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OCTOBER 2015

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

NPI advises on ballot measures

Andrew Villeneuve, founder and executive director of the Northwest Progressive Institute, opened his presentation to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle September 9th by describing the NPI as a strategy center that is revolutionizing grassroots politics. It helps activists bring about change primarily by teaching them reframing skills – changing the language they use so as to evoke progressive ideas in the minds of their audiences, he said.

Republicans have been practicing framing for decades, he said, and Democrats have fallen into the habit of the Republicans usage. The NPI strives to teach Democrats how to debate the issues on their own terms.

One of the NPI's activities is called Permanent Defense and it is aimed at Tim Eyman's "senseless and harmful schemes to destroy the government."

Mr Villeneuve went on to describe Eyman's Initiative 1366 that would eliminate funding for schools and other services unless the Washington State Legislature approves an (unconstitutional) amendment to the state constitution requiring a two-thirds vote to raise or recover revenue. The constitution requires a majority vote. His recommendation, obviously, was vote NO on I-1366.

Initiative 1401, he said, is aimed at raising the penalty for trafficking in wild animals and products made from them. Many progressive environmental groups support this measure. Villeneuve's recommendation on this issue was vote YES.

All of the Advisory Votes (10, 11, 12, 13) are on the ballot in the form of a nonbinding plebiscite as required by Mr. Eyman's Initiative 960. Most people don't know these are nonbinding, Mr Villeneuve said, and in fact, they are push polls and a waste of public funds. These tax increases passed by the legislature should be MAINTAINED, he said.

The King County Proposition 1, the Best Starts for Kids levy, aims to fund prevention and early intervention strategies to improve
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Andrew Villeneuve explains general election ballot measures to members of the MDC.

The MDC elects officers for 2015 – 2017 terms

At its September 30 meeting members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle reelected Eleanor Munro and Kate Martin to serve as president and treasurer respectively. Jack Whisner was elected vice president. No board member declared for the position of secretary, thus the organization remains without a secretary. Debby Norman serves as MDC's paid administrative assistant.

Mr Whisner is not new to this position; he served as MDC vice president of programs from 2004 to 2010. He currently works for King County Metro Transit as a transportation planner. Previously he was an economist with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

He holds an MA in economics from the University of Washington.

Ms Munro was elected secretary of the MDC in 2006 and assumed the role of editor of *The MDC News* in 2007. She served as secretary until she was elected president in 2013 and continues to edit the organization's



MDC Vice President Jack Whisner

MDC endorsements completed, published

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle completed its 2015 endorsements at its general election endorsement proceedings September 30. The results follow:

Washington state:

NO on Initiative 1366

YES on Initiative 1401

MAINTAINED on advisory votes 10, 11, 12, 13

King County

YES on Proposition 1

Director of Elections – Zack Hudgins

Seattle

YES on Initiative 122

YES on Proposition 1

Seattle City Council:

District 4 – Michael Maddox,

District 5 – Debora Juarez

Port of Seattle:

Position 2 – Fred Felleman

Edmonds

School Board District 1 –

Carin Chase

The "2015 Voter Guide and Endorsements" inserted in this newsletter lists all endorsements made by the MDC in the primary and general elections of 2015, excepting any candidate who was endorsed but did not survive the primary.



newsletter.

Ms Martin was elected treasurer in 2014 immediately following the resignation of Joan Lawson from that post.

Together these three along with Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi comprise the executive committee of the MDC.



MDC

Legends and lore

by Eleanor

Regarding various findings of the history project committee

“A bunch of uppity downtown lawyers.”

This was an early description of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle that is still heard in some quarters when the MDC is mentioned. Even some members of the MDC are under the impression that the founders and earliest members were a bunch of lawyers. Some of them were. But many of them weren't.

