

King County Democrats

2020 Candidate Questionnaire: Statewide Office

Candidate Name	Hilary S Franz	
Position Sought	Commissioner of Public Lands	
Home Legislative District	36th	
Are you a Democrat?	Yes	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: Friends of Hilary Franz 401 2 nd Ave S, Ste 303, Seattle, WA 98104	Phone: 206-682-7328 Fax:
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Campaign manager or point of contact		
Consultant(s)	Run the World, A/L Media, Blue Wave, Deliver, GQR,	

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.

Elected in 2016 as Commissioner of Public Lands, I lead the Department of Natural Resources, a 1,500-person agency responsible for protecting and managing six million acres of public lands in Washington – from our coast and Puget Sound to working forests and farms, commercial and industrial developments and recreation areas. Since taking office, I have enacted bold plans to ensure public lands are healthy and productive, both today and for future generations--making Washington’s lands, waters and communities resilient in the face of climate change. I have increased revenue for our schools and communities through investments in agricultural lands, clean energy, forests, and commercial development. I launched the Rural Economic Development Initiative to grow our rural economies and increase economic opportunity in communities facing 7-12% unemployment. Leading our state's wildfire fighting force, I’ve implemented new strategies and secured resources to protect our communities from wildfires.

Prior to serving, I was an Executive Director, a City Councilmember, and Environmental Land Use attorney. I served on the Puget Sound Regional Council, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Conservation NW and Washington Environmental Council Board and PSRC Transportation Futures. I graduated from Smith College and have a juris doctor from Northeastern University Law School.

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

From 2008-2011, I served as a Bainbridge Island City Councilmember. I also served as a PCO in the 23rd LD during part of that time. In 2016, I ran for Commissioner of Public Lands and was sworn into office in January 2017.

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 will set forth the progress that we have made in my first term: implementing new strategies for increasing revenue for our schools and communities, improving the ways we fight wildfires, addressing our forest health crisis, tackling climate change, addressing the long-standing generational poverty and unemployment in our rural communities, and increasing the clean up of the Puget Sound.

I am running to push forward with the plans that we have developed and implemented under my leadership to address our state’s greatest challenges in education, environment, housing, economic opportunity and natural and human health disaster resilience. With COVID, the need for solutions to these challenges is greater than ever before. I am ready to move aggressively forward with the work I have already started in these areas.

While the Stay at Home rule is in place, I will be holding virtual town halls, community events and fundraisers. When it is safe to travel and the stay at home rule is lifted, I will do as I have over the last three years: traveling the state, reaching voters in every corner to discuss the progress we have made and the progress we have yet to make.

Endorsement list attached separately

Part II – 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?

The issues that aren't getting enough attention are economic opportunity both in our urban and rural areas; funding for a quality education for all students, starting from early childhood to high school, no matter their zip code and local resources; local government funding to meet basic needs of every community; and the fact that we are already on the frontlines of a rapidly changing climate and we need to focus on both reducing our carbon emissions and implementing strategies to make our communities, natural resources and state more resilient in the face of climate change.

I am working to increase economic opportunity and revenue for schools and communities by increasing housing and commercial opportunities on our urban lands, expanding sustainable agriculture production and protecting working forest and agricultural lands, investing in economic opportunities within rural areas that have long been ignored, and expanding clean energy and broadband infrastructure on our public lands. We are tackling the threat of climate change by developing strategies to increase carbon sequestration and implementing steps in our Climate Resilience Plan to help prepare our public lands and communities to be more resilient to climate change.

What issues do you feel could benefit from closer interstate cooperation between you and your peers across the nation?

The issues that could benefit from closer interstate cooperation between me and my peers are rural economic opportunity, climate change mitigation and adaption, salmon recovery, wildfire and forest health response, and addressing affordable housing and education funding.

Part III – Office-Specific Free Response

(*answer only the questions for your office; maximum of 200 words per question please*)

Attorney General

How do you plan on addressing the inequitable incarceration of minorities?

How do you plan to more effectively confront illegal and unconstitutional actions undertaken by Republicans in the White House or Congress?

Auditor

How can the office of the auditor promote the more effective delivery of services (especially health and human services) to underserved communities in Washington State?

How can the auditor's office more effectively protect whistleblowers and act upon the tips it receives?

Secretary of State

Many people are denied the right to vote in Washington State. How will you advocate to increase the number of people who have the right to vote?

Is there a way for the Secretary of State to help underserved communities gain greater access to the services of the Secretary of State, such as the registration of businesses and other legal entities?

