

46th Legislative District Democrats

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DEMOGRAM

June 2018

General Meeting

Wednesday, June 20th
Seattle Mennonite Church

Auditorium

3120 NE 125th Street

Seattle, WA 98125

Sign In:

6:30pm

Meeting:

7:00pm

◀ Message from the Chair ▶



Dear 46th LD Members, Friends, and Allies,

Summer appears to have arrived! With only a month and a half before the primaries and five months away from the mid-term elections, it's time to take action! The weather is gorgeous, more of our neighbors are spending time outside which offers the perfect opportunity to open up the dialogue and get our democracy and civility working once again. What's coming from this administration is oppressive and does not represent what this country and its values have stood for over the last 200 years.

Elections matter, and we need you this year.

I am very excited about the June program as it's all about "election activism". We have four highly engaged speakers as well as the newly-elected King County Democrats Chair, Natalie Reber, who will discuss what's happening in our state in the upcoming elections and most importantly the various activities and initiatives for all of us to get active and achieve the primary mission that this district exists to accomplish: **to elect Democrats**.

These elections will be tough, probably nasty, however, as our former First Lady advised, "*when they go low, we go high*".

There are excellent candidates in the upcoming elections. We need to focus on getting our great leaders in the 46th LD re-elected and expand our energies to other districts as well as to other states. Remain united, keep your energy up, don't let the news cycle fatigue get you down, and let's stay laser focused on getting our great country back by being citizen activists!

Democratically yours,

Julie Anne Kempf

Chair, 46th Legislative District Democrats

Important Notice:

The 46th LD General Meetings will now take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month

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DEMOGRAM

UPDATE

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Agenda for June 20th, 2018

Location: Mennonite Church Auditorium

3120 NE 125th, Seattle WA

Sign in and Mingling — 6:30 PM Meeting Starts — 7:00 PM

AGENDA -

1. Call to Order
2. Flag Salute
3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of previous Meeting
4. Candidate Open Mic—2 minutes each
5. Resolution: *Affordable Talaris (see page 11)*
6. **Program: Electoral Activism**
7. **Program: KCDCC Chair Natalie Reber Q & A**
8. Good of the Order
9. Adjourn

Important Notice:

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46th Legislative District

June 20th — Featured Program



APRIL SIMS
Political & Strategic Campaign
Director, Washington State Labor
Council



OSTA DAVIS
Political Director, House
Democratic Campaign Committee



ZEENAT YAHYA
Seattle Fellow, IGNITE



MELISSA TAYLOR
Board Member, Emerge Washington

ELECTORAL ACTIVISM: YOUR TOOLS TO MAKE THE BLUE WAVE HAPPEN

Wednesday, June 20th
Doors open: 6:30, General Meeting start: 7:00, Program start: 7:20
Seattle Mennonite Church, 3120 NE 125th St, Seattle, WA 98125

General Meeting & Program by 46th District Democrats - www.46dems.org
Open to general public



Join the 46th District Democrats to find out what's at play across Washington State and here in King County this mid-term cycle, and where and how you can get involved.

We'll cover the state of WA Congressional races as well as state legislative races that will decide what policies move forward next year and how much of a check we have on national policies and appointments. Whether you're someone who wants to hit the streets or you need options you can do from home, we'll walk through ways that everyone can get their civic action on this summer. This is what democracy looks like!

We'll hear from seasoned political activists:

- April Sims, Political and Strategic Campaign Director, Washington State Labor Council
- Osta Davis, Political Director, House Democratic Campaign Committee
- Zeenat Yahya, Seattle Fellow, IGNITE: Political Power in Every Young Woman
- Melissa Taylor, Board Member, Emerge Washington

Speaker Bios (next page)



Speaker Bios

April Sims was appointed Political and Strategic Campaign Director in November 2017 and works to develop shared agendas with labor and community partners, to advance strategic organizing campaigns (raising wages, naturalization, revenue reform, etc.), and to recruit, train and elect political champions for working people. She first joined the WSLC in September 2015 as Field Mobilization Director, working with WSLC-affiliated unions and community partners to support and encourage the participation of individual members with many different political, legislative and community programs.

