

#42

**COMPLETE**

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Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

**Q1**

Your Information

|               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Name          | Judge Kuljinder Dhillon         |
| Email Address | judgekuljinderdhillon@gmail.com |
| Phone Number  | 425-466-0619                    |

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**Q2** Yes

I have reviewed the instructions at the top of this page

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Page 2: ALL CANDIDATES: Campaign Contact Information

**Q3**

Campaign contact information

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Candidate first name | Kuljinder                       |
| Candidate last name  | Dhillon                         |
| Campaign email       | judgekuljinderdhillon@gmail.com |
| Campaign phone       | 425-466-0619                    |

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**Q4** Candidate for judicial position

Is the candidate a Democrat?

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**Q5** King County District Court - West

Jurisdiction

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**Q6** District Court Judge

Position Sought

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**Q7**

**02**

Position number

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**Q8**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional Campaign Information (optional)

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Page 3: ALL CANDIDATES: Campaign Team Information (Optional)

**Q9**

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Manager first name

**Mary Ann**

Manager last name

**Ottinger**

Manager email

**judgekuljinderdhillon@gmail.com**

Manager phone

**425-466-0619**

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**Q10**

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Treasurer first name

**Andy**

Treasurer last name

**Lo**

Treasurer email

**treasurer@andy-lo.com**

Treasurer phone

**206-335-8815**

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**Q11**

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Consultant first name

**Mary Ann**

Consultant last name

**Ottinger**

Consultant email

**judgekuljinderdhillon@gmail.com**

Consultant phone

**425-466-0619**

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**Q12**

Fundraiser / Fundraising Consultant / Finance Chair information (optional)

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fundraiser first name | Mary Ann                        |
| Fundraiser last name  | Ottinger                        |
| Fundraiser email      | judgekuljinderdhillon@gmail.com |
| Fundraiser phone      | 425-466-0619                    |

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**Q13**

Respondent skipped this question

Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

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**Q14**

Respondent skipped this question

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

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Page 4: ALL CANDIDATES: Candidate Support (Optional)

**Q15**

Respondent skipped this question

Ways people can support your campaign (all optional)

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**Q16**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional campaign contact information (all optional)

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**Q17**

Respondent skipped this question

URL to HEADSHOT (optional, used for promotion if endorsed)

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Page 5: ALL CAMPAIGNS: Instructions

**Q18**

I have read and understand the instructions at the beginning of this questionnaire.

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Full legal name | Kuljinder Dhillon |
| Date            | March 31, 2022    |

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Page 6: ALL CANDIDATES: Yes / No Questions

**Q19**

Yes / No Questions

|   | Yes / No<br>/<br>Qualified |
|---|----------------------------|
| Have you ever been a member of another political party?   | No                         |
| Have you ever failed to pay any taxes, court-ordered judgements, or former campaign staff salaries?   | No                         |
| Have you or your staff ever been found in violation of a Federal Election Commission, Public Disclosure Commission, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, or Judicial Conduct Commission regulation? | No                         |
| Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? If not, are you willing to implement one?   | Qualified                  |
| If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?  | Qualified                  |
| Are you willing to have yourself, your staff, or your peers participate in cultural competency, implicit bias, and anti-racism training?  | Yes                        |
| Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers participate in training to understand and combat sexual harassment?   | Yes                        |
| Do you support the rights of all works to organize, collectively bargain, and strike without fear of retaliation?   | Yes                        |
| Do you support the right of public workers - excluding military personnel - to bargain and strike?  | Yes                        |

**Q20**

For any yes / no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Judges and judicial candidates are governed by the Code of Judicial Conduct in their campaign activities, and we will abide by those rules. In addition, we will comply with the provisions of the King County Bar Association's Fair Campaign Practices Guidelines.

Yes, however, my campaign consultant and treasurer are independent contractors.

**Q21**

Please briefly describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.)

I received my J.D. from Gonzaga School of Law in 2002. I received my B.A. in communication from Washington State University 1995.

For 14 years, I was a public defense attorney at the King County Department of Public Defense in the felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile units.

I also have experience as a small business owner. From 2017-2021 I operated a small law practice. I provided legal representation to adult and juvenile clients in criminal felony and misdemeanor cases. I also consulted with attorneys on trial strategy and negotiations and served as a Judge Pro Tem in all the divisions of the King County District Court.

In July 2021, I was unanimously appointed to the King County District Court bench.

I have spent time on various boards and committees in King County addressing unmet needs in the community. I worked in the domestic violence arena prior to going to law school and worked with various organizations to advance culturally appropriate resources for survivors of domestic violence.

