

# A Chautauqua Afternoon

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle welcomes you to its fourth annual Chautauqua Afternoon

a festive event where you will enjoy:

- speeches by candidates seeking election in the primary
- classic picnic fare and beverages
- and mingling with MDC members, candidates, and friends

1-5 pm, Sunday June 11, 2017

at the home of Ann and Tony Martin, 3618 SW Orchard



Master of ceremonies  
Seattle City Councilmember  
Lisa Herbold



Keynote speaker  
King County Councilmember  
Jeanne Kohl-Welles

## Chautauqua Afternoon sponsors

Each year the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle asks members and friends to sponsor its Chautauqua Afternoon. This year's sponsors are

Charles and Jonis Davis, Jill Geary, Kiku Hayashi, Sen Pete Francis, Lem Howell, Allan Munro, Eleanor Munro, Charlton Price, Al Rasmussen, David Rudo, Dan Shih, Sheriff John Urquhart, Harriet Wasserman and Jack Whisner.

It's not too late to be a sponsor. Pay at the event, or go to [metrodem.org](http://metrodem.org), or send a check to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41<sup>st</sup> Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.



METROPOLITAN  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
OF SEATTLE

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## Hear the candidates speak

The following candidates have signed up to speak at the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's fourth annual A Chautauqua Afternoon 1 – 5 pm, June 11.

### Washington State Senate LD 48

Senator Patty Kuderer

### King County Sheriff

Sheriff John Urquhart

Mitzi Johanknecht

### City of Seattle Mayor

Casey Carlisle

Jenny Durkan

Jessyn Farrell

Senator Bob Hasegawa

Mike McGinn

Cary Moon

### Seattle City Attorney

Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes

Scott Lindsay

- continued to p6 -



- Task Force continued from pg3 -

reach and to maintain ongoing contact with their legislators. Legislative districts with the most MDC members are the 32<sup>nd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup>. The MDC Health Care Task Force is comprised of Charlton Price, Bert Wyman, Vinod Goswami, Lem Howell and Seth Armstrong. Mr Armstrong has developed a “working paper” on the subject of health care for all, which the group will continue to refine and at some point to publish.

Ms Mosqueda’s presentation focused on what’s at stake for Washington in terms of health care. If the Affordable Care Act is repealed and replaced, she said, thousands of seniors and people with disabilities will lose comprehensive drug coverage because the Medicare donut hole will reopen. In addition Washington state will lose billions in federal Medicaid funding, 775,000 residents would lose health coverage, and three million with pre-existing conditions could be denied life-saving coverage.

The human rights principles that should inform all our decisions about health care, she noted, are universal access, absence of financial barriers and availability.

Ms Mosqueda joined the WSLC in 2011 and in 2013 became the organization’s government affairs director and lead on health care policy. She has served as chair of the Healthy Washington Coalition and was appointed by the governor to serve on the Healthy Insurance Exchange Board. She earned her master of public administration degree from The Evergreen State College.

In January she launched her campaign for Seattle City Council position 8.



op-ed

## Standing in Line: The Productivity Illusion

by Allan Munro

Recently I was standing in a line, probably at a bank or a pharmacy, and I began to wonder why customer service counters appear to be deliberately understaffed. For example, at my bank most of teller stations are always empty. I quickly deduced that the reason was productivity. By having a line of customers a business can work its employees continuously, get the most out of them, and hold labor costs down. The fact that a line necessarily means that someone else is wasting time is a secondary consideration because it does not affect the bottom line of that business. The annual reports for service sector businesses are full of CEOs bragging about productivity increases and using that as a reason to further inflate their pay packages.

Other examples of the phenomenon are the mechanical phone receptionist who tells you that “your call is very important to us” and then gives you 15 minutes of elevator music; and Dr Dao v. United Airlines (overbooking).

The problem is that this is a zero sum game. A business may gain by making other people wait, but there is no net gain for society. One entity’s gain is another’s loss. These illusory productivity gains should not be used to further the increasing income inequality we see in US society.

Of course, this practice only occurs in the service sector, which is the component of our economy that has been growing for the last six decades. The service sector employs approximately 80 percent of US workers. This means the productivity illusion has a very sizeable presence and is



Allan Munro

becoming a real problem.

Remedies are hard to imagine. Competitive pressures are obviously not working. But the damage is widely dispersed and hard to measure.

Thought should be given to altering the incentive system so that CEOs are not rewarded for making the rest of us wait. One remedy might be to request large shareholders such as the California Public Employees Retirement System to pressure CEOs by threatening to vote against executive pay packages.

[Footnote: The United Airlines board of directors has voted to change its CEO incentives compensation program to make it “directly and meaningfully tied to progress on improving the customer experience.”]



