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OCTOBER 2017

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

Mayoral election affects schools

“A mayoral change is a big deal,” insisted Seattle School Board Director Jill Geary during her September 13 presentation to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Ms Geary, an MDC member, is serving her second term as director of the Seattle School Board for District 3.

Mayor Ed Murray was big on schools, she continued, and we need a mayor who can continue to build on what he started. The new mayor will face a huge learning curve on education. It is important for the School District to maintain great partnerships with the city, county and state for help with transportation, better policing around schools, and after school programs. We need this social network to be healthy, she maintained, because when it collapses schools get the fallout.

Ms Geary said she is proud of the work the Seattle School Board is doing. She described the School Board’s policy regarding educational and racial equity in terms of eight commitments to the success of every student in Seattle Schools: equitable access, racial equity analysis, workforce equity, professional development, welcoming school environments, partnerships, multiple pathways to success, recognizing diversity.

However, she noted, there is a lot of work to be done to bring these commitments to fruition and to ensure that students are successful.

High on the list is the achievement gap, she said. It is one of the worst in the country. Solutions are individual education plans and continuous monitoring of educational outcomes.

Ethnic studies are inadequate. Kids need to come out of high school with a sense of themselves that is grounded in their ethnic/racial/religious identities. Whites are two grades ahead of national average, others are one grade behind.

Capacity is a problem. Ingraham, Ballard and Roosevelt high schools are above capacity; Garfield is way above capacity.

Money is always a problem. McClery funding doesn’t really fund basic education. In the end, Ms Geary said, “it always comes down to money.”



MDC endorses Durkan, DeWolf; votes to raise funds for Steinbrueck



Peter Steinbrueck



Jenny Durkan

Durkan is MDC’s choice for mayor

Candidate for mayor of Seattle Jenny Durkan was endorsed by the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its general endorsement proceedings September 28. The vote was preceded by a thorough discussion of the qualifications and history of public service of the top two candidates led by MDC Vice President Jack Whisner. The organization had earlier endorsed MDC member Senator Bob Hasegawa for the position. Senator Pete Francis, former MDC president, thanked members for the discussion.

“This was very helpful,” he remarked. “I learned a lot about the candidates that I didn’t know before.”

The MDC also endorsed Zachary Pullin DeWolf for Seattle School Board District 5. In its primary endorsement proceedings, June 28, the MDC endorsed Andre Helmstetter, who was not among the top two in that race.

The MDC also voted to maintain Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1597, Engrossed House Bill 2163, and Engrossed House Bill 2242 (Advisory Votes 16, 17, and 18 respectively).

The complete list of MDC endorsees appears in the 2017 Voter Guide and

Endorsements of The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle enclosed in this edition of *The MDC News*.

MDC shows support for Steinbrueck

In addition to conducting its general endorsement proceedings at its September 28 meeting, the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle voted to hold a fundraiser for endorsee Peter Steinbrueck.

Details of the event will soon be forthcoming said Kiku Hayashi, who is planning the event.

“We encourage members to come out and show their support for Peter,” she said. “It’s important to all of us that he be elected to serve on the Port Commission.”

A long-time member of the MDC and three-term Seattle city councilmember, Mr Steinbrueck is a candidate for Port of Seattle Commission position 4. He served

- continued on p3 -

Fundraiser
for Peter Steinbrueck for Port
5:30 – 7pm on October 14
at the home of Anne Johnson
3649 42nd Ave NE, Seattle

An electoral third rail

(or why the Washington state treasurer is a Republican)

by Al Rasmussen

The two main reasons the Washington state treasurer is a Republican are (1) that there is a top-two primary election and (2) that three Democrats filed for that office in 2016, but only two Republicans did.

In 2016 three Democrats shared 51.6 percent of the vote in the primary while two Republicans shared 48.4 percent. Marko Liias, who served in the state legislature from the 21st LD since 2008, got 20.4 percent. John Paul Comerford, who served on several boards local and national, got 18.0 percent. Alec Fiskien, on the Seattle Port Commission 2004-2008 got 13.2 percent. Duane Davidson, who was elected Benton County Treasurer in 2002, got 25.1 percent. Michael Waite, a finance professional who had no public service experience, got 23.3 percent. James McIntire did not seek reelection. Davidson won the general election 58-42 over Waite.

Prior to Davidson's being elected treasurer in 2016, that office had been held by Democrats since Tom Martin was elected in 1956, followed by Robert S. O'Brien in 1964, Dan Grimm in 1988, Mike Murphy in 1996, and Jim McIntire in 2008. Martin was preceded by Republican Charles Maybury.

Kim Wyman is the only other Republican elected state official in the three states of Washington, Oregon, and California. Prior to her being elected secretary of state in 2012 that office had been held by Republicans since 1964. In that year Lud Kramer challenged and beat Vic Meyers. Kramer held the position until 1976 and was followed by Bruce Chapman until 1980, Ralph Munro until 2000, and Sam Reed until 2012.)

