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APRIL 2022

NEWS

A quarterly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

# MDC endorses Schrier

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle has endorsed Dr Kim Schrier for reelection to Congress, 8th congressional district.

The organization also voted to actively support Dr Schrier's campaign. Accordingly, several members of the MDC attended a special training session on March 29 led by Jonah Wolff, campaign organizing director, who provided information about phone banking and canvassing.

"The 8th CD is one of the ten most competitive districts in the country" Mr Wolff said, underscoring the importance of a successful campaign, "and there is no path to majority in the House without this district."

Those wishing to participate in either phoning or canvassing can find numerous opportunities to volunteer at [www.drkimschrier.com/volunteer](http://www.drkimschrier.com/volunteer).

## Ferguson celebrates ban of high capacity weapons

Immediately after the legislation banning the sale of high-capacity magazines was signed into law, Attorney General Bob Ferguson spoke to the members and friends of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its March 23 meeting about this legislation, which he had requested in the six previous legislative sessions.



AG Bob Ferguson

"This time it passed," he said, "and it is constitutional. Seven federal courts of appeal have agreed."

Mr Ferguson explained that high-capacity magazines are the weapon of choice of mass killers; they can kill 37 people in less than one minute.

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Congresswoman Kim Schrier

## MDC meeting notes

### February 9

MDC member Judi Gibbs showed a film based on Labor Wars, a book by David Jepson.

### February 23

#### Program

Nick Licata, former MD president and former Seattle City Councilmember, led a discussion of his recent article, "The Democrats Can Avoid a Devastating Loss in November."

#### Business

A motion to vote an early endorsement of Congresswoman Kim Schrier passed unanimously.

A motion to revise the budget and accept a proposal regarding the future of The MDC News passed unanimously. The proposal calls for a quarterly newsletter until we are able to produce an online version. The proposal reduces the amount allocated in the budget for printing and postage by about half.

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### Notice of vote on endorsements

Members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle will vote on April 13 on a motion made at its March 23 meeting to endorse Representative Roger Goodman (D-45) for reelection and on a motion made by email to endorse Senator Bob Hasegawa (D-11) for reelection.

## upcoming programs

### Congressional scholar to speak on the filibuster

Highlight of upcoming programs for the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, April through June, is the May 11 presentation by Dr Sarah Binder, a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution and professor of political science at George Washington University. Dr Binder, a leading congressional scholar who specializes in Congress and legislative politics, will speak on the history and future of the filibuster.



Dr. Sarah Binder

### Other programs include



Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos

April 13, Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, D-37, will speak on the education legislation addressed in the 2022 legislative session.

April 27, long-time member of the MDC Gael Tarleton will tell us about her new job as interim director of Seattle's Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

May 25, Troy Davis and Logan Bowers, volunteer co-leaders of the Seattle Approves campaign, will talk about approval voting and Seattle Initiative 134.

June 8, Seattle City Councilmember Andrew Lewis, a former member of the MDC, will discuss the issues of safety in

cont. p.3

## Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle

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eleanor.munro21@gmail.com

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Seattle WA 98116

*"Notes" cont. from pg. 1*

A motion to send a letter to Tina Podlodowski, chair of the Washington State Democrats, passed unanimously. Nick Licata and Eleanor Munro will prepare a draft.

### March 9

No program was planned for this meeting. Members discussed the situation in Ukraine and other issues, then adjourned.

### March 23

#### Program

Attorney General Bob Ferguson spoke on the just-signed-into-law ban on high-capacity magazines.

Representatives Roger Goodman and Jesse Johnson provided an "Update on police reform: Review of 2022 legislative session."

#### Business

A motion to endorse Representative Roger Goodman was made. The motion will be announced to members and the vote will be taken at the April 13 meeting of the MDC.

## book reviews

### Lords of Easy Money

#### How the Federal Reserve Broke the American Economy

By Christopher Leonard

Simon & Schuster, New York, 2022

and

### Kochland

#### The Secret History of Koch Industries

#### and Corporate Power in America

Simon & Schuster, New York, 2019

By Christopher Leonard

Reviewed by Allan Munro

Even though we are all focused on the events in Ukraine, the refugees, and the civilian casualties, it is important that we continue to track behind-the-scenes economic events in the United States. Christopher Leonard has published two revealing books on some of these subjects. He is an easy read, even when describing arcane developments in areas like money supply, zero interest rates, natural gas pipeline policies, etc.

In *Lords of Easy Money* he presents powerful evidence that the zero interest rate Federal Reserve policies of the last 10 years (known as quantitative easing, QE) has caused an inflation in asset values (real estate, stocks, bonds, etc.) that has helped enrich the property-owning class at the expense of the rest of us. He contends that 10 years of QE has also created a vulnerable, unbalanced economy that will have more Lehman Brothers-like collapses. His arguments are sound, his evidence is strong, but, in this writer's opinion, not completely conclusive. Time will tell.

### Call for candidates for MDC director

Any member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle who wishes to serve as a member of the organization's board of directors for the 2022 – 2024 term should notify Eleanor Munro at eleanor.munro21@gmail.com no later than May 31, 2022.

Directors whose terms expire June 2022 are Joanna Cullen, Judi Gibbs and Allan Munro should also notify Ms Munro if they seek reelection.



Allan Munro

Leonard does not give much space to some big picture factors that pertain to his message. For example: not directly addressed is why retail consumer prices did not go up while asset prices did surge during the long period of zero interest rates. If retail prices were held down by competition between multinational corporations with established, secure supply chains linked to those areas of the world with the least cost raw materials, labor, etc, then the supply chain interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic would cause a cost-push type inflation such as we have recently experienced. (My explanation, not his.)