I have been a member of both SEIU 925 and Teamsters 117.

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**Q22**

Please describe your history of involvement (if any), in local, regional, and/or state politics with particular emphasis on the last five years.

I have not been involved in local, regional, and/or state politics; however, I was a voting member of the 37th District Democrats until my appointment to the bench.

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Page 8: ALL CANDIDATES: Position-specific Questions

**Q23**

**Judge - District Court**

Position sought

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Page 9: ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

**Q24**

**Respondent skipped this question**

I understand that I may be asked to update this questionnaire in the future for the campaign to be considered for endorsement.

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Page 10: FEDERAL CANDIDATES: Position-specific questions

**Q25**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Yes / No Questions for Federal candidates

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**Q26**

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes / no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

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**Q27**

Respondent skipped this question

Which elements of the Build Back Better Act do you think are the most important for our country? How would you achieve their enactment?

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**Q28**

Respondent skipped this question

What voting rights / election practices must be available for all voters in all 50 states and what will you do to make sure those are available to all voters by the time of the 2024 Presidential Election?

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**Q29**

Respondent skipped this question

Climate change is an urgent environmental and humanitarian crisis in the US and around the world. How would you use your office to enact aggressive measures to mitigate climate change (while ensuring climate justice) through various policy areas (e.g. environmental, transportation, land use, regulatory policy), and what specific policies have you supported?

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**Q30**

Respondent skipped this question

How have you worked (and how will you continue to work) for broader and more equitable access to health care?

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Page 11: WA SECRETARY OF STATE: Position-specific questions

**Q31**

Respondent skipped this question

Yes / No Questions

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**Q32**

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes / no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

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**Q33**

Respondent skipped this question

We know that there has been a long-standing issue in WA state with ballots of Black and Hispanic/Latine individuals being rejected at a higher rate than White individuals. What policies should be enacted to address this issue and other barriers to voting equity for marginalized communities?

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**Q34**

Respondent skipped this question

There are many ways to undermine elections, particularly disinformation campaigns intended to sow distrust in results. What do we need to do to make our voting process more robust against any such actions?

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**Q35**

Respondent skipped this question

What cybersecurity system improvements need to be made to ensure that all of the information under the purview of the Secretary of State is protected from data breaches or similar threats?

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**Q36**

Respondent skipped this question

As Secretary of State what specific steps would you take to encourage voter registration and how much of a priority would you assign to these efforts?

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Page 12: WA STATE LEGISLATURE: Position-specific questions

**Q37**

Respondent skipped this question

Yes / No Questions

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**Q38**

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes / no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

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**Q39**

Respondent skipped this question

Many individuals in WA have limited access to healthcare. What steps should the legislature take to ensure that all WA residents have meaningful and equitable access to the care and prescriptions they need for their health?

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**Q40**

Respondent skipped this question

Even with recent policies like the Clean Fuels Standard, we know that WA state is significantly behind on hitting its carbon pollution goals for 2035. What climate action and environmental justice policies must the WA legislature adopt in order to actually make progress against these goals and address the climate crisis with the urgency needed?

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**Q41**

Respondent skipped this question

What steps would you take to rebalance our tax code? Please explain the current system vs. your proposal as you would to an average voter.

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**Q42**

Respondent skipped this question

As Democrats, we strive to create a more just and equitable world for all, especially including those communities that have been historically marginalized. How will you center equity in the process of developing legislation, particularly that which impacts individuals unlike yourself?

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**Q43**

Respondent skipped this question

In your view, what legislative change(s) would be the MOST impactful at reducing housing instability and improving affordability while avoiding gentrification in both your legislative district and across the state?

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Page 13: WA STATE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS: Position-specific questions

**Q44**

Respondent skipped this question

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

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**Q45**

Respondent skipped this question

Ratings and Endorsements

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**Q46**

Respondent skipped this question

Please describe your legal background and experience? What pro bono work have you done in the last 5 years? (please list)

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**Q47**

Respondent skipped this question

What do you believe are the most important qualifications and qualities for justices and judges? What is your experience serving as a judge/justice, pro tem, or within the judicial system and how will this inform your perspective on the bench?

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**Q48**

Respondent skipped this question

How would you further equity and access to justice for all in the legal system? Provide specific examples of what you have done or commit to doing to further this goal.

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**Q49**

Respondent skipped this question

Judges are expected to fairly apply the law and perform all duties without bias or prejudice. Please provide examples when you have realized and self-checked your privilege and/or bias or encouraged others to point out to you your own implicit biases?

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**Q50**

Respondent skipped this question

How do you balance the judicial principle of stare decisis, or adherence to precedent, with a rapidly changing society and advancements in racial, economic, social and climate justice?

