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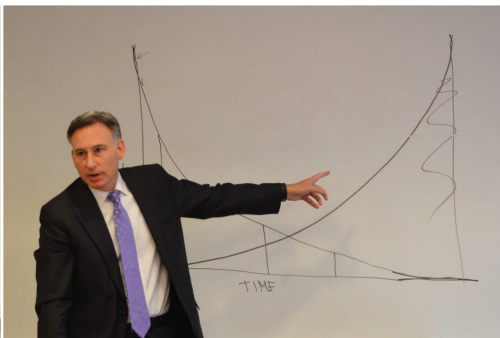
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JULY 2015

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE



King County Executive Dow Constantine explains his initiative, Best Starts for Kids.

Constantine promotes “Best Starts for Kids”

The purpose of King County Executive Dow Constantine’s initiative, “Best Starts for Kids,” is to break the cycle of poverty and dependence that results in the need for expensive crisis-oriented services and begin to focus efforts on the first five years of life. Mr Constantine, who spoke to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle June 24, says the initiative has been presented to the King County Council and he expects to see it on the ballot in November. It will be in the form of a six-year levy in the amount of \$.14 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

His hour-long presentation included background and rationale for the implementation of Best Starts. He reminded the group that during the Great Recession King County lost a large amount of tax revenues that are unrecoverable. The county has asked the legislature to change the one percent lid on property taxes but the legislature hasn’t acted on the request. He noted that King County is one of the fastest growing counties in the entire United States and needs additional revenue to provide services to new residents. King County added approximately 100,000 jobs in the last few years, he continued, and of these jobs 96 percent pay either over \$125,000 or under \$35,000. The middle class “is getting squeezed” he said.

Seventy-five percent of the county’s general fund is spent on the justice system, Mr Constantine said, and this cannot be changed overnight. Part of the reason is that much of elected officials’ time and energy is spent addressing things that have gone wrong. There is very little time for thinking forward creatively. Changing the equation requires that the County find a method of early identification of young people with problems.

“We are not making early investments in child development that could keep them

two solutions

Should we tax carbon or adopt cap and trade?

Reducing the amount of carbon in fuels is the goal of Initiative 732 as promoted by CarbonWA and a cap and trade solution as promoted by the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy. As a follow up to Dr Yoram Bauman’s presentation May 27, Ellicott Dandy and Sameer Ranade, representing the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, spoke in favor of Governor Jay Inslee’s rule-making approach: implement legislation that reduces the amount of carbon in fuels.

Ms Dandy and Mr Ranade explained that because the cap on carbon emissions would be science-based it would not exceed what the environment can sustain, whereas a carbon tax would reduce carbon emissions as a result of market forces and the reduction would not necessarily be geared to what science indicates the environment can sustain.

There is a “climate gap” Mr Ranade added, as the people who are benefitting from polluting activities “are not the people who are suffering from the pollution.” For example, he continued, there is a gap between people who receive dividends from ownership of large blocks of Exxon Mobil stock and the people living next to the Exxon Mobil refinery who have to breathe the fumes. He views pricing carbon as very regressive.

Mr Bauman wants a solution based on that used by British Columbia, which he calls the “best climate policy in the world.” British Columbia has experienced a 15 percent reduction of carbon emissions



Sameer Ranade, left, and Ellicott Dandy discuss the benefits of cap and trade as opposed to a carbon tax. Connie Voget writes their names and contact information on the white board.

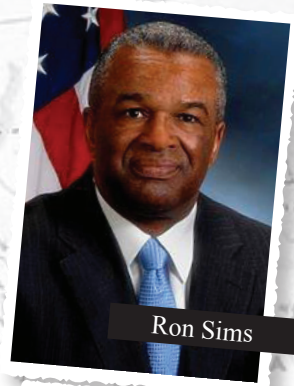
since it was enacted in 2008. Mr Bauman believes that a carbon tax will not only reduce carbon emissions, but will reducing the regressivity of the Washington state tax system. (See story in June edition of *The MDC News*.)

No other jurisdiction has followed the British model, explained Ms Dandy and Mr Sameer. The Alliance prefers to base its cap and trade solution on California’s, which has reduced carbon emissions by four percent. Australia has repealed its carbon tax.

