

King County Democrats

2020 Candidate Questionnaire: Legislature

Candidate Name	Sharon Tomiko Santos	
Position Sought	State Representative 37-1	
Home Legislative District	37 LD	
Are you a Democrat?	Yes	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: 4547 Rainier Ave S PMB #502 Seattle, WA 98118	Phone: (206) 326-9042 Fax: noe
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Campaign manager or point of contact	None yet	
Consultant(s)	None yet	

Please answer the following questions.		Yes	No
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.

State Representative, 37th LD, Pos. 1 (1999-present); Policy Assistant to King County Executive Gary Locke (1994-1995); Executive Assistant to former Congressman Mike Lowry (1989-1991); Nonprofit Executive Director (1992-1993) and fundraiser (1995- 1997); Banking industry (1979-1989). M.A, Northeastern University (1988); B.A., The Evergreen State College (1985). King County Women’s Political Caucus, Chair (1992); Washington State Democratic Central Committee, Chair’s Advisory Committee, member (1994); Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality, Legislative Chair (1998); Japanese American Citizens League Board of Directors (2003 – present).

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What campaigns, if any, have you run or worked on?

From my youth, I walked picket lines with my mother to protest inadequate funding for schools in Seattle, which eventually paved the way to the Doran decision on state funding. I have worked on a variety of candidate campaigns including Norm Rice for Congress, Mike Lowry for Senate, Dolores Sibonga for Mayor, and Gary Locke for King County Executive before becoming a candidate myself. I am a former Chair of the King County Women’s Political Caucus, an organization dedicated to electing pro-choice women to service in public office. I was deeply engaged in the Initiative 120 campaign, to promote and protect a women’s right to choose and in the No 200 campaign, to oppose and defeat the statewide anti-affirmative action initiative championed by John Carlson as well as in efforts to repeal I-200 through Initiative 1000 last year.

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

I plan to run on my record of leadership on issues related to equity in education, economic opportunity, health care, and civil rights. My effectiveness in advancing these issues – despite enormous resistance – reflects my perseverance, my depth of knowledge about these issues, and my experience as the longest serving Member of Color in the Legislature as a whole. I am proud to have earned the early endorsement of the National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington, as well as the endorsement of the Washington State Nurses Association, the Retired Public Employees of Washington, and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. In addition, the MLK Labor delegates are recommending me for endorsement to the WA State Labor Council.

Part II – Yes/No Questions

#	Question	Yes	No	Additional Comments
1	Do you support the right of public workers – excluding military personnel – to bargain and strike?	x		
2	Do you support raising the statewide minimum wage?		x	Probably not in the face of a recession; but support the current escalator
3	Do you support increased state funding for Sound Transit and other regional transit authorities?	X		
4	Do you support repealing the 1% limit on property tax revenues?	X		
5	Will you allow your campaign staff to unionize?	X		
6	Do you support ending Washington State funding for privately run prisons and detention centers?	X		
7	Do you support statewide mandatory age-appropriate sex education in public schools?	X		

8	Would you be willing to have yourself, your staff, or your peers participate in cultural competency, anti-racism, and/or anti-sexual harassment training?	X		
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Part III – Free Response Questions (*maximum of 200 words per question please*)

What issues do you think aren't getting enough attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

I think that too many elected officials and the media pay lip service to equity without a meaningful or authentic understanding that equity is rooted in civil rights and that, in order to achieve equity, those who have held the balance of power and privilege must yield to the voices and perspectives of those who have suffered from the abuse of power and privilege as well as the apathy of the majority. I will continue to focus my campaign and my legislative endeavors on lifting the voices that are too frequently marginalized as I have been by forces of power and privilege.

In the post-McCleary era, how do you propose to strengthen the K-12 education system?

The McCleary lawsuit was never about strengthening the K-12 education system; the focus of McCleary was to require the state to fully fund its definition of basic education. Now, we must examine whether this *program* of basic education satisfies the *goal* of basic education. I think not. Over the years, I have put in place several initiatives – integrated student supports protocol, work-integrated learning, mastery-based learning, and a collaborative to improve the education workforce – which, taken collectively, will in fact strengthen K-12 education by meeting each and every child where he, she, or they are, and providing the tailored supports to engage them in a relevant and meaningful manner.

Washington State's carbon emissions have increased in recent years, most recently by 1.6% from 2015-17. What policies would you propose to reduce our statewide emissions by 50% by 2030?

The rate at which carbon emissions are increasing and climate change is advancing requires multiple strategies to achieve an aggressive reduced emissions goal of 50% within the next ten years. I sponsored legislation to address the establishment of bold goals (HB 1113) and to enhance coordinated planning among public agencies and jurisdictions (HB 2009, HB 2427, HB 2461, HB 2553, and HB 2609). While none of these measures were passed into law, I was nevertheless proud to vote for the Governor's Climate Change legislation to update our GHG goals to reflect the most current scientific assessments of climate change as well as for adoption of the California new Clean Car standards, including the ZEV program. The current COVID-19 crisis has illustrated how transportation choices, in particular, contribute to the overall air quality globally. This information must help inform the future policies we consider and adopt for transportation, for housing, for technology, and for planning.

How will you use your office to promote universal access to healthcare in Washington?

I am proud to represent the most diverse legislative district in the state of Washington. While the demographics of our communities are rapidly changing, core segments of our population are still immigrant, elderly, poor, and under- or uninsured. Many of the non-profit long-term care facilities in the 37th LD are very high Medicaid dependent . . . and going out of business. This means that universal healthcare can help preserve these vital services for my constituents and sustain the viability of our community-based non-profits that specialize in multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-

generational healthcare. I will continue to tell the story of and to advocate for my constituents in promoting the need for universal healthcare.

Washington has one of the most regressive tax structures in the country. What steps would you take to make our tax system more fair?

I believe that our state must enact a progressive individual income tax, a corporate income tax, and a graduated capital gains tax. At the same time, we will need to hold the line on state property taxes and the sales tax rate.

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



Date: 17 May 2020

Printed Name

Sharon Tomiko Santos