Also, not adequately addressed is what would have happened had the Fed not kept interest rates near zero. It took almost 10 years for the economy to resume its customary rate of growth with zero interest rates. Without zero rates the situation would certainly have been worse.

*Kochland* is a meticulously researched description of how Koch Enterprises, a non-public corporation, secretly became one of the largest corporations in world history. It is so massive that it has pricing power in many natural resource areas (natural gas, oil, copper, etc.). It also secretly funds a collection of think tanks and "advocacy" nonprofits that have used

*cont. on p.4*



“Congressional scholar” cont. from p.1



downtown Seattle.

June 22, the MDC will conduct its primary endorsement proceedings

Gael Tarleton

and elect members to its board of directors.



Troy Davis

All meetings will be conducted by Zoom. See information at right.



Logan Bowers



Andrew Lewis

### Have you paid your dues?

As per vote by the members, Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle membership dues are now due January 1 of each year. Please pay online at [metrodem.org](http://metrodem.org) or send your check to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116. Rates: sponsor \$500, sustaining \$250, family \$150, regular \$100, pay what you can starting at \$5.

“Ferguson” cont. from p.1

The legislation, he acknowledged, does not ban the possession of such weapons, but does make it more difficult for people in this state to acquire them. He believes it will reduce the incidents of mass killing.

Mr Ferguson said that he will now be turning his attention to banning the sale of assault weapons.

Bob Ferguson has served as Washington’s 18th attorney general since he was elected to that position in 2013. Before that he served on the King County Council starting in 2003. He is a former member of the MDC.

mark your

## Metrodems calendar

**April 13, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 872 9246 9071**

**Passcode: 854848**

Program: Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos will speak on the education legislation addressed in the 2022 legislative session.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87292469071?pwd=L1FZU2tjdjIT0g2aHJ1VHRLZFRKQT09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87292469071?pwd=L1FZU2tjdjIT0g2aHJ1VHRLZFRKQT09>

**April 27, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 839 8688 6365**

**Passcode: 909520**

Program: Gael Tarleton, interim director of Seattle’s Office of Intergovernmental Relations, will tell us about her new job and the responsibilities of the OIG.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83986886365?pwd=eU8xRHQzU3dMQVN1emlkRHdwTkVmQT09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83986886365?pwd=eU8xRHQzU3dMQVN1emlkRHdwTkVmQT09>

**May 11, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 827 1142 3659**

**Passcode: 591203**

Program: Dr Sarah Binder of the Brookings Institute and George Washington University will speak on the history and future of the filibuster.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82711423659?pwd=YnFWYnJvQUo4LzV4QS9WM0dBQXdpZz09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82711423659?pwd=YnFWYnJvQUo4LzV4QS9WM0dBQXdpZz09>

**May 25, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 815 0263 4791**

**Passcode: 980172**

Program: Troy Davis and Logan Bowers, volunteer co-leaders of the Seattle Approves campaign, will talk about approval voting and Seattle Initiative 134.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502634791?pwd=MW9OWmM1eXZMb1gvaWVRbnhzdIFiQT09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502634791?pwd=MW9OWmM1eXZMb1gvaWVRbnhzdIFiQT09>

**June 8, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 814 4911 3728**

**Passcode: 578641**

Program: Seattle City Councilmember Andrew Lewis will discuss the issues of safety in downtown Seattle.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81449113728?pwd=MW9OWmM1eXZMb1gvaWVRbnhzdIFiQT09>

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# Goodman, Johnson: update on police reform

As a followup to their presentation on police reform last year, Representatives Roger Goodman and Jesse Johnson provided an update on that issue to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its March 23 meeting.

Mr Johnson reminded the audience that last year the legislature had begun work on improving transparency and accountability in policing. In 2021 the legislature passed 13 bills dealing with these issues.

“The work was uncomfortable, but important,” Mr Johnson said, “and we always knew we would have to revisit it.”

Continuing the discussion, Mr Goodman said what was most confusing to law enforcement agencies was the definition of “use of force.” In the 2022 legislative session, four new bills were passed that help clarify the term. For example, use of



Rep Roger Goodman

Rep Jesse Johnson

force is defined as the minimum amount necessary to detain or control suspects.

Next on the agenda, Mr Goodman announced, are reforms to criminal sentencing.

Jesse Johnson represents the 30th legislative district in the Washington House of Representatives. He is vice chair of the house public safety committee. He formerly served on the Federal Way City Council. He has announced that he will not seek reelection this year.

Roger Goodman, a long-time member of the MDC, has represented the 45th legislative district in the Washington House of Representatives since 2007. He chairs the house public safety committee and serves on the house civil rights and judiciary committee. He is seeking reelection.



*Book Review cont. from p.2*

lobbying and public relations campaigns to exempt Koch’s businesses from environmental regulation, taxes and other regulations. Specifically, the activities of these Koch-sponsored groups has set back efforts to limit carbon emissions to reduce global warming.

It appears that Koch controls the Libertarian Party with its ability to fund Libertarian Party institutions or to refuse to do so. In fact, David Koch was the Libertarian candidate for vice president in 1980. The honor was in return for an implied commitment to fund the campaign, which he did.

Leonard’s description of the indoctrination of Koch employees about the economy and Koch’s role in it combined with requirements of secrecy is shocking. An authoritarian clandestine corporate state has been created in the middle of a free-market democracy.

After reading these books you will have a much better understanding of why seemingly unrelated developments seem to always occur at the expense of the US middle class.

**June 22, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 868 6244 0185**

**Passcode: 334016**

Business: MDC primary endorsement proceedings and election of MDC board

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86862440185?pwd=RGF0WnhZZUI2Yk9SSktUeXh1TWtHdz09>

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April 2022

METROPOLITAN  
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