



State bank moving closer to reality

Senator Joe Nguyen.

The legislature is moving closer to making a state bank a reality, Senator Joe Nguyen told members and friends of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its August 14 meeting. The idea of a state bank has been championed for the last several years by MDC member Senator Bob Hasegawa, who has previously presented to the MDC on the subject.

The legislature last year contracted with the University of Washington to conduct a study to determine “what a state bank would look like,” Mr Nguyen said. Once legislators have a handle on the scope and scale of a state bank, as well as the risks involved, legislation will be drafted. He expects a bill to be filed in the next session.

It would take \$100 million to capitalize a bank, Mr Nguyen explained, and public entities could participate in the capitalization. For example, he said, King County has \$8 billion in reserve funds that could be used to help capitalize a state bank. The bank could be used to fund a variety of public projects.

Mr Nguyen was elected to the state senate by the 34th legislative district in 2018. He is a senior manager at Microsoft.

Goodman: justice system should reflect who we are as a society



Representative Roger Goodman.

“Our criminal justice system should be a reflection of who we are as a society,” stressed Representative Roger Goodman (45th LD) at the August 28 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Mr Goodman, a long-time member of the MDC, is serving his seventh term in the House and is chair of the House Public Safety Committee.

Most of his work in the legislature now involves addressing the need for accountability and compassion in the justice system and working toward legislation that will accomplish the changes that can bring this about, Mr Goodman said. He discussed three priorities that he is working on, all aimed at reframing crime and justice.

The first priority: changing the way we deal with behavioral health issues. Forty percent of them – and also the most lethal – are eating disorders, he added, and we need to expand our capacity to treat them.

The Seattle Police Department gets 10,000 “stress” calls each year, Mr Goodman explained. Stress calls are not necessarily about crime, but about some form of public disorder caused by people with behavioral health issues. A new approach to stress calls is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, which calls for responding police to be accompanied by social workers. Together they intervene – not arrest – and refer the offender to health and social services.

His second priority: treating instead of punishing emerging adults. Most crimes

mark your Calendar

MDC meetings

All MDC meetings take place at noon – 1:30 pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St, Seattle, unless otherwise noted. To enter buzz 002.

September 11, noon – 1:30 pm

The MDC Health Care Task Force presents Jim Vollendroff, director of the Behavioral Health Institute at Harborview Medical Center, who will speak on the mental/behavioral health crisis in Washington state.

September 25, noon – 1:30 pm

General endorsement proceedings led by MDC Vice President Jack Whisner. King County Director of Elections Julie Wise will speak on “Election Security, Voter Access and Upcoming Elections.”

October 9, noon – 1:30 pm

Lake Forest Park City Councilmember Phillippa Kassofer will speak on “The Brexit Mess.”



Fundraiser for Larry Gossett

Lem Howell reports that the MDC fundraiser for King County Councilmember Larry Gossett will be held from 5 - 6:30 pm, September 24 in the Gates Conference Room at K & L Gates, 925 4th Ave #2900. More details to come.



September 11 meeting

At our September 11 meeting we will hear from Jim Vollendroff, director of the Behavioral Health Institute at Harborview Medical Center. His presentation on the mental/behavioral health crisis in Washington state will serve as a timely follow-on to the August 28 presentation by Representative Roger Goodman who addressed the issue in his talk on crime and justice.



MDC meeting notes

August 14

Fundraisers

The membership voted to hold fundraisers for endorsees King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and candidate for Seattle City Council District 7 Andrew Lewis.

August 28

Fundraisers

Lem Howell and Elizabeth Stanton reported that they are still working to establish dates for the fundraisers for King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and candidate for Seattle City Council District 7 Andrew Lewis.

Endorsement

President Eleanor Munro entertained a motion to suspend the rules and endorse Carin Chase for Edmonds School Board. The motion was made, seconded and passed.



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are committed by emerging adults, who are in the 16 – 25 age bracket, Mr Goodman said, and some of these crimes are serious and carry long sentences. Research shows that treating emerging adults differently by providing treatment and education reduces recidivism and costs, he stressed.

The third priority: reforming our sentencing system from top to bottom. Structured sentencing systems are too rigid, Mr Goodman said, and do not allow much discretion to judges. He has convened a task force of community and law enforcement representatives to review and recommend sentencing reform in Washington. The recommendations will lead to legislation that he hopes to introduce in the next session. The reforms, he believes, “will be a model for the nation.”

Last year Mr Goodman led the process that resulted in the historic reforms that require all law enforcement officers in the state to receive violence de-escalation and mental health training and that amended the standard for justifiable use of deadly force.



Executive committee President Eleanor Munro ★ Vice President Jack Whisner ★ Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi **Directors** Anquida Adams ★ Joanne Cullen ★ Dan Fievez ★ Sen Pete Francis ★ Judi Gibbs ★ Vinod Goswami ★ Lem Howell ★ Peggy Maze ★ Jayson Morris ★ Allan Munro ★ Dr David Rudo ★ Elizabeth Stanton ★ Harriet Wasserman ★ Bert Wyman
Lifetime honored members Kay Bullitt ★ Sen Pete Francis (former president) ★ Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles ★ Hon Nick Licata (former president)

Membership renewal date appears on above label

September 2019