Prior to that, Sims served as the Legislative and Political Action Field Coordinator for the Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME Council 28 (WFSE), where she was responsible for member education, communication, and mobilization around legislative issues and political campaigns. She was a WFSE member, shop steward, elected union officer, and union staffer from 2002-15.

Osta Davis has worked on a number of legislative and issue campaigns and is excited to bring that experience to her role of Political Director at the House Democratic Campaign Committee. After graduating from Whitman College, Osta immersed herself in the world of community organizing and civic engagement. Relying on a strong foundation in the fundamentals of field, Osta helped secure victories in races in SeaTac and the 28th LD, as Rep. Kilduff's Campaign Manager in 2014. While working for the Washington Senate Democratic Campaign in 2016, Osta supported a number of swing district races and helped the caucus retain all its members and add a seat in a tough election year. Before joining the HDCC, Osta worked as the Government Affairs Specialist at K&L Gates where she represented a coalition of school districts and took a deep dive into education policy. Osta is a lifelong Washingtonian and currently lives in Tacoma.

Zeenat Yahya is currently the Seattle Fellow for IGNITE, a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization that is empowering young women to run for office. She is also a graduate student at the University of Washington and will be completing her Master's in Education Policy this coming August. As an undergraduate at the University of California, Davis, she interned with the CA State Superintendent and his staff to learn more about the role of education policy in California and how to address the wide range of issues that affect the 6.2 million students in the state. After receiving her BA in Political Science-Public Service, she moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area and started working with IGNITE as the California Program Coordinator working on civic engagement with high school and college students. After completing her graduate program, Zeenat hopes to work in education policy and advocacy work.

Melissa Taylor was born and raised in North Seattle, where she lives now with her husband and daughter. Her career has primarily been in technology fields and started in Austin, Texas, with brief periods in East Timor and Singapore and eventually led back to Seattle in 2014. Melissa was part of the Organizing Committee and is now on the board of Emerge Washington, focused on recruiting and training Democratic women to run for office. She ran for an appointment to the State House of Representatives in early 2017 and then volunteer campaign managed Michelle Rylands' State Senate race through the primary.

46th Legislative District

Upcoming Monthly Meetings & Programs

(changed to the 3rd Wednesday of every month)

Invite your friends, neighbors, & family!

- **Wednesday, June 20th, Electoral Activism: Your Tools to Make the Blue Wave Happen**

Join the 46th District Democrats to find out what's at play across Washington State and in King County for the upcoming mid-terms and how you can get involved.

⇒ **Location: Seattle Mennonite Church Auditorium: 3120 NE 125th Street, Seattle, WA**

⇒ **Doors open: 6:30 pm Meeting Begins: 7:00 pm**

- **Saturday, July 14th – 46th LD Annual Picnic**

Be sure to attend this year's 46th Legislative District's Annual Picnic and get the chance to meet both your LD neighbors AND your legislative district elected officials and candidates in the upcoming mid-term elections. Bring the whole family, friends and neighbors.

⇒ **Location: Pinehurst Playground (12029 14th Avenue, NE, Seattle, WA 98125**

⇒ **Time: 1:00 PM—4:010 PM**

⇒ **Donations welcome** (to help defray the costs of the food /

⇒ **A non-alcohol event**

- **Wednesday, August 15th — Post-Primary Endorsement Meeting and GOTV RALLY**

Make your voice and endorsements heard at the August General Election Endorsement Meeting. The endorsements considered will be primarily for state and local initiatives appearing on the November ballot, as we have already endorsed in nearly all races. Let's ensure we get out the vote and show resounding support for our Democratic candidates. Current endorsed incumbents up for re-election include:

US Senate:

- Maria Cantwell,

US Congressional Districts:

- US Congresswoman (1st CD): Suzan DelBene
- US Congresswoman (7th CD): Pramila Jayapal

WA State Senate

- 46th LD State Senator David Frockt

WA State House Democrats

- 46th LD WA State Representative Gerry Pollet
- 46th LD WA State Representative Javier Valdez

PCO Spotlight

Myra Gamberg

"Nevertheless, She persisted"

"It's a matter of perseverance on principle. I know it sounds high flying, but that's what gets me out of bed in the morning."