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Page 14: KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Position-specific questions

**Q51**

Respondent skipped this question

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

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**Q52**

Respondent skipped this question

Are there any changes you would make to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's (KCPAO) office? (please provide examples of current practices and specific changes, if any).

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**Q53**

Respondent skipped this question

The KCPAO has helped implement a number of alternatives to traditional prosecution and incarceration in recent years. List those changes and how would you build on this work?

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**Q54**

Respondent skipped this question

The KCPAO publishes its filing and disposition standards for the public to see how the office exercises its prosecutorial discretion in criminal cases. How will you ensure that the charging decisions and case resolutions are equitable for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, marginalized, and vulnerable communities?

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**Q55**

Respondent skipped this question

Under your leadership, how would the KCPAO's pretrial detention and/or bail policies and practices change, if at all?

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**Q56**

Respondent skipped this question

Under your leadership, what role would the KCPAO play in addressing the housing, homelessness and mental health crisis in King County?

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Page 15: KING COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS: Position-specific questions

**Q57**

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 have filed my declaration of candidacy with the Public Disclosure Commission and have hired a professional judicial campaign consultant. Currently, I am unaware of anyone planning to file against me. I have made brief appearances at all the Democratic LD organizations in the county. I believe the voters of King County want judges who reflect our diverse county and who understand the obstacles people face when accessing support services. Furthermore, the voters want experienced judges who are addressing the backlog in the legal system after the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, the voters of King County want judges to treat individuals who appear before them with respect and dignity. I plan to get that message to the voters.

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**Q58**

Ratings and Endorsements

Bar Association ratings received to date:

**King County Bar Association (KCBA) – Exceptionally Well Qualified. The LGBT Bar Association (QLaw) – Well Qualified. Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) – Exceptionally Well Qualified. Joint Asian Judicial Evaluations Committee (JJEC) – Exceptionally Well Qualified. Loren Miller Bar Association (LMBA) – Exceptionally Well Qualified. Washington Women Lawyers (WWL) – Exceptionally Well Qualified. Cardozo Society of Washington – Exceptionally Well Qualified.**

Endorsements received to date:

**I am in the process of seeking formal endorsements. During the appointment process with the King County Council, I submitted a list of endorsements of judges from each level of our judicial system, as well as members of the legal community, and community at large.**

Additional Endorsements you are seeking:

**King County Democrats and the 37th, 32nd, 46th, 36th, 43rd, and 34th District Democrats; National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington; Aerospace Machinist Union (IAM 751); Teamsters JC 28; the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades (IUPAT-DC5)**

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**Q59**

Please describe your legal background and experience? What pro bono work have you done in the last 5 years? (please list)

During law school I worked in civil legal aid. I provided legal services to youth incarcerated in immigration detention. I worked as a public defense attorney and as a private practitioner for 17 years representing indigent clients in adult felony and misdemeanor cases as well as juvenile cases. I have handled 25+ jury trials. I have experience preparing mitigation briefs for third strike clients and secured non-life sentences on behalf of each client. I have worked with expert witnesses in the areas of accident reconstruction and traumatic brain injuries. I have also served as defense counsel in a therapeutic drug court for juveniles. As part of that role, I received training in adolescent brain development and how to provide trauma-informed representation.

From 2018 to 2021, I had the privilege of serving as a Judge Pro Tem in all the King County District Court divisions. I served in the criminal court, in domestic violence court, and conducted conducting jury trials. In the civil context, I have handled small-claims matters, temporary and full-order hearings for protection from harassment, and stalking. I have been serving as a Judge in King County District Court since August 2021.

Judges are not permitted to do pro bono work; however, I am actively involved in the legal community. I serve as a board member on The Judicial Institute and I am a mentor to BIPOC law students and lawyers. Prior to serving as a Judge Pro Tem and Judge I served on the board of advisors for Sawhorse Revolution, an organization dedicated to working with youth from marginalized communities to teach carpentry skills. The participants worked on projects such as constructing a tiny house for those who are unsheltered.

**Q60**

What do you believe are the most important qualifications and qualities for justices and judges? What is your experience serving as a judge/justice, pro tem, or within the judicial system and how will this inform your perspective on the bench?

The most important characteristics for serving as a judge are fairness, hard work, the ability to listen and be empathetic to those who appear before you. The ability to be introspective about their decision-making is important as well as the ability to examine and be willing to change any preconceived notions or implicit biases. Fundamentally, judges must treat those who appear before them with respect and dignity.

