is the Democrat in this race. The committee wanted to endorse Oliver, but since Oliver is not a Democrat, our bylaws do not allow an endorsement. The committee therefore voted 'no endorsement' for Position 9. We had a really great committee this year.

**33:35 - SEATTLE MAYORAL CANDIDATES: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• The 32nd Endorsement Committee** recommends **Lorena Gonzalez** for endorsement.

**• Winona Hollins-Hauge:** I nominate **Bruce Harrell**, seconded.

**36:04 - Candidate Bruce Harrell**

This is a fascinating race because I am also supported by the Amalgamated 587 Transit Union, WA State Council of City and Municipal Employees, Iron Workers Local 86, leadership of the Black Caucus in Olympia, US Rep. Adam Smith, US Rep. Marilyn Strickland — you’ll see the history of African American community in Olympia supporting me, you’ll see the leadership of the NAACP supporting me, Black clergy, members and members of the Asian community who are experiencing hate crimes…because this is a time of racial reckoning in our city, we’ve seen large companies like Amazon devastate small businesses and we’ve seen police accountability. This is a time when some of my life passions and my leadership style are needed.

**49:35 - Candidate Lorena Gonzalez**

I have been a progressive Democrat all my life. I grew up as a daughter of Mexican immigrants from Central WA State and earned my first paycheck at the age of 8 working in the fields. I was elected to the Seattle City Council in 2015 as the city’s first Latinx councilmember. I believe the gap between the rich and the rest of us makes living in Seattle too hard for too many. Rent is to high and wages are not keeping up. We need to make sure that wealthy corporations pay their fair share so we can meet people urgent needs. I am running for mayor to bring Seattle together — to build a safe city, with livable neighborhoods where essential services are going to be available to all of us within a 15-minute bus ride or bike ride. This is key to tackling climate change and carbon emissions.

Vote: Lorena Gonzalez received 80%; Bruce Harrell received 42%

**Lorena Gonzalez is endorsed by the 32nd LD.**

**1:16:57 - SEATTLE CITY ATTORNEY CANDIDATE: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• The 32nd Endorsement Committee** recommends **Nicole Thomas-Kennedy** for endorsement.

**1:16:57 - Candidate Nicole Thomas-Kennedy**

The city attorney only prosecutes misdemeanors or low-level crime. The things our city prosecutes are largely born of poverty or disability -- like sleeping under an awning or stealing a sandwich. Not only are people arrested for petty crime while in a mental health crisis, they are jailed, fined and prosecuted for it. BIPOC are currently prosecuted for misdemeanors at five to six times the rate that white people are, and this is in a progressive city with a reform-minded prosecutor. Every single prosecution costs taxpayers between $12-15,000. We need to be focused on preventing harm, not just punishment after the fact. For us all to be safe, we need to fund basic human needs and use evidence-based solutions — harm reduction, housing first, voluntary treatment, transformative justice, and healthcare.

Vote: **Nicole Thomas-Kennedy** receives 92%

**NIcole Thomas-Kennedy is endorsed by the 32nd LD.**

**1:51:08 - SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 9: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• The 32nd Endorsement Committee** recommends **'No Endorsement for Position 9** for endorsement.

• **Michael Brunson**: I nominate **Sarah Nelson**, seconded.

Vote: **Sarah Nelson** receives 34%

**'No endorsement' for Seattle City Council, Position 9, by the 32nd LD.**

**1:30:50 - SHORELINE SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 2: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• The 32nd Endorsement Committee** recommends **Emily Williams** for endorsement.

**1:30:50 - Candidate Emily Williams**

I was appointed to the Shoreline School Board in December. My hope in the role of school board member is to further resolve issues that are related to equity and ethnic studies and curriculum, and our anti-racism policies. Before I was appointed, I served as the Director of the Learning Center at Seattle Central Community College where I helped students earn their GED and go on to earn an associates’ degree. One of the values I am going to bring from that experience to the school board is to center the voices of students who have been historically excluded from traditional public education. I want them to feel heard, they belong and feel safe as they engage with teachers and staff in their schools.

Vote: **Emily Williams** receives 100%

**Emily Williams is endorsed by the 32nd LD.**

**1:42:48 - EDMONDS SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 2: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• The 32nd Endorsement Committee** recommends **Melissa Stepp** for endorsement.