Many years ago, I had been taking a break from politics when George W. Bush ran for office and I just couldn't stand on the sidelines anymore. We just couldn't believe that this man could be elected as the President of the United States and the direction he would take our country. Now, we are seeing the same energy again, the same disbelief and frustration.

I've always felt that being present is what is most important. Even if you do nothing else, just show up and be present. Just being part of the group and lending that sense of solidarity to each other really makes a difference, whether it's the monthly 46th meeting or the Women's March. Then if you can take another step and do a little more, that's great.

As I got older, I decided where I could really focus my energy was in my own precinct. I've always believed that the grassroots is where the action is. That's where success comes from. Being my neighborhood PCO has been such a great experience for me and important part of my life over the years. I have enjoyed building relationships with my neighbors and discussing the issues that impact our community. For many years, I also walked the neighboring precincts and helped other PCOs when they were out of town and not able to walk.

While the news today and the current administration can be anywhere from frustrating to infuriating on a daily basis, I remain very hopeful. I gained inspiration participating in the Women's March and wearing my fabulous pink hat! I went to the first Women's March in Washington DC 14 years ago with my granddaughter so that she would know what women have gone through. At the recent marches, every woman I talked to said they just felt like they had to show up, they had to be there, and followed it up with, "We've got to do something."

Change is in the air. The energy of women and these articulate kids standing up for gun safety in schools is impressive. I'm feeling much more hopeful looking forward to 2018: there are so many women running for office and good progressive democratic candidates running up and down the ticket. I look forward to knocking on doors and supporting them in whatever way I can!

There is a revolution brewing. This is our year, if we show up!



Precinct Committee Officers



HELP US RECRUIT NEW PCOS!



The District is not able to appoint new PCOs between Primary Day, August 7th and December 1st, when new and returning PCOs officially take office. That means if we are going to bring in new PCOs to help us reach our goals in 2018 we need to double our efforts now! Do you have a friend or neighbor looking for a way to get involved? Give them an application! Applications are available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwEnE7HXETnFMF82UTd0TnVGVIU/view>

Please contact Anna Borris at pco-coordinator@46dems.org to sign up as a 46th LD PCO, enlist your friends and neighbors or to get more information.

Let's ride the Blue Wave together!





46th Legislative District Announcements



Message from the Membership Chair Marty Ross

Show your support for progressive politics by becoming a Member of the 46th Legislative District Democrats!

Your membership and dues enable our organization to pay for and support key operations and initiatives including:

- Funding door-to-door outreach to build the party at the grassroots level
- Operational costs such as our meeting space rental, annual picnics, caucus events, etc.
- Serving as an acting member of the voting body
- Securing your voice to support local candidates through the endorsement process and influencing the trajectory of the Democratic Party
- Supporting legislative efforts by adopting resolutions
- Electing members of the Executive Board of the 46th LD

Your membership is an essential building block to constructing a just, equitable society that reflects our shared Democratic values.

Be sure to keep your membership active and feel free to share our membership information with your friends and neighbors of the “Fighting 46th”.

https://www.46dems.org/donate_join

In Solidarity,

Marty Ross
46th LD Membership Chair



46th Legislative District Announcements



Message from the Program Chair Alan Zelt

We, in the 46th, have become more focused on our singular mission: “To elect Democrats.”

To better accomplish this, we must all have a good understanding about the issues that drive us to vote for who we do, and to support issues, initiatives and resolutions. It is in no way important to just say we don’t like Trump. We must stand for meaningful things that move the needle ahead for all of us.

The best way I know how to get us engaged is to have programming that is designed to be meaningful, and would lead towards electing more Dems.

Towards that end, what is important to you? And how is it likely to better inform us, and to elect more Dems.

We want your ideas for programming that will excite you to come to our monthly meetings and get others within the district to attend our meetings. Share your ideas for monthly meetings.

Contact me at alzelt@outlook.com.

