

# King County Democrats

## 2020 Candidate Questionnaire: Judicial Level

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Douglass A. North	
<b>Position Sought</b>	King County Superior Court, position 30	
Home County and Legislative District	King County, District 36	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address:	Phone: Fax:
	Website: reelectjudgedougnorth.com Email: reelectjudgedougnorth@gmail.com Twitter: @ Facebook:	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Mariane Spearman	
Consultant(s)		

<b>Please answer the following questions.</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	Have you ever been a member of another political party?	X	
2	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		x
3	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		x
4	Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? If not, are you willing to implement one?	x	

### **Part I – Candidate Background** (*maximum of 200 words per question please*)

Please briefly describe your education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

Ingraham High 1970; Stanford Univ. 1974; U of W Law School 1977. Clerk for Judge Callow on Court of Appeals 1978. Assoc. then partner at law firm which is today Reed, Longyear 1978-2000  
 For over 35 years I have worked to preserve our natural environment, founding the Northwest Rivers Council in 1985 and serving on the Boards of Washington Wild ('85-93; '08-15) and River Network ('87-'94)

Describe your history of political involvement, if any, in the Democratic Party, particularly in Washington state politics. In what offices have you served or previously sought to be elected or appointed?

I have been a judge since 2000 and am prohibited by ethical rules from involvement in partisan politics. Prior to 2000, I was a member of the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats and participated in Gary Locke's campaign for Governor.

Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. What is your plan to win? If you have received endorsements, please list them here.

My campaign is just getting started since I did not know that I had an opponent until May 14<sup>th</sup>. My campaign manager is Mariane Spearman. I have been endorsed by over 50 sitting and retired Superior Court Judges, 3 court of Appeals, Justices Stephens, Johnson and Madsen, Major Jenny Durkan, Councilmember Kathy Lambert, former Councilmember Tim Burgess

## Part II – Ratings and Endorsements

Bar Association *ratings* received to date:

None yet. I intend to seek ratings from the King County Bar Association and minority bar associations. In 2012 I was rated Well Qualified and Exceptionally Well Qualified by various bar associations.

*Endorsements* received to date:

See endorsement list on my website: [www.reelectjudgedougnorth.com](http://www.reelectjudgedougnorth.com).

From what other organizations are you planning to ask for an endorsement?

The King County Democrats, all of the King County Democrat District organizations, the newspapers, Seattle Municipal League, MLK King County Labor Council.

## Part III – Free Response Questions (*maximum of 200 words per question please*)

What law firms or public law offices (i.e. King County Prosecutor's Office) have you worked for? Have you served as a prosecutor or a public defender? Please include dates, and title for each position that you have held, as well as areas of law practiced.

1978-1991 Associate at what was then Hennings, Maltman Weber and Reed. I developed a practice doing appeals. 1992-2000 Partner at what was then Reed, North Ahrens and Malnati, firm is now Reed, Longyear. In my civil litigation practice, I made a practice of always having a pro bono case on my caseload.

What *pro bono* work have you done in the last five years? What accomplishments are you most proud to have made as a member of the legal profession?

I am on the panel of judges that are available to do settlement conferences; I restrict my settlement conferences to cases where the parties are of limited means (frequently family law cases) because the other folks can afford to hire private mediators. In private practice, I was most proud of my assistance to injured people and women seeking equitable treatment in dissolutions.

Have you served as a judge or justice? What did you learn from that experience, and what do you believe are the most important qualifications for judges or justices?

I have been a Superior Court Judge since 2000. I am passionate in my belief that the parties before me receive a fair hearing, receive any assistance they may need (such as an interpreter), have a chance to present their case and a well-reasoned decision. I work hard to treat all parties with dignity and respect, be aware of factors that may prevent them from presenting their case and strive to reach the ideal set forth on the US Supreme Court Building: Equal Justice Under Law.

How would you advocate for more equity in our State's justice system?

It is important to continuously work on removing barriers to the full participation of all citizens in court proceedings. This includes providing interpreters to those whose first language is not English, accommodations for those with disabilities, court appointed lawyers for those with a liberty interest at stake, efforts to overcome racial bias such as the new GR 37 addressing bias in exercising peremptory challenges, the use of jury instructions on implicit bias, such as the Western Dist. of Washington pattern instructions.

What ideas do you have to make our judicial system more open, transparent, and responsive?

The legislature should fully fund our court system so that the clerks offices are not so dependent upon fees charged for services to fund the operations of the office.

The legislature should provide funding to pay jurors the minimum wage for their service as jurors so that jury service is not such a hardship for those of limited means, which particularly affects jurors of color.

How do you balance the judicial principle of *stare decisis*, or adherence to precedent, with a rapidly changing society and transformations in our society's understanding of justice?

It is a delicate balance. The law must change over time to recognize an understanding of society that is based more upon what an individual has done than upon old concepts of entitlement on the basis of birth, ethnicity and money. At the same time, the change has to be gradual so that people can plan their lives, enter into contracts and earn a living based upon reasonable continuity of the rules that our society is aware of.

**I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.**

Signature

(insert scanned signature or sign electronically)

Date: May 17, 2020

Printed Name

Douglass North