

# #118

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 12:21:07 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 5:12:55 PM  
**Time Spent:** Over a day  
**IP Address:** 50.47.93.140

---

Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

## Q1

Your Information

Name	<b>Emijah Smith</b>
Email Address	<b>candidate@electemijah.com</b>
Phone Number	<b>(206) 841-9397</b>

---

**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	<b>Emijah</b>
Candidate last name	<b>Smith</b>
Campaign email	<b>candidate@electemijah.com</b>
Campaign phone	<b>(206) 841-9397</b>

---

**Q4** **Yes**

Is the candidate a Democrat?

---

**Q5** **WA Legislative District 37**

Jurisdiction

---

**Q6** **State Representative**

Position Sought

---

**Q7**

**02**

Position number

---

**Q8**

Additional Campaign Information (optional)

Campaign website (start with https://)

**www.electemijah.com**

Candidate name pronunciation

**ee-my-jah**

Candidate pronouns (ex: she/her)

**she/her**

---

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

**Q9**

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Manager email

**info@electemijah.com**

---

**Q10**

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Treasurer first name

**Janet**

Treasurer last name

**Miller**

Treasurer email

**janetmiller98115@gmail.com**

Treasurer phone

**(206) 669-4924**

---

**Q11**

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Consultant first name

**Mauricio**

Consultant last name

**Ayon**

Consultant email

**mauricio@indelible.media**

Consultant phone

**(206) 290-6855**

---

**Q12**

Fundraiser / Fundraising Consultant / Finance Chair information (optional)

Fundraiser first name	<b>Gabe</b>
Fundraiser last name	<b>Magic</b>
Fundraiser email	<b>reachgabemagic@gmail.com</b>
Fundraiser phone	<b>(206) 999-4071</b>

---

**Q13**

Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

Other role	<b>Consultant</b>
Other first name	<b>Giovanna</b>
Other last name	<b>Orecchio</b>
Other email	<b>giovanna@indelible.media</b>
Other phone	<b>206-403-0448</b>

---

**Q14**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

---

Page 4: ALL CANDIDATES: Candidate Support (Optional)

**Q15**

Ways people can support your campaign (all optional)

URL to VOLUNTEER (start with https://)	<b>www.electemijah.com/volunteer</b>
URL to DONATE (start with https://)	<b>www.electemijah.com/donate</b>

---

**Q16**

Additional campaign contact information (all optional)

FACEBOOK PROFILE (person, start with https://www.facebook.com/)	<b>https://www.facebook.com/emijah.queen</b>
FACEBOOK PAGE (campaign, start with https://www.facebook.com/)	<b>https://www.facebook.com/ElectEmijah/</b>
TWITTER (start with https://twitter.com/)	<b>https://twitter.com/ElectEmijah</b>

---

**Q17**

**Use Facebook Page picture**

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

**Giovanna Orecchio**

Date

**5/17/22**

Page 6: ALL CANDIDATES: Yes / No Questions

**Q19**

Yes / No Questions

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

**Q20**

**Respondent skipped this question**

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

Page 7: ALL CANDIDATES: Candidate Background and Free Response

**Q21**

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

My name is Emijah Smith and I am a daughter of our district and advocate for children, families, and community investment. I think of our futures in not just ourselves now, not just our kids, but at least in the next seven generations. I came to community organizing and public policy advocacy honestly. My eyes were opened as a young person in high school at Garfield when I saw my community harmed by the War on Drugs. There was immense over-policing, crime bills further criminalizing people around me who were suffering, and families left in the dust. I earned my MPA at the UW Evans School, worked in public health for almost a decade at the iconic Odessa Brown Clinic, served as Community Engagement Manager at the Children's Alliance, and currently work as Chief of Staff at King County Equity Now. I'm a Black Mother and Grandmother with two decades of experience in legislative advocacy experience, community organizing, and policy wins under my belt. I would be honored to earn your endorsement in my run for the 37th LD.

---

**Q22**

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

The past five years has been a rewarding and busy journey, as I've spent all of them in public policy advocacy and organizing. I worked for just over 10 years for the Children's Alliance of Washington where I organized lobby days in Olympia, constituent meetings, and coached neighbors on how to pressure their elected officials. I also pursued a position on the Seattle School Board, as I knew my many years as Mercer Middle School PTSA President and Seattle Council PTSA Vice President and as a Black mother of young children in our community would have brought a much-needed perspective to the Board. I am also a member of the 37th LD Democrats and work every day in my position as Chief of Staff to King County Equity Now and my communities to push forward equitable, justice-oriented public policy across our region.

---

Page 8: ALL CANDIDATES: Position-specific Questions

**Q23**

**WA State Representative**

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?