Alan Zelt,
Chairman
Programming Committee



Resolution in Support of Affordable Talaris

WHEREAS the City of Seattle declared a homeless emergency November 2nd, 2015; and

WHEREAS the January 26th, 2018 “Count Us In” point-in-time count found 12,112 people experiencing homelessness in King County and that the unsheltered population increased by 15% from 2017; and

WHEREAS The City of Seattle has determined that to solve this crisis additional affordable housing must be built throughout Seattle in areas of high opportunity and low displacement; and

WHEREAS the 18 acres Talaris site is located in such an area, providing access to nearby schools, grocery stores, the University of Washington, Burke Gilman Trail, and Husky Stadium Link Light Rail Station; and

WHEREAS the city of Seattle found that the Talaris site could potentially accommodate 238 affordable housing units (Fort Lawton EIS Alternatives); and

WHEREAS Quadrant Homes (Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Group) has agreed to buy the Talaris site and build 63 single family homes estimated to sell for approximately \$2 million dollars each; and

WHEREAS the city of Seattle has the well-established right to rezone this property; and

WHEREAS Talaris is one of a handful of undeveloped sites within the city where affordable housing could be built without displacing any existing residents; and

WHEREAS All parts of our city bear a responsibility to help solve our housing crisis, and the construction of housing in one neighborhood affects housing prices across the region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats endorse the Affordable Talaris petition to ask Seattle City Council to halt the current plan for Talaris and use the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative to ensure an equitable development outreach process and implementation plan to build more homes on or near Talaris.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent by the Chair of the 46th District Democrats or their designee to Affordable Talaris, each member of the Seattle City Council, and Mayor Jenny Durkan.

Submitted to the 46th District Democrats by Phillip Duggan (Phillip@PinehurstSeattle.org) with help by Laura Loe and Scott Alspach

Caucus 2018 Update



Picture: Phillip Duggan , former 46th LD Chair, showing off his patriotic spirit

Thank you to everyone who made the 2018 LD Caucus a HUUUUUGE success!

On March 24th, we held the 2018 46th LD Endorsement meeting at Ingraham High School. We had by far the largest and most robust caucus in the State in large part due to all of our amazing members and volunteers who came out on a Saturday to help shape the party platform and debate the message of the party.

Special thanks to our amazing roster of speakers: State Supreme Court Justice Steve Gonzalez, Senator David Frockt, Councilmember Debra Juarez, Representative Gerry Pollet, and Representative Javier Valdez! After a lively discussion we were able to pass a great platform which can be viewed now on the website: https://www.46dems.org/platform_2018. We also elected our delegates to this summer's state convention. We wish them the best of luck and know they will be great representatives of the 46th legislative district.

We, the Young; A Dinner with the Young Democrats



Members of the 46th LD filled two tables at an April 18th dinner sponsored by the University of Washington Young Democrats (UWYD), whose president proudly announced that this was their first-ever fundraising dinner – and a successful one. Several public officials joined the UW students, including our own Senator David Frockt and Representatives Gerry Pollet and Javier Valdez, as well as members from the 32nd, 34th, 37th, 41st, and 43rd Democratic Legislative Districts.

The program consisted of talks by four featured Young Democrats: Jessamine Anderson, Spencer Lively, Jennifer Henderson and Noah An. Two elected officials: Zachary DeWolf, Seattle School Board member, and Noel Frame, State Representative also spoke, thanking the YDs in attendance who have worked and lobbied for change and encouraging them to continue their activism. The keynote speaker for the event was Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson. The program concluded with a special tribute to Seattle civil rights icon, Larry Gossett, who, after accepting a UWYD t-shirt, told a short but powerful story of his long road to prominence beginning with his awakening to civil rights work as a young man working in Harlem and continuing with his student activism at the University of Washington, where he founded the Black Student Union, still in existence today.

Just another gathering of the like-minded, progressively oriented activists dropping a few bucks for a good cause? Same conventional, catered hot dishes and a bit of chit-chat with acquaintance in the spacious room in the Husky Union Building on the UW campus—right? Yes, but in fact, it was much more than that.

