

## PURPOSE

Join the 1st Legislative District Democrats as we consider these important issues and develop solutions to them:

### BARRIERS TO VOTING:

**Language** - Americans speak many languages. As a result, not only do our ballots need to be in alternate languages, the candidates have to be able to reach all of the electorate. Without this how can a non-English speaker make an informed decision?

**Education** -The more people know, the more they are apt to vote. In 2016, 80 percent of persons with a post graduate degree voted, while under 35 percent of those with less than a high school education voted.

**Income Level** -The more people make, the more they are apt to vote. In the 2012 election, 80.2 percent of those making more than \$150,000 voted, while only 46.9 percent of those making less than \$10,000 voted.

**HISTORICALLY DISENFRANCHISED VOTERS** - Race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation also often play a part in election campaigns. When candidates use terms that can be read as code words for minority inclusion or exclusion, potential voters may decide to sit out an election. A basic fact of voting is that candidates typically must obtain a majority of the votes cast, and if they do not need the votes of a minority population, they often ignore them. This can have the effect of alienating groups that are not targeted by a campaign manager; so they have little incentive to vote.

**ALTERNATIVE VOTING APPROACHES** - Nearly every state uses a similar system for casting and counting votes—voters select one candidate per race on a ballot and the candidate that receives the most votes wins. This is known as plurality voting or winner-take-all. Plurality voting isn't the only option, though. Ranked choice voting, approval voting and proportional representation are other options.

**ACCESS TO THE BALLOT/REPRESENTATION** - Other factors impact voter turnout and access including gerrymandering, population prohibitions to voting (restoration of voting rights, citizenship requirements) and accurate Census counts.

## SPONSORS

				
		Claudia Balducci King County Council Member		
		Rick Larsen <small>Doing Good Politics with Common Sense and Heart</small>		

## SPEAKERS

**Niko Battle: Snohomish County State Committee Member and Mukilteo High School Senior** – Niko Battle has been politically active since the young age of twelve, long before they could vote. They are a strong voice for the youth advocacy & became the public face for I-1639 Safe Schools, Safe Communities which is the most comprehensive gun violence prevention measure in state history. Furthermore, they are the CEO of We Won't Be Next, a student led gun violence prevention non-profit, & a top ten, nationally ranked member of their debate team.

**Barbra Chevalier: Director - Seattle-King County League of Women Voters** – Barbra is the current Voter Services Chair for the Seattle-King County League of Women Voters & the Election Methods Lobby Chair for the WA state LWV. Although a consistent voter, she was motivated to become more actively involved when she learned that if “Did Not Vote” had been a candidate in the 2016 presidential election, they would have won by a landslide. Since representative democracy doesn't work if people don't work it, she joined the League & has been working diligently to educate voters & improve our electoral system ever since. A strong believer in bipartisanship & the value of unbiased information, she is dedicated to furthering the League's mission of empowering voters & defending democracy.

**Raymond Miller: Chairman, Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Committee, Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Area Conference NAACP** – Ray is also the President and Founder of Vets Place Northwest-Welcome Home and Founding member and Past Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee, National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. Ray is a US Air Force & Vietnam era veteran. He has served as the Vice Chair of the Snohomish County Human Rights Commission & the Snohomish County Branch of the NAACP. In 2017 he was a candidate for the Snohomish County Council. He is the recipient of the following awards: Henry M. Jackson National Service Award – Snohomish County Democrats, Alaska Oregon & Washington State Area Conference NAACP President's Award, and Lincoln Honors Award Nominee: Veteran of the Year.

**Tina Podlodowski: Chair, WA State Democrats** – Tina Podlodowski is the daughter of two naturalized U.S. citizens who fled post-WWII Europe as refugees. As a first generation American & lifelong Democrat, Tina has spent her life fighting for equality & a level playing field for all. Tina's 30+ years of leadership in technology, government, & management has saved taxpayers millions of dollars, improved public safety & health, and revolutionized technology. Tina has closely worked on over 50 different initiative & candidate campaigns locally & nationally. Tina's strong belief in equality for all guided her work in leadership roles with Washington Citizens for Fairness, the Pride Foundation, The Human Rights Campaign, The Victory Fund, The Task Force & LPAC. She is a former member of the Visiting Committee at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. She is a Washington State “Woman of Influence.” She was awarded the “Spirit Award” from the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle for her accomplishments in engaging diverse communities. Her political & philanthropic work has been profiled in The New York Times, The Washington Post, People, and Vanity Fair.