In the 2016 campaign for state treasurer, the Democrats raised \$215 thousand in campaign funds (Liias \$115, Comerford \$70, Fiskien \$30) and the Republicans \$114 thousand (Waite \$86, Davidson \$28).

With the outlook for their candidates so poor under existing laws and rules, the



Al Rasmussen

Republicans worked to change them. One step was to try to impose term limits, another was to make positions nonpartisan, and another was to change to the top-two primary, which was adopted in Washington in 2004 when Initiative I-872 passed 60-40.

The King County elections director became an elected position after Charter Amendment No. 1 passed 56-44 in the November 2008 general election. In the 2009 special election, Sherril Huff, who had been appointed to the position by Ron Sims, got 44 percent of the vote, compared with 19 percent for David Irons and 17 percent for Pam Roach.

To try to avert having another configuration with two Republicans, three or more Democrats in the future, perhaps Democrats should institute a nominating convention. In an election year the state convention in summer is long after the filing period for office. Doing it at the state convention of the previous year would be long before filing, perhaps too long. Another would be to have a nominating convention earlier in the year, before filing week.

Dual endorsements at the convention would allow two Democrats to run but would avoid the third-rail configuration, which in 2016 led to a Republican becoming treasurer.



Munro, Whisner seek reelection

President Eleanor Munro and Vice President Jack Whisner are the only candidates who have declared their desire to serve as officers of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle for the 2017-2019 term. Both are seeking reelection. Current officers' terms ended September 28.

If you are a member in good standing (dues paid in full at least 30 days prior to a vote) please cast your votes by contacting MDC Director Bert Wyman at bertwyman1023@gmail.com or 206.612.8492 no later than 5 pm October 18 and letting him know whether you wish to return the incumbents to office.

Here are their statements.

Eleanor Munro

I know you are as appalled at the disaster in the White House as I am. What can we do about it? We can continue to move forward with our programs and our progressive agenda. If it is your wish I will gladly continue to serve as your president for another term.

I was first elected president of the MDC in 2013 and have served two terms in that position. I served as secretary 2006 – 2013.

Jack Whisner

I would like to continue to serve as MDC vice president. We need to do our part to resist. The MDC can play an important complementary and educational role to advance our progressive agenda. I have been a Democratic Party activist since 1972 and an MDC member since 1987. I am a PCO in the 36th Legislative District organization.

Other officers

If any member of the MDC wishes to serve as secretary or treasurer, please contact Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 206.370.1374. To qualify, you must be a member of the MDC board of directors and a member in good standing (dues paid 30 days in advance of the vote).



METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

Executive committee Eleanor Munro, candidate for president • Jack Whisner, candidate for vice president • Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi • **Directors** Bill Bradburd • Joanna Cullen • Dan Fievez • Sen Pete Francis • Judi Gibbs • Nicole Gomez • Vinod Goswami • Lem Howell • Peggy Maze Johnson • Mark Marshall • Jayson Morris • Allan Munro • Dr David Rudo • Elizabeth Stanton • Harriet Wasserman • Bert Wyman Lifetime honored members Kay Bullitt • Sen Pete Francis • Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles • **Hon** Nick Licata

From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

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Farewell Amazonia

(formerly known as Seattle)

by Allan Munro

As usual, every pressure group uses every new event to promote its own agenda. So the Chamber of Commerce spokesperson used Amazon's announcement of a new location for a co-headquarters to blame Seattle's "hostile business environment" for Amazon's decision to expand in another metropolitan area — even though some polls show Seattle as the most coveted location for new businesses in the US.

In fact, Amazon's decision could be good for the people of Seattle as well as Amazon. It will mean slower growth for Seattle and an opportunity to catch up our capacity-stretched education, infrastructure, housing and transportation systems. It will make room for new IT and biogenetic startups. It will also make room for greater industrial and commercial diversification.

If Amazon maintains its current growth rate in the Seattle area, our quality of life will be threatened by chronic congestion of all kinds.

If Amazon stops growing we run the risk of a collapse comparable to the Boeing depression of the early 1970s. In a globalized economy there are systemic risks to becoming a one-horse town.

Mr Bezos should be congratulated for all that he and Amazon have done for Seattle. But we should recognize that the decision to expand in another metropolitan area is wise and balanced.

Seattle's goals should be to have a diversified community of new genre businesses with growth potential. To achieve this and to ensure that an educated and skilled workforce will be available to new businesses, we should follow through on our education and infrastructure commitments and educate our populace to the idea of lifelong learning.



- Endorsements continued from p1 -

as president of the Seattle City Council 2001-2002 and has been recognized numerous times with awards for public service and his work related to the built environment.

Mr Steinbrueck earned his Master of Architecture in 1988 from the University of Washington and was Loeb Fellow in 2010 at Harvard University's Graduate Student of Design in Advanced Urban Environmental Studies.

He is president, principal, and founder of Steinbrueck Urban Strategies.