### From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at [walkere1@msn.com](mailto: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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JUNE/JULY 2017

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE



John Wilson

## King County assessor: tax structure outdated

King County residents continue to vote for levies on property taxes, which is why property taxes have increased 30 percent over the last five years, said King County Assessor John Wilson, in his May 24 presentation to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. That's why we need to reform our outdated tax structure and service delivery model, he added.

The state tax cap of one percent forces local governments to pass special levies to pay for basic operations, he continued, and this puts tremendous pressure on small gov-

- continued to p4 -

## Task force focuses on health care for all

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's Health Care Task Force has organized two programs on health care this spring. Teresa Mosqueda, political and strategic campaign director of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, spoke about the Health Care is a Human Right Campaign at the April 12 meeting of the MDC. On May 10, the task force arranged for MDC members to view "Now is the Time; Healthcare for Everybody," a



John Burbank

upcoming program

## Burbank speaks on Seattle income tax

John Burbank, founder of the Economic Opportunity Institute (EOI), will speak about the potential for a Seattle city income tax at the June 14 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. The title of his presentation is "Creating Progressive Funding for Urgent Public Needs." The meeting takes place, as usual, noon – 1:30 pm, at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St.

Before founding EOI, Mr Burbank was project manager of the Sand Point Community Housing Association, political director of the Washington State Labor Council, staff coordinator for the Washington State Senate and director for the Community Labor Coalition in Rhode Island. He is a clinical instructor in community-oriented public health practice with the Department of Health Services at the University of Washington. He has a master of public administration degree from the UW Graduate School of Public Affairs.

Mr Burbank has spoken to the MDC several times in the past on local economic issues.



## New members

The MDC welcomes new members Ahmed Abdi, Stasha Dennard, Seattle School Board Director Jill Geary and returning member Peter Steinbrueck.



Teresa Mosqueda

35-minute documentary, after which they led a discussion of the current efforts of the Republicans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Members of the task force noted that although 67 percent of the population nationwide have some sort of health insurance, 30 million are still uninsured. They believe that we will be more successful in effecting change at a statewide level than nationwide. Thus they plan on assembling work groups of MDC members by legislative districts and eventually helping them to conduct community out-

- continued to pg2 -

- Wilson continued from pg3 -

ernments in King County. In Seattle alone the cost of services on the 2017 tax bill amounts to \$3.5 billion; the tax rate has gone up \$2.01/\$1,000 since 2009.

The voter's approval of expensive new proposals (think Sound Transit 3) is not the only reason taxes are so high. Another factor is skyrocketing property values. In addition, school districts are being forced to ask for more in property taxes for operations and construction; many passed huge bond issues last year for this purpose.

Some taxpayers are trying to game the system, Mr Wilson said, but the county has been able to find ways to get these people to pay their fair share. He noted that the people in West Seattle who cut down dozens of trees to afford themselves better views, received tax statements that reflected the new property values consistent with their new views.

We can't continue to use special levies to pay for basic services, Mr Wilson remarked, as this is risky and inequitable. But what if the voters say no to levies? How will services be funded?

Mr Wilson explained that Washington has had property taxes even before statehood in 1889. Washington was an agrarian economy then; no one was thinking about the needs of 2017. As far back as the 1920s, though, experts reported an over reliance on property taxes.

The King County Assessor's office is approaching this problem by beginning discussions with state and community leaders and asking for their support in having a community conversation about what to do next, said Mr Wilson. The outcomes are not predetermined but the media, taxpayers and key stakeholders will be kept informed of progress.

Mr Wilson was elected in 2015 to the office of King County Assessor after serving as chief deputy assessor for four years. He later worked in the King County's Information Technology department. In addition he worked in communication-related positions with leading public officials including Congressman Al Swift, Governor Dan Evans, and King County Executive Ron Sims. He also served as an executive producer at KING 5 News. ◆◆◆

## A Fatal Flaw?

by Al Rasmussen

Apportionment of the US Senate, two senators from each state, is central in the US Constitution and cannot be changed by constitutional amendment. It could be changed only by another Constitutional Convention at which the whole document would be subject to revision. The average population of states with Republican US senators is 5.37 million; with Democratic senators, 7.59 million; and with independent senators (ME, VT), 0.97 million.

That apportionment resulted from a compromise at the 1787 convention in Philadelphia, which revolved mainly around the issue of slavery. At that time the US was an agrarian society of three million with only a small urban population. Distribution of political strength then was suitable for the society of yeoman farmers envisioned by Jefferson but is not suitable for today's heavily urbanized nation. A recent expression of dissatisfaction with the current situation was the futile consideration of seceding in California.

Although the US Civil War was more than 150 years ago, its fallout has been long lasting. Racism, religious fundamentalism, and militarism are still strong in the South, where representation in both the US Senate and US House is strongly dominated by Republicans.