**1:30:50 - Candidate Melissa Stepp**

Statement from the candidate (candidate is at work), read by Carin Chase: I graduated from the U of Hawaii with a BA in Speech Communication and I’ve lived in Mountlake Terrace/Edmonds School District for 8 years. One of the messages that has stuck with me over the last two national and local election cycles, is that if I want to have a tangible impact, I have to be involved at a local level. I chose to run for the Edmonds School Board position for just that reason. One issue that is most important to this position is ensuring that the Edmonds School District provide equitable access to education and equitable outcomes from that education. I intend to educate our community about the value of quality education. I believe learning is a process, no one fails. Education is more than test prep and everyone has creativity. I have been endorsed by the Edmonds Education Association.

Vote: **Melissa Stepp** receives 100%

**Melissa Stepp is endorsed by the 32nd LD.**

**2:04:06 - EDMONDS CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 2: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• Rep. Cindy Ryu:**  I nominate **Will Chen**, seconded.

Vote: **Will Chen** receives 38%; this below the 60% threshold, not endorsed.

**2:13:45 - LYNNWOOD CITY COUNCIL, POSITION 2: Q&A, PRO/CON SPEECHES AND ENDORSEMENT VOTE**

**• Deborah Viertel:**  I nominate **Naz Lashgari**, seconded.

Vote: **Naz Lashgari** receives 88%

**Naz Lashgari is endorsed by the 32nd LD.**

**2:22:11 - Chris Roberts, Chair**

This is the end of our endorsement period. We have consider all the candidates who asked for our endorsement in multiple jurisdictions — Seattle, Shoreline, Edmonds Lynnwood, MLT. I think it is a testament here to all the volunteers who monitor what’s happening at our city councils and school boards and let the membership know what’s happening. I was on a Planned Parenthood phone call today and they were talking about how there are several cities that are trying to pass abortion bans. It struck me how important it is that local councils and boards have good quality candidates that reflect our democratic values. For those of us who have been on local boards — Sally, Janet, Carin and others — we know how important they are and keeping track of the legislation on the councils and boards. Thank you particularly to all the volunteers who keep elected officials accountable.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FROM CANDIDATES, ELECTED OFFICIALS & MEMBERS**

**1:58-4:04 - Rep. Cindy Ryu**: Rep. Davis has been working with Lynnwood City Council Members on the issue of the new jail an attempt to get more mental health beds in that facility. I am working on the Fircrest Master Plan and we finally have plans for the NW corner and the NE corner. DSHS will be doing a couple of planning meetings in the near future and I will be convening a stakeholder meeting on September 13th. If you are interested, please contact me: https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/memberEmail/32/1

**5:03-5:51 - Stephanie Harris, PCO**: The State of Texas has just passed the most draconian step of getting rid of Roe v. Wade. The law states that if you know anyone who is thinking about having an abortion, you can sue that person and receive $10,000 plus court costs. You can hear more on Rachel Maddow on MSNBC tonight. This is concerning beyond belief.

**6:02-7:05 - Chris Roberts, Chair**: I donated to Planned Parenthood last evening. There are many organizations working in Texas to make sure all people have the right to control their own bodies regarding reproductive care. It is appalling that the Supreme Court hasn't acted and this is how elections have consequences.

**28:24-30:29 - Lynnwood City Councilmember George Hurst:** An update on the Lynnwood Justice Center: at our Council Meeting this Tuesday, Sept. 7th we are going to have a work session. The vote won't happen now until Sept. 13th. We are going to study what programs are needed in this facility. Right now, I am educating myself with Alexes Harris of the UW. She has done research on how legal financial obligations can tie people into the criminal justice system, for possibly a lifetime, just because they have several thousands of dollars in fines. Please let me know if you have any questions: ghurst@lynnwoodwa.gov

**2:11:02 -** **Candidate Scott Marshall, for Edmonds Port, At-Large, Position 5**

Fortunately, I was able to make it through the Primary and am now on the General ballot running for Port of Edmonds Commissioner, At-Large, Position 5. Thank you again for endorsing me in my race. I think that was a key part of why I made it through. I would love to have your help with volunteering and donations as I would like to bring our progressive values to the Port of Edmonds.

**2:18:03 - Alicia Crank, Candidate for Edmonds City Council, Position 1**

It was great to get through the Primary. I already had a small kick off that was in person but please save the date on Wed, Sept. 15th when we will do a virtual kickoff and I would love to see as many of you there as possible and I so appreciate your continued support.