The first extant list of members of the MDC was assembled in March of 1961. It listed each man's name (there were only men, then) and his profession or area of business. Here are some of the professions listed in addition to attorney: construction inspector, psychiatrist, physician, realtor, controller, insurance adjuster, architect, motel manager, travel agent, engineer, publisher, manager of the civic ice arena, court reporter, reporter, insurance broker, sales representative, restaurateur, contractor, county commissioner, assistant attorney general, transport and storage, budget director, teacher, real estate broker, manufacturer, chemist, camera retailer, property manager, public relations, stockbroker.

There were also many professors, mostly from the University of Washington. Probably the most widely known and admired was Dr. Giovanni Costigan. His name appears on the MDC membership rolls from 1961 to 1967.

Mr Costigan was born in 1905 in England of Irish parents. In 1926 he graduated from Oxford and in 1930 he earned an MA from that institution, then a PhD at the University of Wisconsin. He came to the University of Washington history department in 1934 and over the next 41 years taught English and Irish history. In retirement, he continued to lecture until his death at the age of 85 in Spain in 1990.

Emmet Watson, columnist for the Seattle Times, called him a courtly man, a poet with outrage.

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE - Board

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

He was outspoken and is remembered for his criticism of the war in Vietnam and his famous debate in 1971 with William F Buckley, which attracted 8,000 people to Hec Ed, a larger audience than the SuperSonics were able to draw.

Dr Jere Bacharach, who spoke to us August 12, was chair of the history department at the time Mr Costigan died. He described Mr Costigan as “an intellectual fighter for humanism and freedom.”

Dr Solomon Katz, whose name appears on the same MDC membership list as Mr. Costigan, and who was Dean of the College of Arts and Science at the UW at that time, said this about him in 1975, “These are the qualities that Giovanni has brought to us in his public lectures, his courses and his books and articles: careful scholarship, yes, but ever more than that, profound thought and in full measure, imaginative power, which enables him and us to recognize the relationship of values to fact, and above all, the compassionate understanding that history is about human individuals, each one unique, each one capable of greatness or villainy, sometimes both, each one acting or acted upon.”

**Ballot measures**

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the health and well-being of children. It saves money in the long range by decreasing homelessness, poverty, and infant mortality and thereby reduces the extent and cost of human services. Mr Villeneuve recommends a YES vote.

On both of Seattle's ballot measures, Initiative 122 (Honest Elections) and Proposition 1 (Move Seattle), Villeneuve recommends a YES vote. The former limits the influence of big money and the latter provides easier accessibility to light rail and increases rapid ride corridors.

For more information about Northwest Progressive Institute, see nwprogressive.org.

**MDC people**

Carin Chase, chair of the 32nd legislative district, held her campaign kickoff for the



Carin Chase

open seat on the Edmonds School Board August 27th. A member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, Ms Chase served as master of ceremonies at the MDC 2014 Chautauqua Afternoon. She is a member of SEIU 775NW, Shoreline solar project, and the Federation of Democratic Women. Her mother is Senator Maralyn Chase of the 32nd legislative district.

Other MDC members who are running for public office are Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles for King County Council District 4; King County Assessor Lloyd Hara for reelection; Seattle City Councilmembers for reelection Mike O'Brien for District 6, Sally Bagshaw for District 7, and Tim Burgess for District 8. Other members running for City Council are Sandy Brown for District 5 and Bill Bradburd for Position 9; Leslie Harris and incumbent Marty McLaren for Seattle School Board District 6; and Fred Felleman for Port of Seattle Commission Position 5.

Lem Howell, MDC member since 1967, was cast as Justice Thurgood Marshall in “The Test Case – is there implicit bias in heaven?” performed October 2nd and 3rd at the Mock Trial Courtroom at the UW School of Law.



Lem Howell

**New members**

The MDC welcomes new member Arturo Robles.

**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.

2015 MDC RAFFLE

YOU CAN
WIN
\$1,000



Tickets are sold in books of 10 for \$50.
Buy them at any MDC meeting or event.
Or order online at metrodem.org and the tickets will be sent to you.