The students' presentations were absolutely spellbinding, demonstrating the struggle each person had overcome to find themselves, their place in society, and a supportive community within the UWYD.

(Continued on next page)

We, the Young; A Dinner with the Young Democrats



(continued from Page 13)

One told a story of growing up in a conservative family and struggling with the difficulties of being cast into the role of a misfit because of the anti-gay views of his family and community. He related how he had found a home in the UWYD, who is willing not only to accept diversity, but also dedicated to rid society of the horrible discriminatory behavior of those opposed to loosening the rigid binary gender system.

Another told the story of her despair over the loss of a trans-gender family member who committed suicide. Still struggling with her grief and loss, the student had a life-changing meeting with a total stranger, a customer she encountered at her job as a restaurant waitress. Seeing a pin the customer wore reminded her of her lost family member, and she struck up a conversation. It turned out the customer was a professor at an Oregon University who was studying the phenomena of suicides in LGBTQ communities. This serendipitous meeting changed the student's life, and she is now pursuing a pathway influenced by this encounter.

Not a soul in the ballroom that evening was inattentive as the students told their stories. One could almost hear the thoughts of many of us in the audience: Maybe, just maybe, the future will be in good hands.

Messages from the public officials were both insightful and practical: the work that needs to be done will take a long time; don't give up; learn from your setbacks. Bob Ferguson told UWYD members that they may not even realize the power they have. "You are powerful; use that power." Larry Gosset told of how, when he was a UW student, he was served papers by the police telling him he was not to set foot on the UW campus because of his activism. He tore up the papers and said he was heading to his 9:30 class. Undeterred, he went on to continue his activism, and his life of public service.

The challenge to the 46th LD, and to all Democrats, is to share the message of our Democratic values with the young people, and to engage and commit them to vote in the coming elections.

Submitted by Julie Anne Kempf, Phillippa Kassover and Jay Johnson

Book Review

“How Democracies Die,”

by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt

The US Political System has a Cold; Will it Turn into Pneumonia?

This article is a book review. It is a summary of and commentary on “*How Democracies Die*,” by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, New York (Crown Publishing 2018). In the last few pages of the last chapter, entitled “Saving America,” the authors quote E.B. White, who wrote a short response to a question posed by the U.S. Federal government’s Writers’ Board during the depths of World War II.

Surely the Board knows what democracy is. It is the line that forms on the right. It is the “don’t” in don’t shove. It is the hole in the stuffed shirt through which the sawdust slowly trickles; it is the dent in the high hat. Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time. It is the feeling of privacy in the voting booths, the feeling of communion in the libraries, the feel of vitality everywhere. Democracy is a letter to the editor. Democracy is the score at the beginning of the ninth. It is an idea which hasn’t been disproved yet, a song the words of which have not gone bad. It’s the mustard on the hot dog and the cream in the rationed coffee. Democracy is a request from a War Board, in the middle of a morning in the middle of a war, wanting to know what democracy is.

This profound, enigmatic, but readily comprehensible message that every citizen can understand precisely nails the gist of the author’s assertions about the demise of democracies. It is due to the loss of basic norms concerning egalitarianism, civility, sense of freedom and shared values.

The American Creed—a concept coined by Gunnar Myrdal, the Swedish Nobel Prize winner and author of *An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy* (1954)—is defined by two principles: individual freedom and egalitarianism. Levitsky and Ziblatt contribute to the understanding of democracies by illuminating two more essential ingredients for successful democracies. “When American democracy has worked, it relied on two norms *that we have taken for granted*: mutual tolerance and institutional forbearance.” [Italics added.] These are procedural values that they believe are the lubricants that keep the machinery of democracy running. Mutual tolerance is a norm that involves competing parties accepting each other as legitimate rivals. The other norm relates to the idea that politicians should exercise restraint in deploying their constitutional prerogatives.