Allan Munro

Licata awarded gold medal for book on citizen activism



Nick Licata

What's happening

Wednesday, October 11, 5:30-7pm

An event to support reelection of Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes hosted by Oscar Velasco-Schmitz, John Davis and Vivian McPeak. At Gallery 2312, 2312 2nd Ave in Belltown. Suggested contributions: \$500 household max, \$250 individual max, \$100 sponsor, \$50 friend.

RSVP chad@bluewaterpolitics.com or 206.682.7328.

Thursday, October 12, 5:30-7pm

Representative Gael Tarleton's annual Maritime BBQ. At Ivar's Salmon House, 401 NE Northlake Way. Suggested contribution: \$50 friends of Gael and up to Admiral \$1,000.

RSVP evan@bluewaterpolitics.com or 206.452.0524.

Sunday, October 15, 2 - 3:30pm

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski's Fifth annual Chili Feed. Meadowbrook Community Center, 10517 35th Ave NE, Seattle. Suggested contribution \$20 family. Sponsorship levels: jalapeno \$100, serrano \$250, habenero \$500. RSVP vote4rod.com.



Nick Licata has been awarded a gold medal for social activism from Independent Publisher's Living Now Book Awards 2017 for his book *Becoming a Citizen Activist: Stories, Strategies & Advice for Changing Our World*. Mr Licata was formerly president of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle and served as Seattle City Councilmember for five terms.

The awards are designed to recognize the year's best world-changing books. For the ninth year, "books for better living" were chosen for their unique ability to enrich readers' lives and promote global sustainability. The awards celebrate the innovation and creativity of newly published books that enhance the quality of our lives. They are open to all books written in English and intended for the North American market. The gold, silver and bronze medalists' books represent some of the fastest-growing segments of book publishing today.

In his release about the award, Mr Licata said he is "impressed to be in the company of the other authors who received awards in this category given their credentials."

He also said that 14 community groups have used his book to help train staff, volunteers and members in becoming more effective agents for change. *Becoming a Citizen Activist* is available at bookstores or online at IndieBound, Barnes & Noble, Powell's and Amazon or www.becomingacitizenactivist.org

mark your MDC calendar

October - December

MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St unless otherwise noted

Wednesday, October 11

Cindy Black, executive director of Fix Democracy First, will speak on “Fixing our Democracy in Washington State.”

Wednesday, October 25

Senator Bob Hasegawa, a long-time member of the MDC, will provide an overview of what happened (and what didn't) in Olympia last session.

Wednesday, November 15

Program to be determined.

Sunday, December 10

Winter Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 13

Discuss governance and develop the operational plan and budget for 2018.

To join the MDC or for more information contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206.370.1374 or walkere1@msn.com or visit metrodems.org or facebook.com/metrodems.

Single-payer is on the table

how to make single-payer a reality

by the MDC Health Care Task Force*

Now, just maybe, Congress is beginning to get realistic about creating a system of universal health care cost coverage using public funds also known as single-payer. One now hears fewer gripes and sneers such as “that’s socialism!” or “that’s government-run health care.”

Bills are pending in the House from Congressman John Conyers and in the Senate from Senator Bernie Sanders. Our former Congressman Jim McDermott, MD, introduced a similar bill before he retired from Congress. Dr John Geyman, former head of Family Medicine at University of Washington Medical School, is nationally prominent on single-payer matters. His pamphlet, Common Sense, is a manifesto that briefly and convincingly covers all the basic information about creating single-payer.

So single-payer is on the table. The GOP in the US Congress and in state governments hates it and will never stop fighting it. But there’s growing evidence that a majority of the public and, we suspect, increasing numbers of state legislators are now beginning to view positively the public funding of health care costs.

What problems (issues in today’s lingo) must be faced and resolved if a single-payer system is to become the law of the land and for such a system to operate successfully? Five problems/issues in creating a single-payer system are cited by the Fox’s online news service and mentioned by Dr Geyman in his many writings on health care. How to

1. Create one new government health care insurer for all Americans;
2. Force hundreds of millions of people onto a new government program overnight;
3. Pay for government insurance for everyone in America;
4. Create a massive new federal infrastructure to run everyone’s insurance; and
5. Replace for-profit insurance providers including compensating the business owners and retraining employees.* *

Can we have health care services (e.g. doctors, hospitals) and products (e.g. drugs, equipment) paid for using public funds but with negotiated, standardized fees and prices for services and products? Most other big countries have this kind of universal health care cost coverage. Why can’t we?

*Charlton Price, Seth Armstrong, Dean Fournier, Vinod Goswami, Bert Wyman, Lem Howell.

**Has anyone seen this issue addressed or even mentioned yet?

Help wanted

MDC needs a

part-time administrative assistant
with excellent computer skills
\$300/mo, 5 – 20 hours/mo
assist with databases, social media
for more information contact
Eleanor Munro, president
walkere1@msn.com

Have you paid your dues? Check the date above your name on the address label. That's your due date.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

October 2017

METROPOLITAN
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF SEATTLE

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Return Service Requested