Drawing takes place at the MDC's Winter Holiday Party
Sunday, December 13, 2015
(*you need not be present to win*)

For more information contact Eleanor Munro
206.370.1374
walkere1@msn.com



METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB
of SEATTLE
Est 1956

mark your MDC Calendar

October – December 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 of its regular meetings and special events. Members are welcome to attend all MDC committee meetings.

The MDC's Single Payer Task Force meets briefly following each MDC meeting.

October 14 meeting (2nd Wednesday)

Topic: Port of Seattle.

Speakers: Courtney Gregoire and Stephanie Bowman, co-presidents of the Port of Seattle Commission.

October 19

Fundraiser for Carol Gregory, 6 – 8 pm, 29830 23rd Ave SW, Federal Way. Special guest is Christine Gregoire. Sponsored by Win With Women, NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and the National Women's Political Caucus.

October 28 meeting (4th Wednesday)

Topic: Management of state lands and natural resources.

Speaker: Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands.

November 3 MDC event

Progressive Election Night Party, 5 – 9 pm at the Warwick Hotel, 401 Lenora. Co-hosted by Peter Sherwin, Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes, the MDC, King County Assessor Lloyd Hara, and possibly others. This event, started three years ago by Mr Sherwin, Mr Holmes and the MDC, is fast becoming a "must attend" tradition. Start here and stay or move on to other election night parties. Fabulous appetizers, happy hour prices for beverages, validated parking, and no suggested donation.

November 11 MDC event

MDC Board Social, a potluck buffet hosted by Sally and Brad Bagshaw, 6 – 8 pm, 1107 1st Ave #2003. Members and friends of the MDC are welcome. No donation suggested. Guests bring the food; the MDC provides the beverages. Enter the building from 1st Ave between Spring and Seneca, use the house phone to call the Community Room and get buzzed in, go to the 6th floor Community Room. If you encounter any difficulties, call 206.473.2239. Parking: before 6 pm the lot across Western from the Watermark and the Watermark garage are options, as are spots on the waterfront. After 6 pm there is parking on 1st Ave.

November 14 MDC activity

Annual planning retreat, 9 am– 3 pm, Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St. Members will develop an operating plan for 2016. Lunch provided. Please note: it is essential to reply if you are coming so we will have enough materials and food for everyone who wants to participate. Contact Eleanor Munro, 206.370.1374, walkere1@msn.com.

November 18 meeting This is the only MDC meeting this month.

Topic: Railroad trains: oil and coal trains; electric trains.

Speaker: Representative Reuven Carlyle (36st LD) and Patrick Mazza, owner of a consultancy devoted to sustainable energy and land management.

December 13 MDC event

Winter Holiday Party, 4 – 7 pm. Drawing for MDC Raffle; first prize is \$1,000 cash. Venue to be determined.

December 16 This is the only MDC meeting this month

Review/approve operating plan for 2016. Next year

April 2016 Diamond Jubilee

The MDC celebrates 60 years of promoting progressive values. Details to be determined.

Vote on motion to elect elect Redmond to board of directors, October 14

The members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle will vote on a motion made at the organization's September 30th meeting to appoint Charles (Chas) Redmond III to its board of directors. This is official notice to the members that the vote will take place at the next meeting of the MDC, October 14th.

Mr Redmond has been a member of the MDC since 2009. He retired from NASA in 2003, having worked primarily in public affairs for numerous NASA missions, both at headquarters in Washington DC and in Johnson Space Center in Houston TX. He had previously served in the army, with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the National Park Service.

After moving to Seattle, he became involved in local Democratic organizations and served in several capacities (chair, board member, representative, music producer and engineer) with a wide variety of city and neighborhood planning and other projects.

He holds a BA in journalism from Pennsylvania State University, and has attended the USDA Graduate School and University of Houston Graduate School; did graduate coursework in speech/public speaking; and is certified in electronic news gathering and virtual reality-computer generated imagery.



To join the MDC or for more information contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206.370.1374 or walkere1@msn.com or visit metrodeems.org or [facebook.com/metrodeems](https://www.facebook.com/metrodeems).



Membership renewal date appears on above label

October 2015

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OF SEATTLE



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