

#73

COMPLETE

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Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

Q1

Your Information

Name	Willie J Gregory
Email Address	williegregoryforjudge@gmail.com
Phone Number	206-276-7966

Q2

Yes

I have reviewed the instructions at the top of this page

Page 2: ALL CANDIDATES: Campaign Contact Information

Q3

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name	Willie
Candidate last name	Gregory
Campaign email	williegregoryforjudge@gmail.com
Campaign phone	206-276-7966

Q4

Candidate for judicial position

Is the candidate a Democrat?

Q5

Seattle

Jurisdiction

Q6

Municipal Court Judge

Position Sought

Q7

05

Position number

Q8

Additional Campaign Information (optional)

Candidate pronouns (ex: she/her)

he/his

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

Q9

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Manager first name

Alice

Manager last name

Gregory

Manager email

williegregoryforjudge@gmail.com

Manager phone

206-276-7966

Q10

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Treasurer first name

Abbot

Treasurer last name

Taylor

Treasurer email

abbot@abbottaylor.com

Treasurer phone

206-218-3108

Q11

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Consultant first name

John

Consultant last name

Wyble

Consultant email

john@winpowerstrategies.com

Consultant phone

(206) 428-7910

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Fundraiser / Fundraising Consultant / Finance Chair
information (optional)

Q13 Respondent skipped this question

Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

Q14 Respondent skipped this question

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Page 4: ALL CANDIDATES: Candidate Support (Optional)

Q15 Respondent skipped this question

Ways people can support your campaign (all optional)

Q16 Respondent skipped this question

Additional campaign contact information (all optional)

Q17 Respondent skipped this question

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

Page 5: ALL CAMPAIGNS: Instructions

Q18

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

Full legal name

Willie J Gregory

Date

4/17/2022

Page 6: ALL CANDIDATES: Yes / No Questions

Q19

Yes / No Questions

	Yes / No / Qualified
Have you ever been a member of another political party?	Qualified
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?	Yes
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?	Qualified
Do you support the right of public workers - excluding military personnel - to bargain and strike?	Qualified

Q20

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

As a judge, it is inappropriate to comment on my political affiliation.

We do not have paid campaign staff.

As a judge, it is inappropriate to comment on the question: Do you support the rights of all workers to organize, collectively bargain, and strike without fear of retaliation?

As a judge, it is inappropriate to comment on the question: Do you support the right of public workers - excluding military personnel - to bargain and strike?

Q21

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

I have been a Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) Judge since 2011. I have been the Presiding Judge at SMC since March of 2020.

In addition to my presiding judge administrative duties, I hear cases in Veteran's Treatment Court and General Trial court. I have also heard cases in Community, DV, and Mental Health courts.

I received my J.D. from Seattle University School of Law in 1989. I started out as a public defender with Associated Counsel for the Accused (ACA), where I worked for 14 years as a staff attorney and then alternately as a supervising attorney in the SMC unit, the Misdemeanor Appeals unit and the Juvenile Court unit. I left ACA to start my own firm in 2003.

I am a member of a number of legal organizations including Washington State Bar Association, King County Bar Association, Loren Miller Bar Association, Washington State Racial Justice Consortium, as well as the District and Municipal Court Judges Association where I serve on the Bylaws and Long-range Planning committees, and as the chair of the Diversity Committee. I have been a Board member of a number of community organizations, including the Compass Center, RDLL, SEED, and Seattle University Law Alumni Board.

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 been a judge in Seattle Municipal Court since 2011, which precludes my involvement in politics. My past history includes serving on the planning commission for the City of Kent for a number of years in the late 1980's. In 1990, I was involved in the Kent Senior Housing Bond campaign that my wife chaired, and which successfully passed.

Page 8: ALL CANDIDATES: Position-specific Questions

Q23

Judge - Municipal Court

Position sought

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.

Page 10: FEDERAL CANDIDATES: Position-specific questions

Q25

Respondent skipped this question

Yes / No Questions for Federal candidates

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

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

Q31

Respondent skipped this question

Yes / No Questions

Q32

Respondent skipped this question

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

Page 12: WA STATE LEGISLATURE: Position-specific questions

Q37

Respondent skipped this question

Yes / No Questions

Q38

Respondent skipped this question

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

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?

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?

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.

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?

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?

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.

Q45

Respondent skipped this question

Ratings and Endorsements

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)

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?

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.

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?

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?

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.

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).

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?

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?

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?

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?

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 am currently unopposed. My approach is to find opportunities to introduce myself to groups of voters. For judicial positions, these interactions are limited to the year in which the judge appears on the ballot. I plan to seek endorsements from the legislative districts again this year, regardless of whether or not I have an opponent. I believe these groups have the most direct outreach and provide opportunities for the voting public to learn more about the judges who appear on the ballot.

