



THE

M

D

C

Promoting progressive values since 1956
www.metrodems.org

MARCH NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

Johnson advocates housing affordability

Rob Johnson wants “to see Seattle continue to be affordable” and he wants people to be able to afford to live in the neighborhoods where they grew up. He explained some of the opportunities to remake the city so that will be possible at the February 13 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. The program was sponsored by the MDC’s Seattle’s Future Task Force. Mr Johnson, chair of the Seattle City Council Land Use Committee, represents District 4.

After three years of public engagement and community input, he said, the overwhelming response is “we need more affordable housing.”

The city’s Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) program, he explained, calls for the city to pay non-profit developers to build affordable housing. The goal is to build 6,000 new income-restricted units for low-income people by 2025. Increased development capacity depends on proposed City Council action on zoning changes that will allow more density, particularly in urban villages.

Jim Street, former Seattle City Councilmember and chair of the Seattle’s Future Task Force, noted that the goal of the task force is economic and social justice for people who live and work in our city. The task force sees housing affordability as one of the critical issues facing the city this year.

Some of the members of the task force are participants in a new organization that is monitoring how candidates for city council in 2019 stand on this and other issues. This organization will also be making endorsements early in the race.



mark your MDC calendar

March 13 – MDC meeting

“Council Action on Housing Affordability – Accessory Dwelling Units and Neighborhood Character”

Health care for all is a moral issue, expert says

“Who’s sitting at the lunch counter of health care?” Dr Ken Fabert asked members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its February 27 meeting. Dr Fabert, a public spokesperson for Health Care for All – Washington, was part of a panel discussing the possibility of a single-payer health plan. He said the issue of health care for all is a moral question.

Other members of the panel were Dr David McClanahan and Charlton Price, chair of the MDC Health Care Task Force. Lem Howell, a member of the task force, served as moderator. Mr Price defined single payer

as “a national, universal, publicly funded and administered system.”

Our current system is a “crazy, stupid way to run health care,” Mr Fabert said. To change this we need a moral outcry. Young people are the ones who are outraged he said, because they are the ones “being screwed” on this as other issues such as the environment and cost of education. We need to translate this into legislation, he added.

He is optimistic about the future of health care, Mr Fabert said, because “it can’t

get much worse.” As for the costs of a single-payer system, he noted, 95 percent of the population will pay less in taxes than they are now paying for health care.

Mr McClanahan, who speaks for the organizations Health Care is a Human Right and Health Care for All-Washington, said a Medicare for All system, as proposed by Congresswoman Pramila



Speaking about healthcare were, from left, Charlton Price, Dr David McClanahan, Lem Howell, and Dr Ken Fabert.

Jayapal (HB 1384), could disrupt the campaigns of “corporate Democrats.” These are Democrats, he explained, who accept campaign donations from the pharmaceutical industry.

The difference between HB 1384 and the previous single-payer system proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders, Mr McClanahan said, is that everything will be covered under one plan and there will be no cost sharing. It will take two years to transition



New members

The MDC welcomes new members Amy Nguyen, candidate for Seattle City Council, and Anquida Adams.

Seattle City Councilmember Mike O’Brien
March 25 – MDC meeting

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting takes place on Monday, March 25 – NOT Wednesday, March 27.

April 10 - MDC meeting

“What Citizens Should Know About Trade Agreements: who benefits, who loses and how trade agreements relate to the border crisis.”

Speakers are Stan Sorscher, labor representative at the Society for Professional Engineering Employee in Aerospace (SPEEA), and Hilary Haden of Alliance for Global Justice.

Meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St. All are welcome.

obituary

Lowell Ericsson

1928 – 2019

Lowell Ericsson, a member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle during the late 60s, died February 16. He was active in many organizations, social and scientific, and served as chair of the 41st legislative district Democratic organization. He was a biochemist who worked at Boeing, the University of Washington, Immunex and Amgen, and who published widely on scientific subjects.

Services will be held at 11 am, March 30 at the East Shore Unitarian Church, 12700 SE 32nd St, Bellevue. Remembrances may be made to the Stanley Ann Dunham Scholarship Fund, the Carter Center or Beloit College.

MDC people

Jean Godden, a long-time member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, is the subject of her new book, "Citizen Jean: riots, Rogues, Rumors, and Other Inside Seattle Stories." In her book she covers her career as a journalist and a Seattle City Councilmember.

MDC meeting notes

February 13

It's official

President Eleanor Munro announced that the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle is now officially a 501 (c) (4) corporation.

Buttons

Lem Howell is purchasing most of the remaining Elizabeth Warren "she persisted" buttons that were made last year. There remain another hundred or so for sale at \$1.

February 27

Change of meeting date

Members voted to hold the second meeting of March on Monday, March 25, as the room we use for our meetings is not available Wednesday, March 27.



answers to Jack Whisner's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS: (1) offer, (6) Valdez, (10) Nguyen, (11) co, (12) NE, (13) Wilson, (16) AG, (18) Beerlane, (19) local (22) Tai, (23) Ramos, (25) Davis, (28) sel, (29) Walen, (31) DC, (32) slo, (33) ST, (34) Ives, (37) oar, (38) hr, (39) tent, (40) MD, (41) Thai, (43) CT, (44) Oso, (46) role, (47) HAPPYNEWYEAR

DOWN: (1) Oneal, (2) FG, (3) fun, (4) eye, (5) re, (7) Lillians, (8) econ, (9) zone, (13) wet, (14) irade, (15) SA, (17) Gore, (18) blows, (20) Callen,* (21) AM, (24) Salomon, (26) ID, (27) Schrier, (28) switch, (30) load, (35) veta, (36) stop, (38) HALA, (41) try, (42) hoe, (45) Sy

*actual spelling is Callan



Election 2019

Seattle Port Commissioner Fred Felleman will kick off his reelection campaign 5 – 7 pm at Chinook's at Fisherman's Terminal.

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –**Board of Directors**
Executive committee President Eleanor Munro ▪ President Jack Whisner ▪ Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi **Directors** Joanna Cullen ▪ Dan Fievez ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Judi Gibbs ▪ Vinod Goswami ▪ Lem Howell ▪ Tyler Mollenkopf ▪ Jayson Morris ▪ Allan Munro ▪ Dr David Rudo ▪ Elizabeth Stanton ▪ Harriet Wasserman ▪ Bert Wyman **Lifetime honored members** Kay Bullitt ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles ▪ Hon Nick Licata

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.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

March 2019

METROPOLITAN
 DEMOCRATIC CLUB
 OF SEATTLE

Eleanor Munro
 1925 41st Ave SW
 Seattle WA 98116