Mr Ranade is a climate and clean energy policy associate at Washington Environmental Council. Ms Ellicott is a policy associate at OneAmerica. Both organizations are members of the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, along

A Chautauqua Afternoon

- The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle celebrates 59 years of promoting progressive values with
- keynote speaker Ron Sims, former King County executive and deputy secretary of the US Dept of HUD
- master of ceremonies Andrew Villeneuve, founder and executive director of Northwest Progressive Institute
- Democratic candidates and officeholders



Ron Sims



Andrew Villeneuve



Larry Phillips

Congratulate retiring King County Councilmember Larry Phillips as he accepts a lifetime achievement award.

Mingle with other progressives and enjoy a no host bar, silent auction, and the advent of the MDC's annual raffle.

To sponsor this event, donate an auction item or place an ad in our event program or newsletter, contact President Eleanor Munro, 206-370-1374, walkere1@msn.com. Pay for sponsorships at metrodem.org or mail your check to Treasurer Kate Martin at 412 NW 73rd, Seattle WA 98117.

- carbon tax continued from p1 -

with more than 100 other businesses, individuals and organizations.

Following the presentation Mr Ranade asked the MDC to support and/or join the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy.

It was announced that the chair would entertain a motion to support and join the Alliance. The motion carried June 24. The MDC had earlier endorsed the signature gathering efforts of CarbonWA.



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.

New members

The MDC welcomes new members
 Rev Sandy Brown
 Fred Felleman
 Susan Sherbina

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE - Board

Officers President Eleanor Munro ▪ Vice President Dan Fievez ▪ Treasurer Kate Martin
Directors Joanna Cullen ▪ Nelson Dahl ▪ Kathleen Flynn ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Vinod Goswami ▪ Kiku Hayashi ▪ Lem Howell ▪ Anne Johnson ▪ Peggy Maze Johnson ▪ Sen Eugene Lux ▪ Mark Marshall ▪ Allan Munro ▪ Dr David Rudo ▪ Rep Gael Tarleton ▪ Harriet Wasserman ▪ Michael Weisman ▪ Jack Whisner ▪ Bert Wyman ▪ **Lifetime honored members** Pat Emerson ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Hon Nick Licata ▪ Gov Mike Lowry ▪ **Representative to WAmend** Seth Armstrong

hosted by the

**METROPOLITAN
 DEMOCRATIC CLUB
 of SEATTLE**

Sunday, July 12, 2015

1:00 - 5:00 pm

at

Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center
 3801 W Government Way
 Discovery Park, Seattle

Suggested donation \$25
 includes hearty appetizers
 Sponsorships \$100

Mission of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle

The MDC promotes good government through educational programming, social discourse and support for progressive public policy, candidates and campaigns.

- best starts continued from p1 -

out of juvenile court or mental health facilities when they become teenagers,” Mr Constantine said.

To learn how the County could benefit from early investment, Mr Constantine conferred with the University of Washington’s Institute for Learning and Brain Development. He learned that the institute has correlated the way the brain is growing with environmental factors in the child’s life. Factors like absence of domestic violence and long term stress affect the way the brain is wired. The institute has found that 83.7 percent of brain development is completed by age three and 92 percent is completed by age five.

To demonstrate the efficiency of early investment, Mr Constantine drew a graph correlating the amount of the needed investment with the time in the child’s life the investment is made. The County is currently spending the most money just before the child is about to become an adult when it should be spending the most money much earlier in the child’s life when its developing brain is getting wired. Fifty percent of the Best Start for Kids funds will be spent on prenatal and early childhood services, the remaining amount for children of school age. Monitoring and accountability are built into the program to measure outcomes. These outcomes will control future funding allocations.



From top left by row, directors elected for the 2015 – 2017 term are Eleanor Munro, Vinod Goswami, Kiku Hayashi, Harriet Wasserman, Eugene Lux, Gael Tarleton, Anne Johnson, David Rudo, Pete Francis, Bert Wyman, Jack Whisner and Kathleen Flynn.

MDC directors for 2015-2017 term elected

Twelve members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle were elected to serve as members of the board of directors for the 2015 – 2017 term. MDC member Elizabeth Stanton counted the votes and announced the results at the June 24 meeting.