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**Q61**

How would you further equity and access to justice for all in the legal system? Provide specific examples of what you have done or commit to doing to further this goal.

I have been encouraged and inspired by the WA State Supreme Court's 2020, open letter asking the legal community to take concrete steps to eradicate racism in the legal system. It is my personal philosophy that we must make structural changes to address disproportionality and bias in the justice system so we can provide equal justice under the law. Since being appointed as judge in July 2021 I have been committed to working with legal professionals to diversify the bench. I serve as a board member on The Judicial Institute, an organization dedicated to diversifying Washington State's judiciary.

Prior to taking the bench, I furthered equity and access to justice for all in the legal system by working collaboratively with the Prosecutor in Juvenile Drug Court to restructure policies regarding sanctions in violation and termination hearings to reduce youth incarceration and racial disproportionality. I also worked to implement evidence-based interventions and ensured the program had culturally appropriate service providers. Additionally, I have worked collaboratively with stakeholders to end incarcerating youth who have status offenses and truancy cases in hopes of ending the school-to-prison-pipeline.

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**Q62**

Judges are expected to fairly apply the law and perform all duties without bias or prejudice. Please provide examples when you have realized and self-checked your own privilege and/or bias or encouraged others to point out to you your own implicit biases?

Studies of the court process continue to show that outcomes are not as important to people as their perception of fair treatment. When I preside over cases, I consistently ask myself whether my biases or prejudices are getting in the way of providing a fair hearing, or whether I am treating the person before me fairly. I am acutely aware that implicit bias can manifest through word choice, tone of voice, assumptions by the way someone dresses or speaks. I believe our language choices express our own implicit biases. I work hard to self-check my own privilege and biases. I consistently check my biases in sentencing hearings to ensure there is no disparate treatment between people who appear before me who are similarly situated. During remote hearings I work hard to treat those who do not have access to broadband or technology in the same manner as those who I can see on a virtual platform. I have taken courses to ensure procedural fairness in remote hearings. To ensure fair outcomes in court judges must work hard by checking our own biases and privileges.

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**Q63**

How would you address the disproportionate impact of sentencing, punishment, and incarceration in the criminal legal system on Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color, marginalized, and other vulnerable communities and how would you work to address it? Please provide specific examples (alternatives to incarceration, bail reform, etc.)

It is important the King County District Court address the disproportionate impact of sentencing, punishment, and incarceration in the criminal legal system on BIPOC, marginalized, and other vulnerable communities by constantly examining our court's process and procedures to make sure they are fair and free of bias, work with stakeholders to develop alternatives to incarceration, and provide robust pre-trial services.

The King County District Court needs to work with stakeholders and local communities to implement the recommendations of the Washington State Pretrial Reform Task Force regarding pre-trial release and detention decisions. To reduce the failure to appear rate, defendants need additional support mechanisms such as reminders of court dates, transportation vouchers, and referrals to community services such as drug and mental health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected alternatives to jail. The work/education release program has been closed since March 2020. This greatly impacts the ability of sentenced individuals to remain employed or attend school, and this disproportionately affects marginalized communities.

I look forward to working with the other judges to implement robust pre-trial services so we can safely release individuals who are charged with criminal offenses and are awaiting trial.

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Page 16: ALL CANDIDATES: Submit Questionnaire

**Q64**

I, candidate, 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. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Candidate full name (as signature)

**/s/ Judge Kuljinder Dhillon**

Date

**March 31, 2022**

**Q65**

**Campaign Consultant**

Information in this questionnaire was input by:

**Q66**

(If information input by someone other than candidate) I affirm that all responses were reviewed and approved by the candidate. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Full name (as signature)

**Mary Ann Ottinger**

Date

**March 31, 2022**

**Q67**

Share with King County Democrats (required if requesting endorsement)

King County Democrats may post this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by King County Democrats Endorsements Committee members, Executive Board, and anyone else required to be eligible for endorsement by the King County Democrats.

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**Q68**

Share with LD Dems and Young Dems Endorsement Committee members (optional, may save time if your campaign is seeking LD Dems and Young Dems endorsements)

King County Democrats may share this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by members of the Endorsements Committees of Legislative District (LD) Democratic organizations and Young Democrats (YD) organizations.

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**Q69**

Share with PCOs and/or Members (optional)

Democratic organizations overlapping the jurisdiction of my campaign whose rules require sharing questionnaire responses to Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) or Membership for a candidate to be eligible for endorsement may share this questionnaire with those groups.

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**Q70**

Share with Public (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q71**

Email PDF Copy

Please email a copy of my completed submission to the campaign email address. I understand it may take 24-72 hours (or more) for my completed submission to be emailed.

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