There are in the US some notorious instances of malicious partisan gerrymandering, such as the 12th Congressional District in North Carolina, as well as in Iowa and Georgia. The mathematical principle of gerrymandering is to concentrate the opponent party's strength in a small number of districts, which it will win by large margins, while leaving other districts with a slight margin for one's own party, which it will win.



Al Rasmussen

A more fundamental force leading to this pattern is the heavily Democratic strength in cities. An example of the latter is Pennsylvania, where 13 seats are held by Republicans and five by Democrats -- in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg. Of the 435 seats in the US House, in the 2016 election the 194 Democrats had an average of 316,000 votes, whereas the 241 Republicans had an average of only 260,000.

The non-representativeness of the US Senate extends to the Electoral College, but distortion of it can be relieved without needing revision of the Constitution. In 2016, 95 percent of campaign spending and candidate visits were in just 12 states.

Common Cause proposes a National Popular Vote Compact, which can ensure that the electoral vote result coincides with the total nationwide popular vote. It would be achieved by a compact with each state's awarding all its electoral votes to the winner of the nationwide popular vote. Of the 270 votes needed, 165 are already pledged: CA, HI, IL, MD, MA, NJ, NY, RI, VT, WA. Those states are very blue, and getting another 105 would be formidable.

Another question is whether those pledges would need to be renewed every four years. Even if this is achieved, which seems unlikely, the apportionment of the US Senate will be unaffected. ◆◆◆

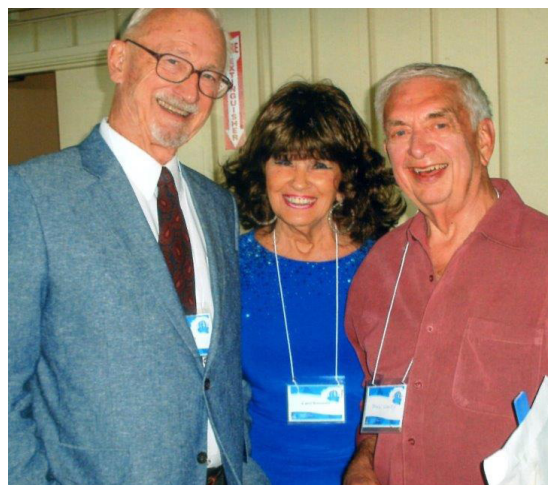


# Governor Mike Lowry, 1939 - 2017

## Lifetime honored member of the MDC



Goodbye Mike.  
We'll miss you.



### Clockwise from top left

Judge Ed Heavey, left, and Governor Lowry at an MDC winter holiday party.

Governor Lowry, left, chats with Anne Johnson at an MDC event.

Senator Pete Francis, left, Dr Carol Simmons, and Governor Lowry at the MDC's Diamond Jubilee, 2016.

MDC President Eleanor Munro, with Governor Lowry at a fundraiser for King County Executive Dow Constantine.

*All of those named above are members of the MDC*

## Two decades of public service

King County Council, 1975 - 1978

US House of Representatives, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District,  
1979 - 1989

Washington state governor, 1993 – 1997

We salute him for his championship of the causes of universal healthcare, protection of the environment, redress to Japanese and Aleuts incarcerated during World War II, and other liberal causes.

mark your

# MDC calendar

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.

**June 11** event: A Chautauqua Afternoon. See front page.

**June 14** program: John Burbank of Economic Opportunity Institute will speak on “Seattle: Creating Progressive Funding for Urgent Public Needs.”

**June 28** meeting: primary endorsement proceedings (ballot is included in this edition); announcement of results of election of directors for 2017 – 2019 term (ballot included in this edition).



## MDC director appointed to disability commission

Jayson Morris, board member and director of information technology for the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, has been appointed to the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities. The appointment was

- Speakers continued from p1 -

### Seattle City Council Pos 8

- Jon Grant
- Hisam Goueli
- Mac McGregor
- Teresa Mosqueda
- Sara Nelson
- Sheley Secrest

### Seattle City Council Pos 9

- Eric Smiley

made by Seattle City Councilmember Lisa Herbold and confirmed by the full council May 9.

Mr Morris was born with a reading and writing disability (ADHD), dysgraphia, and a speech impediment. He earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and the University of Alabama. He is currently engaged in doctoral-level studies. He is a PCO for the 36<sup>th</sup> legislative district and has served on the King County Democrats Committee with Disabilities.



### Seattle School Board Dist 4

- Herbert Camet
- Sean Champagne
- Eden Mack

### Seattle School Board Dist 5

- Andre Helmstetter

### Port of Seattle Pos 1

- Ryan Calkins

- Claudia Kauffman

### Port of Seattle Pos 3

- Ahmed Abdi

- Commissioner Stephanie Bowman

### Port of Seattle Pos 4

- John Persak

- Preeti Shridhar

- Peter Steinbrueck

### City of Shoreline City Council #7

- Mayor Christopher Roberts



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June/July 2017

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