

Dear Democrats,

The votes of our state's primary have been cast, counted, and certified, and the results are unequivocal: Congressman Denny Heck is the winner of the primary for Lieutenant Governor, and the clear favorite in the general election.

As Democrats look forward towards November, we must rally to elect Rep. Heck to Lt. Governor.

Rep. Heck's victory in the primary was decisive, winning 154,000 more votes than his closest opponent. In an 11 person race, Rep. Heck garnered 25% of the total votes -- surpassing Lt. Gov Cyrus Habib's high-water mark of 22% in the 2016 primary. From Snohomish to Spokane, of the two Democratic candidates who advanced to the general election, Rep. Heck was the leading Democratic candidate in **38 of Washington's 39 counties—winning 18 counties outright**. Rep. Heck has demonstrated the broad geographic and ideological appeal needed to win a statewide campaign, and unify our party this November.

But this is no ordinary statewide campaign. Despite our state's top-two primary system, Republican insiders are [actively scheming to interfere](#) with the race for Lieutenant Governor by mounting and supporting various write-in campaigns. Joshua Freed has [officially announced](#) his write-in candidacy.

Freed is a wealthy Republican with the ability to self-fund in the general election—and his entry to the race threatens to split the Democratic vote. He already spent \$663,000 of his own money in his doomed attempt to be the Republican nominee for Governor this fall. Now, he's preparing to spend even more money on a write-in campaign to buy himself the Lt. Governors' office despite not even appearing on the primary ballot.

There is simply too much at stake.

The Lt. Governor is first in the line of succession to the Governorship in the Washington State Constitution. If we split the Democratic vote, we risk a well-funded Republican winning with significantly less than 50% of the vote—and ascending to the office. We can't allow that to happen.

This isn't some abstract political science experiment. Just look north to our friends in Alaska: Senator Lisa Murkowski lost her primary in 2010, but won re-election after a successful write-in campaign.

We've even seen Republicans divide the Democratic vote in our own state. Four years ago, Sen. Marko Liias failed to make it out of the 2016 primary election for State Treasurer and two Republicans moved forward to the general election. The office of State Treasurer fell into

Republican control for the first time in fifty years—**even though more than 50% of voters filed ballots for a Democrat during the primary.**

We can't let a Republican write-in campaign win the Lt. Governor's office this fall.

Rep. Heck has been a stalwart public servant to our state and would bring a lifetime of distinguished leadership to the position. When the legislature convenes next year, our state will be confronting a public health and economic crisis unlike any in living memory—we need proven leaders we can trust to guide our state through the storm, and ensure we emerge even stronger than before.

Now is the time for Washington state Democrats to come together and make sure we retain control of the Lt. Governor's office this fall. We must unify around the strongest candidate in the race for Lt. Governor: Rep. Denny Heck.

Alice Woldt, Former King County Democratic Chair	Ray Stephanson, Former Mayor of Everett	Claudia Kauffman, Former State Senator 47th District	Sam Cho, Port of Seattle Commissioner
Doug Mah, Former Mayor of Olympia	George Griffin	Bob Swain, Northshore School Board Member	Ben Stuckart, Past President Spokane City Council
Alison Sonntag, Former Kitsap County Clerk	Bill Baarsma, Former Mayor of Tacoma	Breean Beggs, President, Spokane City Council	Dean & Sharon Foster, Former Chief Clerk of the House and Former WA Liquor Board
Lona Wilbur, Swinomush Tribe and Former DNC Member	Sue Compton Karahalios, Former State Representative and Educator	Elmer Ward, Native American Lawyer	Lyle Conceko
John Arthur Wilson, King County Assessor	Latasha Wortham, Utility Manager	Bob Gunter, President, Thurston, Mason, Lewis Labor Council	Ed Cote, Member Democratic National Committee
Judy Gunther, WA Democratic Party Executive Board	Heather Woodruff Barker, Educator in Seattle	Joanne Cisneros, Chair, Ethnic Heritage Committee Hispanic Caucus	Calvin Goings, Former Pierce County Council and State Senator 25th District

Brian Ebersole, Former Speaker of the House and Mayor of Tacoma	Rich Nafziger, Professor, Seattle University	Shawn Myers, Former Thurston County Treasurer	Shay Scheal Berke, Former State Representative 33rd District
Joan Yoshitomi, Educator	Annette Anderson, College Administrator	Linda Villegas Bremer	Andy Miller, Benton County Prosecutor
Jim Timmons	Ruthann Kurose	Stuart Halsan, Former State Representative 20th District	Misty Schock
John Little	David Perez, Attorney	Dorreen Cato	Natalie Rebar
John Thompson	Michael McGovern	Nancy Monacelli, Democratic National Committee Member	Marcee Stone-Vekich
Jimmy Huan	Candance Ignagi	Gary Akizuki	Ellen Abellera, Former Exec. Director Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
Liz Luce, Former Director, Department of Licensing	Jim Luce, Former Chair, Washington Energy Siting Council		