**Stephen Rattner: Fair Vote Washington** – Stephen Rattner is a Kirkland resident & has been a Microsoft employee since 2005. His passion for politics & public policy brought him to volunteer for FairVote Washington, where he is helping lead the expansion of their Speakers Bureau. Stephen believes Ranked Choice Voting is a critical electoral reform needed for the state of Washington & it will lead to greater choices for voters, more positive political campaigns, & an engaged electorate. FairVote Washington is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c4) grassroots organization advocating for electoral reforms that give voters greater choice, a stronger voice, & a more representative democracy.



**When: Saturday, March 30, 2019  
9 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Where: International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Hall  
18701 120th Ave NE  
Bothell, WA 98011**

What are the barriers and challenges to voting in our community?

You are invited to participate in a community conversation with your neighbors and local experts. Together we'll explore ways to increase voter participation that works for

- Ourselves
- Our Families and
- Our Community

All profits will be donated to



## REGISTER TODAY

### Register me for the "Voting Rights" Forum

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zipcode:
Phone:	E-mail:	

Registration fee: \$15.00 per person in advance (includes pastries, fruit, lunch and coffee/tea).

Lunch options: Please select your choice(s) below:

- Vegetarian Sandwich
- Turkey Sandwich
- Green Salad (Gluten Free)

Donation to cover scholarships for this forum:

Total amount enclosed:

Make check payable to 1<sup>st</sup> District Democrats. Return this registration form to:

First District Democrats  
PO Box 1148  
Bothell, WA 98041

Or register on-line at

<https://1stliddems.brownpapertickets.com>

Limited scholarships are available. For additional information contact:

(425) 522-3253

Or

[forum@1stliddems.org](mailto:forum@1stliddems.org)

## Participate in a Community Forum to Learn Your Rights and Get Out the Vote!

- ❖ International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Hall  
18701 120th Ave NE  
Bothell, WA 98011
- ❖ March 30, 2019 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- ❖ Registration fee: \$15.00 per person—Pastries, lunch, and coffee/tea included

### For additional information contact

[forum@1stliddems.org](mailto:forum@1stliddems.org)  
Phone: (425) 522-3253

To inquire about disability accommodations for this event please contact the 1st Legislative District Democrats by March 22, 2019 at (425) 522-3253 or [forum@1stliddems.org](mailto:forum@1stliddems.org)

**Parking:** Available free of charge.



**Bus:** Plan your trip by King County Metro: <http://tripplanner.king-county.gov/>

The IUOE hall is on the corner of North Creek Parkway and 120th Ave.



**Car pool:** If you would like to be put in touch with others in your area who are interested in car pooling, send an email with your address to: [forum@1stliddems.org](mailto:forum@1stliddems.org)

## AGENDA

9:00 – 10:00 Registration and Organizational Tables are open  
10:00 AM Greeting, Welcome & Forum Overview

10:10 – 10:40 **Barbra Chevalier** League of Women Voters

10:45 – 11:15 **Stephen Rattner** Fair Vote Washington

11:15 – 11:30 **Break**

11:30 – 12:00 **First round of Brainstorming Sessions - (last 10 minutes are for reports out)**

Break out sessions for discussion:

- Alternative voting systems
- Census, gerrymandering, and redistricting
- Disenfranchised voters
- District vs. at-large voting
- Gender and its impact
- Getting out the vote
- Minority vote
- Restoration of voting rights
- Voter registration
- Youth vote

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch and Organizational Tables are open

12:30 – 1:00 **Ray Miller** Chairman - Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Committee, Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Area Conference NAACP

1:05 – 1:35 **Niko Battle** Snohomish County State Committee Member and High School Student

1:40 – 2:10 **Second round of Brainstorming Sessions - (last 10 minutes are for reports out)** Move to a different table and tackle another topic

2:15 – 2:45 **Keynote - Tina Podlodowski** Chair - Washington State Democrats

2:50 – 3:00 **Wrap-Up and Evaluations**