(Continued on next page)

Book Review

“How Democracies Die,”

by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt

(continued from page 14)

The claim is made that these two norms became institutions as the American experiment in governance has evolved. The formal constitutional design for the US government has served well for the blueprint of American democracy. In the early days of the republic, however, difficulties arose over the implementation of general principles. The success of the American form of democracy over the past two centuries is the result of adhering, informally, to these two norms. Now, the authors fear, these two norms have been seriously degraded. This has happened over the past several decades as constitutional hardball with its winner-take-all approach has escalated. The Trump administration clearly is accelerating the rate of this degradation.

Many examples of how various democracies throughout the world have failed are presented in the book. By and large, authoritarianism takes hold when the two norms break down. One has to read the book to study the details and accept or reject the author's conclusions based on their findings. However, I found their analysis compelling.

The last chapter of the book offers hope. Early in the book, Levitsky and Ziblatt state that the two political parties are the “glue” that holds the American political system together. It is the EXTREME PARTISAN DIVISION that is the fundamental problem facing America at this time. They discuss two overall possible solutions: 1) establish a level of trust through elite-level cooperation and compromise; 2) reshuffle what the two political parties stand for so that polarization can be overcome.

Republicans need to totally rebuild the GOP: abandon white nationalism, soften extreme, free-market ideology, and free the party from the clutches of outside donors and right wing media. Democrats also must change. They must address: the economic woes of a large segment of the population, the stagnant wages at the bottom half of the income distribution system and, most importantly, the growing economic inequality in the nation. The Democrats need to resist the temptation to fight fire with fire. I would add that perhaps Democrats should fight fire with water. A better metaphor: Ocool, clear, transparent stuff that moves efficiently, quietly, to low energy states and there attains stable equilibrium.

Finally, the authors quote a colleague, Danielle Allen:

“The simple fact of the matter is that the world has never built a multiethnic democracy in which no particular ethnic group is in the majority and where political equality, social equality and economies that empower all have been achieved.

This, they claim, is America's great challenge. The nation cannot retreat from it. “

Cold → pneumonia → demise? Is this what's going to happen?

Review by Jay Johnson, 46th LD Executive Board Member

46th Legislative District Executive Board Members

Chair:

[Julie Anne Kempf](#) chair@46dems.org

First Vice Chair:

[Andrew Everett](#) andrewjeverett@me.com

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[Leah Ross](#) secretary@46dems.org

Treasurer:

TBA

State Committeeman:

[Javier Valdez](#) elections@46dems.org

State Committeewoman:

[Elizabeth \(Betsy\) Walker](#) betsy.walker@ydwa.org

King County Male Representative:

[Andrew Everett](#) andrewjeverett@me.com

King County Male Alternate:

[Lawrence \(Larry\) Smith](#) gabriel_freeman@yahoo.com

King County Female Representative:

[Sarajane Siegfriedt](#) sarajane3h@comcast.net

King County Female Alternate:

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At Large Members:

[Jay Johnson](#) farfarjohnson04@gmail.com

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[Marty Ross](#) membership@46dems.org

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46th Legislative District Committees

PCO Coordinator [Anna E. Borris](#)

Election [Betsy Walker](#)

Platform/Resolution [Sarajane Siegfriedt](#)

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Comms Co-Chair [Jay Johnson](#)

Legislative Action [Corina Pfeil](#)

Finance TBA

If you are interested in joining a committee,
please contact your Committee Chair.

Demogram Editors:

Lori Shelden, Andrew Everett, Jay Johnson



Representative Gerry Pollet, Representative Javier Valdez and Senator David Frockt at a forum held at the Kenmore City Hall.



**46th District
DEMOCRATS**

P.O. Box 15435
Seattle, WA 98115-0435

Meeting Location

**Wednesday June 20th
Meeting**

*Doors Open: 6:30 M
Meeting at 7:00 PM*

AT:

**Seattle Mennonite Church Auditorium
3120 NE 125th Street
Seattle, WA 98125**



**Show Your Commitment to the
46th District Democrats. JOIN NOW!**

Pay dues electronically [via Click and Pledge at our website](#)— where you can pledge as little as \$5 a month - **or** mail a check payable to “**46th District Democrats**” to **PO Box 15435, Seattle, WA 98115-0435**. To check if you are already a member, email **Marty Ross** at membership@46dems.org.

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