Q58

Ratings and Endorsements

Bar Association ratings received to date:

The Minority Bar Associations rated me as “Exceptionally Well Qualified” when I started out as a judicial candidate in 2010. The Minority Bar Associations include Loren Miller Bar Association (LMBA), Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee (JAJEC), QLAW, Washington Women Lawyers (WWL), and the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW). I will seek new ratings if I have an opponent.

Endorsements received to date:

We will be gathering new and renewed endorsements and will provide updates as appropriate or upon request.

Additional Endorsements you are seeking:

We will be seeking the endorsements of the LDs, current and former Judges & Justices, and community leaders.

Q59

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

I have been in the legal field for over 33 years. I worked as a public defender for 14 years. I then ran my own law firm for nearly 8 years while also serving as a pro-tem judge in various courts and teaching trial advocacy at the University of Washington. During my years as an attorney, I was active in both legal and community organizations. Since becoming a judge, my activities have been predominantly in the legal field.

In addition to my duties as a judge, I serve on several committees of the District and Municipal Court Judges Association (DMCJA); I am on the Bylaws and Long-range Planning committees, and I chair the Diversity Committee. I am one of three DMCJA representatives participating in the Washington State Racial Justice Consortium. The Consortium was launched in 2021 following a Washington State Supreme Court letter recognizing systemic racism in the courts and challenging the judiciary “to administer justice and support court rules in a way that brings greater racial justice to our system as a whole.”

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?

I am in my twelfth year as a judge; prior to that, I served as a judge pro tem for six years in various courts throughout the Puget Sound area. In addition to being knowledgeable about the law and qualified as a fair and impartial jurist, a judge must be respectful, a good listener and communicator, and above all, ethical in their practices. A judge should exemplify stability and poise to everyone who enters their courtroom. I believe judges should be compassionate, hardworking, and have integrity. I also believe that compassion and community safety can coexist.

Throughout my legal career as a trial attorney, I had a reputation for being knowledgeable, ethical and prepared. As a judge, I apply these same traits in my courtroom. I make sure to be prepared on cases that come before me by reading the pleadings and briefs ahead of time. I start with a fresh and open mind for each case and try to communicate as much to the parties that come before me. I have found that people relax more when I assure them that their case is heard on its own merits.

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 always been a proponent of access to justice dating back to my work as a legal intern at Evergreen Legal Services where we focused on renter's rights. Access to justice should be addressed by the legal community with the support of the general public. By educating the public on the importance of the courts and how the work performed therein affects the greater community, the public is more likely to voice their support for adequate funding for the courts and court-related services. One example of my efforts to further access to justice is that I ensure interpreters are present in the courtroom for hearing impaired and non-English speaking individuals so they can understand what is happening in their case.

It is also imperative to take time to explain to people who are representing themselves (pro-se litigants) how the judicial system works, and, more importantly how the local court works. In all cases, but pro-se cases in particular, it is in everyone's best interest for the court to have stated what is expected of those appearing before the court and what they can expect from the court.

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?

African American males are not given privilege in this society. Thus, I do not take the privilege I have as a judge for granted. Bias, on the other hand, is something that everyone has; we should constantly seek to address our biases. My bias comes from being a man. I was fortunate to have had a strong and loving mother who taught me to respect not just myself as an African American male, but also to respect women. This carries over to the importance I place on how we treat people in the criminal justice system.

Knowing the impact of bias and prejudice, I self-check for this as well as get feedback from my staff and fellow judges to assure that people are treated fairly in my courtroom.

As presiding judge of Seattle Municipal Court, I make sure discussions, policies, and procedures confront and seek to reduce or eliminate racism and other forms of bias. I am proud to be a member of the Washington State Racial Justice Consortium, which intends to make real progress in dismantling structural racism in the justice system through both its intentional internal process and its recommendations for external reform.

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.)

I believe judges are a check on the system when it comes to sentencing, punishment, and incarceration. I regularly check plea deals that come before me to ensure equity is taking place. Judges generally accept the recommendations agreed to by the prosecution and defense. However, when those recommendations do not fit with the case as presented, the recommendations should be scrutinized further. In such situations, I give the parties a chance to answer my questions about their agreement and I explain to them the problem(s) I see and why I am thinking about not following their recommendations.

I have given sentences that go against the status quo of incarceration. In those cases, I have imposed community service, substance abuse treatment, anger management, and/or work crew instead of jail/incarceration. I have given credit for jail-time served and, for minor offenses, have closed a person's case so they can make a fresh start. I believe in therapeutic courts where a judge is part of a team that looks for alternative methods as a sanction, and more importantly, looks to address the root causes of a person's behavior, such as drug addiction or homelessness.

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)

Judge Willie J Gregory

Date

4/19/2022

Q65

Campaign Manager

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)

Alice Gregory

Date

4/19/2022

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.

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.

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.

Q70

Share with Public (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

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.