**2:19:06** - **Candidate Lisa Utter, Lynnwood City Council, Position 3**

Thanks for your help moving me from the Primary. After the holiday, I’m looking forward to kicking it up and running a strong campaign. We now have two strong Democrats in this race.

**2:20:29** - **Ted Hikel, former Lynnwood City Council Member**

The third person in the Lynnwood City Council race was Don Gough. Don was ill during the primary campaign period. He lost by 3 votes. I think if he had been healthy he would have been the second person in this race. Even though he had this limited health condition, he felt so strongly about a person that should not be on the council that he filed for that position. I think that shows him as a man who felt the welfare of the city was most important. He truly upholds democratic policies and principles that we live by.

**2:33:05 - Candidate Shirley Sutton for Lynnwood City Council, Position 1**

I wanted to thank each one of you who voted to get me out of the Primary, I so appreciate it. As I go forward, as a PCO myself, I want to offer to all of the other Lynnwood PCOs that I would be more than happy to accompany you doorbelling. Of course we would take all COVID-safe precautions. This has been an exciting journey and I’m looking forward to getting to the final line.

**1:51-2:03** - [**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH AFGHAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND GENDER EQUITY WORLDWIDE**](https://32democrats.org/download/resolution-expressing-solidarity-with-afghan-women-and-children-and-gender-equality-worldwide/)

Carin Chase: This resolution had input from many people who are concerned about Afghan Women and Children and promoting equality worldwide. It has been posted on our website and linked to this evening’s meeting notice.

**I move adoption of the resolution, seconded.**

**Janet Way, speech supporting:** I think this resolutions states clearly what we are thinking about continuing to support Afghan women and children and gender equity worldwide.

**Vote: Without objection, this resolution passes.**

**2:24:50 - Janet Way**: I want to take a moment to honor those service members who gave their lives in Afghanistan last week in their efforts to save people and the effort to fly 120,000 people out of Kabul.

**2:34:29 - REPORT FROM SNOCO DEMOCRATS**

**David Parshall, 32nd Rep to Snohomish County Democrats**

We had to cancel the SnoCo Dems booth at the Evergreen State Fair because of the delta virus surge. We are planning for a general meeting in October to finish up endorsements. And then a possible awards meeting in December.

**2:35:39 - GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**-Ted Hikel:** I wanted to remind everyone of Adrienne Fraley-Monillas’ event coming up on Thursday, September 9th, and for helping out on her campaign. Go to [https://adriennemonillas.com](https://adriennemonillas.com/). In Lynnwood, you might want to do what Stephanie suggested, write in George Hurst for Mayor.

**-Lael White**: The 32nd Environment Caucus has developed a lovely new logo.

**-Carin Chase:** As the President of the WA State Federation of Democratic Women, I would like to recognize Cathy Baylor, President of the local Salish Sea Chapter who has been working on the ERA.

**-Cathy Baylor:** We have been sign waving to educate people about the ERA. Many young people don’t know anything about it. We are in an interesting time right now. There is now a bill before the US Senate (it has passed the House) to remove the timeline on ratification. Then all we need is for states to ratify the ERA. For more public education we would love to have you come join us. We’ll be sending out notifications to the 32nd.

**-Chris Roberts:** I want to thank Rosamaria again for her translation and for all of the work she does.

**-Dean Fournier:** Carin needs to re-check her resolution as the word for is missing the “f”. Make sure it goes forward with the correct spelling.

**-Alan Charnley:** National Registration Day is coming up on September 28th. Also, in this state, October 25th is the last day you can mail in your registration form which is 8 days before the election. You can, however, register in person right to and on election day.

**-Michael Brunson**: I became a peace activist just after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. In the 1980s I worked with a group of humanitarian Afghan refugees here in Seattle. In 2001, when we invaded Afghanistan, we had some real allies and friends whose values and goals were with the US and against the Taliban. However, after the Taliban government was removed, the US no longer wanted true friends and allies but wanted puppets and lackeys, and so we drove away the people who were our true friends and allies. So what we then had was benefit-seekers who had no interest in standing up to the Taliban. I want to correct misinformation that before the US invasion there was no education for women. That is completely false.

**8:50PM - Adjourned**

**Next 32LD Membership Zoom Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 6:30PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Soriano, 32nd LD Secretary

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