



Advocacy Alert – December 2025

President Clarence Gunn's Message

"These are the times that try men's souls." – Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

This timeless quote speaks directly to the challenges we face today.

Nationally, recent Democratic victories across multiple states reflect a growing resistance to the current administration and a renewed demand for accountability. The end of the government shutdown and the release of the Epstein files further demonstrate an increasing willingness in Congress to stand up and act with courage.

Locally, the elections of a new Seattle mayor and King County executive highlight the opportunities before us.

These transitions are a chance to rebuild, reimagine, and ensure that local leadership is responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

This is the heart of DDI's mission: to amplify minority voices and ensure that elected officials remain connected to the people.

Now is the time to engage directly with communities and newly elected leaders, ensuring that issues of equity, representation, and inclusion remain front and center.

DDI Mission Statement: *Democrats for Diversity and Inclusion (DDI) is committed to increasing the number of people of color, minorities, and others from historically disenfranchised communities by helping them to get elected and/or appointed to any public office they wish to pursue.*

Member Survey

DDI has launched a member survey to identify programs and activities for the coming year. Core initiatives such as candidate identification and support, endorsements, community outreach, and youth engagement will continue.

If you haven't yet completed the survey, please email Clarence Gunn to request a copy. We are also preparing a community-wide survey for friends, allies, and partners. Encourage your networks to participate and consider joining DDI.

DDI in Action

State Committee Meeting – September 27, Vancouver, WA DDI members serving as State Committee representatives attended and contributed to key discussions and decisions:

- Announcement of new DNC appointments: Nathaniel Block, April Sims, Ryan Ramirez
- Sharon Mast elected to the Executive Committee.

Adoption of amendments to Charter, Bylaws, and Rules

- Approval of four amendment packages, including:
- Proxies in Vacancy Meetings
- Housekeeping and Clarifications
- Virtual Meeting Guardrails
- Ranked Choice Voting Fixes
- Passage of the Affirmative Action Racial Equity Impact Statement
- Resolutions Committee: 16 new resolutions adopted.

Legislative Black Caucus November 8th, Highline College

The Legislative Black Caucus hosted a community town hall to set priorities for the upcoming 2026 legislative session. DDI President Clarence Gunn and 1st Vice President Azziem Underwood participated, helping shape discussions on accomplishments, challenges, and future goals.

Black College Expo – November 15th, Seattle Rainier Beach High School DDI leaders engaged with youth about the role of politics in shaping their futures.

- 50+ young people registered to vote
- 75 completed issue surveys
- Connections built with youth-focused organizations and vendors, strengthening DDI's outreach and future pipeline of engaged young leaders.

Coming Events (Next 3 Months)

- Installation of new King County Executive, Council members, Seattle Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, and school board members across Martin Luther King Jr. County
- January Legislative Session (short session focused on budget, funding priorities, and revenue challenges)
- MLK Day and Black History Month celebrations
- Nomination and election of minority delegates to the State Democratic Party Convention in Spokane.

Renew or Join DDI

The challenges ahead demand unity and action. At every level—local, county, state, and federal—issues impacting communities of color require strong advocacy and representation.

Now is the time to recommit. Become a modern-day patriot for a better America—one that reflects the diversity and strength of its people. Stand with us in the fight for voting rights, women's rights, and true inclusion.

Join Today: Democrats for Diversity and Inclusion Membership [Join DDI – DEMOCRATS FOR DIVERSITY](#)

Message From Azziem ‘The Dream’ Underwood DDI’s Endorsement Chair

Over 90% of our 2025 Endorsed Candidates Got Elected

A Vision Rooted in Equity and Inclusion

Our endorsed candidates represent the future of a Washington that works for all of us; where diversity is honored, democracy is protected, and every neighborhood has the resources and leadership needed to thrive.

We endorse leaders who:

- Advance racial, economic, and social justice
- Defend voting rights and democratic systems
- Support workers, families, and small businesses
- Uplift young people and expand civic access
- Champion equitable housing, education, and public safety solutions
- Protect the environment and invest in sustainable futures

Together, they reflect a movement, not just a moment, toward a more inclusive Washington.

Countywide & Regional Offices

- King County Executive — Girmay Zahalay

A bold, community-centered leader committed to equitable public safety, regional transit, housing affordability, and building a County government that truly represents the people it serves.

Why Your Vote Mattered

Democracy is a team sport and every voice matters. This election was an opportunity to:

- Build the most representative government in our state’s history
- Elect leaders who champion justice, equity, and opportunity
- Protect our communities from attempts to roll back progress
- Show what’s possible when diverse people come together for shared purpose

Your vote is your power. And your power shapes our future.

Get Involved: This Is How We Continue To Win

We encourage all members, supporters, and allies to join us in advancing inclusive progress. Here’s how you can help:

Spread the Word

Democrats For Diversity and Inclusion is fighting for everyone to have a voice.

Volunteer

We need canvassers, phone bankers, event volunteers, and community organizers.

Support Youth Civic Engagement

Lift up first-time voters and young leaders shaping Washington’s future.

Donate to Support Our Work

Help us fund voter education, community outreach, and inclusion-centered organizing.

<https://democratsfordiversityandinclusion.org/join-ddi/>

Together, We Build Inclusive Progress

We are proud to stand with these leaders and with you.

Let's work together to make our voices heard, build community power, and ensure that Washington continues moving toward justice, equity, and representation for all.

Together, we win.