How can the Secretary of State make it a priority to promote Washington State businesses more equitably?

Do you support replacing the Top Two primary system we currently use and returning to a true pick-a-party primary that respects political parties' First Amendment rights? How else should Washington State change its electoral system to prevent distortions of the people's will?

Treasurer

How can the treasurer ensure that the unbanked can be better served by the financial industry?

Do you support a state bank? How can you use the powers of your office to advance its establishment? How would you argue for it?

In the absence of a state bank, do you believe Washington should keep more of its money in credit unions, as opposed to big banks? How can this be achieved?

How can you help Washington maintain a healthy credit and bond rating?

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Do you believe the state is fulfilling its paramount duty “to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex?” If not, what steps would you recommend be taken in order to fulfill that constitutional obligation?

How will you work to ensure that staff and students can learn and work without fear of aggression, harassment, and violence in our public schools?

How will you use your office to advocate for social and emotional learning, as well as adequate funding for counseling and special education?

Commissioner of Public Lands

What policies will you implement or continue to implement in order to address the climate crisis?

We are on the front lines climate change. From increasing floods and wildfires to dying forests, drought and ocean acidification, climate change is already presenting critical challenges for us. I am not waiting to take action: I am developing and implementing both climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

We are reducing our agency’s emissions through energy efficiency and clean transportation solutions. We are increasing carbon sequestration opportunities through conservation of forest and agricultural lands and implementation of our Forest Health Plan, reducing catastrophic wildfires and our forests dying. We are expanding clean energy on our public lands, including completing the first solar leases for the largest solar farms in the state, and we are now working with large and small utilities to build out 100% clean energy in Washington by 2040. Under my leadership, we developed the state’s first Climate Resilience Plan which sets forth ways we will manage our lands and waters to be more resilient to a changing climate and sets forth investments needed throughout the state to make our communities more resilient to climate change. We are now working with communities around the state to increase the resiliency of our lands, waters and communities.

What still needs to be done to improve how the state prepares for and responds to wildfire? How do you plan to make those improvements happen?

I have implemented cutting-edge strategies to keep fires small and protect our communities even with increasing fires. We developed Washington's first Interagency Wildfire Strategic Plan, providing a blueprint for critical investments needed over the next 10 years to reduce our wildfires and protect our communities. And we developed the state's first 20-Year Forest Health Plan, which establishes a framework to restore 1.25 million acres of forests and reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires. I then went to bat for our firefighters, working to secure record-setting funding of \$50 million to finally give our firefighters the resources they need.

We are reducing our catastrophic wildfires, but it will take significant investments in these plans from increased air resources, firefighters and equipment at the state and local level. I am working to secure dedicated fire funding to ensure these resources for our communities and firefighters. We are well on our way to achieving our goal of making 1.25 million acres of forests healthier over the next 20 years, restoring 70,000 acres a year, but continued funding is needed. This year we will launch a campaign to reduce wildfire starts as 90% of our fires are human-caused and make our at-risk communities more resilient.

How will you further promote responsible forestry land and aquatic resource management, especially in the face of climate change?

Under my leadership, I have and will continue to make progress:

- Developing a carbon sequestration inventory and market for all of Washington's forests to invest in the carbon potential of Washington's public, private and tribal forests and increase conservation of old growth forests and also prevent conversion of our working forests.
- Restoring over 1 million acres of forests to health and replanting over 1 million acres lost.
- Protecting thousands of acres of working forests from conversion to development.
- Placing thousands of acres of high value natural areas in conservation status, including some of our highest value forests, sage lands, and natural areas.
- Removing culverts blocking salmon on state lands, ramping up removal of derelict vessels polluting our waters, removing toxic waste in our waters, investing in ocean acidification research, and launching new watershed salmon strategy.
- Increasing tree canopy to reduce storm water harming our waterways.
- Increasing aquatic reserves in our waterways.

Insurance Commissioner

How do you plan to ensure the successful establishment of Washington’s new public option plan (Cascade Care)?

How do you plan to use the powers of your office to make health insurance more affordable and accessible to all Washingtonians? And do you support the establishment of a single-payer healthcare in Washington or the United States?

How can you use the powers of your office to advocate for mental health in Washington State?

How can the Office of the Insurance Commissioner better advocate for consumers, make protecting the rights of those who’ve bought insurance (including all of health, auto, home, crop, etc.)?

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:
Printed Name		