Elected for the first time were Kathleen Flynn and Vinod Goswami. Those

reelected included Pete Francis, Kiku Hayashi, Anne Johnson, Eugene Lux, Eleanor Munro, David Rudo, Gael Tarleton, Harriet Wasserman, Jack Whisner and Bert Wyman.

The election of officers will occur in September. Those elected will serve until September 2017.



Tarleton brings news from legislature

As Representative Gael Tarleton (D-36), a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, was present at the June 10 meeting, President Eleanor Munro asked her to report on the latest from Olympia.

Relevant to the previous presentation on clean energy, she said the solar bill was still alive. Puget Sound Energy is closing down coal plants in Montana, as coal emits more carbon dioxide than any other form of fuel, but they are trying to

make ratepayers foot the bill. She said that some of the cost should be paid by the shareholders.

In addition she commented on the capital budget fight saying “we have to win this.” Republicans want to allocate \$4B out of the \$8B capital budget for water for Eastern Washington farmers, which would result in other capital improvements such as highways, bridges and other infrastructure remaining unfunded. The Democrats are asking for \$1B.

We need a capital gains tax to finance McCleary (the Supreme Court decision that declared the legislature is underfunding K-12 public education), she said. The Republicans say we can finance McCleary without a capital gains tax, she added, but Republican revenue projections “are out of whack.” This is because they are based on guesses about revenues from the sale of marijuana that are without any historical evidence.



mark your
MDC Calendar
 July - August 2015

All regular membership meetings occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, noon – 1:30 pm at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St, Seattle, unless otherwise noted. The MDC welcomes guests at all membership meetings and events. All members are welcome to attend all MDC committee meetings and events.

Single Payer Task Force meets immediately following regular meetings.

July 8 Membership meeting

Justin Simmons will lead the final discussion on proposed revisions to the bylaws. As it is the responsibility of the members of the board of directors to guide the organization in terms of policy and finances, it is especially important for them to participate in this meeting. All members of the MDC are welcome to participate as well.

July 12 A Chautauqua Afternoon

The MDC invites candidates, and elected officials to a festive outdoor gathering at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, 3801 W Government Way, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Candidates are welcome to deliver five-minute campaign speeches to explain why the MDC should endorse them. All elected officials are welcome to say a few words as well. Former King County Executive Ron Sims will be keynote speaker; Andrew Villeneuve, executive director of the Northwest Progressive Institute will

be master of ceremonies; King County Councilmember Larry Phillips will be honored with a distinguished public service award. Sponsorships are \$100; suggested donation is \$25 including hearty appetizers. No host bar. Silent auction. Opening of the MDC's first annual raffle. Candidates and progressive organizations are also invited to reserve tables, distribute literature, and solicit contributions, members or volunteers.

To become a sponsor, donate an auction item, reserve a display table, or place an ad in the event program contact Eleanor Munro, 206.370.1374 or walkere1@msn.com.

July 22 Membership meeting

Primary election endorsement proceedings. Candidates are welcome to attend, but will not be asked to speak.

July 23 MDC Salon: a potluck social for MDC members and friends. The MDC provides beverages. When/where: 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the home of Harriet Wasserman, 1247 20th Ave E.

August 12

Program to be determined.

August 13 Seattle City Council Forum

Seattle City Council finalists are invited to appear at a forum in the Bertha Landes Room at City Hall, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

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



Andrew (Andy) Hess

1923 – 2015

Andy Hess, an early member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, died May 23. He served in the Washington state House of Representatives and Senate. As a senator he chaired an interim committee that resulted in many improvements in education systems and operations and opened the way to a statewide system of community colleges. The governor appointed him to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which was charged with an ongoing review of higher education in this state. As a result new branches of the major state universities were instituted, greatly expanding availability and access to higher education statewide.

Mr Hess was recognized many times with special awards, notably the Edwin Pratt Award. Also a member of the MDC, Mr Pratt, executive director of the Seattle Urban League, was assassinated in 1969.

Mr Hess was active in other Democratic organizations. He participated in the unofficial group called "The Secret Seven" that included other early members of the MDC, such as Ken McDonald, Ancil Payne, and Ed Munro.

He earned a BA in political science and did graduate studies in economics at the University of Washington.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

July 2015

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 OF SEATTLE



Eleanor Munro
 1925 41st Ave SW
 Seattle WA 98116

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