---

**Q37**

Yes / No Questions

	Yes / No / Qualified
Do you support raising the statewide minimum wage?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support increased state funding for Sound Transit and other regional transit authorities?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support protecting school curriculum and school library collections from censorship?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you accept that there is systemic racial bias in our criminal justice system that urgently needs to be addressed?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support abolition of the death penalty in WA state?	<b>Yes</b>
Would you support additional funds and resources being allocated to resettled immigrant and refugee populations to provide equitable access to healthcare and social services?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support robust access to broadband Internet for all?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support reinstating the right to vote to those who are currently incarcerated for a felony, as is done in Vermont?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support charter schools or vouchers for private school education?	<b>No</b>
Do you support legislation that would allow WA legislative staff to collectively bargain?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support legislation that would require municipal elections be held in even years, which is when there is higher voter turnout?	<b>Yes</b>
Do you support legislation to repeal the advisory votes implemented by Tim Eyman, which are confusing, non-binding, and contributing to voter fatigue?	<b>Yes</b>

**Q38**

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

I want to add more texture to the question regarding charter schools with my background as a steadfast advocate for public education and our public school system. It is true that our public school system has for many generations underserved and left behind too many BIPOC, poor, and working class families. Much of this marginalization of children is due to chronic and/or unequal funding methods, a broken tax system, and racism in our curricula and classrooms. This has led many kids to experience crushing "achievement gaps", undergo violence in their schools, and not be set up for long term success the way they should. I know some families, particularly Black, Indigenous, and families of Color, have found quality education in some of Washington's very few charter schools. As a Black parent especially, I want to honor the experience of those families and let it be known they're doing all they can to get their students a quality education that leads to better outcomes like college and career paths. It's my goal to have a universally accessible, quality, and top-tier public education system for every single kid regardless of race or income, we still have a very long way to go. As a legislator, I will be a champion for improving and fortifying our public education system every chance I get.



**Q39**

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?

I worked at Odessa Brown Clinic first as medical staff and then in their Sickle Cell Clinic, working with patients and their families. I saw then what is still true now: our healthcare system needs fundamental reconstruction. Too much money goes to insurance company executives, while the rest of us (even those of us who are insured) are terrified that one medical emergency will bankrupt us. I will work to expand America's first public option healthcare insurance (Cascade Care), and make it even more affordable to Washingtonians. A public option is no good if people can't afford it or if it doesn't cover enough expenses to be an attractive option for a consumer on the healthcare marketplace. I also believe this program could serve as a pathway to universal healthcare coverage that is publicly funded, publicly owned, and serves us all regardless of what color we are or where we live. This system should include all medical, dental, mental, vision, and prescription coverage.

---

**Q40**

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?

The climate crisis is a terrifying reality for us here in Washington. Summer after summer we suffer increasingly severe droughts, heat waves, fires, and warming waters. We have to act aggressively to turn back the tide on the climate crisis that is hitting poor and working class people first and worst. First, we must reform our regressive tax code to lower taxes on regular families and ensure the wealthiest Washingtonians are paying their fair share. Next we've got to build more dense, low-carbon housing; retrofit old housing to electric/non-gas fuels; expand and fund more public transit options and multimodal transit; subsidize the adoption of green technologies to consumers (like e-bikes and solar panels); and invest in creating more green \*unionized\* jobs so our people can be first in line for the family-sustaining jobs that should come from this transition. We also have to invest in communities that are already experiencing the worst of climate change, like coastal and Indigenous communities, so they can mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis that are crashing at their doors now.

---

**Q41**

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.

Washington State has the worst tax system in the country. Working class and poor Washingtonians pay almost 20% of their income in taxes, while the richest residents barely pay a few percent. Our entire state government - from public school funding, to healthcare, new roads and more - are paid for out of the pockets of those of us who can least afford it. And the richest people are let off the hook. This isn't morally right and it's unsustainable. We live in a wealthy state, with enough money to build and fund the critical services we need, this inequitable system has persisted for too long. If elected State Representative, I will fight to reduce the tax burden on working families and ensure the richest amongst us pay their fair share. This means: raising the state tax, taxing capital gains, instituting a wealth tax, and exploring ways to refine the REET to tax luxury property sales. These are all common sense, forward-looking solutions to our tax woes.

---

**Q42**

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?

This question is close to my heart, thank you for asking it. I know what it feels like to see public policy leave you and your community out of consideration. I consider myself a survivor of the War on Drugs. As a young girl in the Central District I experienced the devastation those policies wrought on people around me. They killed people, threw them in jail, and left them without the healthcare they desperately needed. Since those times I've vowed to always organize for a better world and lean hard into learning from those who are experiencing life differently than I do. From my work at the Odessa Brown Clinic, Children's Alliance, Solid Ground, and King County Equity Now I know that without question the best policy is written when we're all at the table with the full force of our voices being heard. And the best policy is passed only when we build together shoulder to shoulder in solidarity. As a State Representative, I'll continue to do what I've always done which is lead with heart, invite folks in, actively listen to them and give space for their genuine contributions, and take feedback from people whose life experience and perspective I don't share.

---

**Q43**

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?

Gentrification continues to rip apart communities across the 37th LD. My own family experienced having our family home bought away by deceptive and predatory housing developers, and that's deprived generations of our family from building wealth and maintaining stability. I know what it's like to feel the loss of our neighbors, because I've felt it for the better part of 30 years. It has to end, and the good news is we have robust strategies to turn back the trend of gentrification and build more vibrant, resilient communities. I believe increasing genuinely affordable housing options (like townhomes, multifamily, and condos) are crucial to reversing gentrification because residents need more housing options to rent and own. I also believe we need more community-run housing options like co-ops and land trusts that help remove housing from the unpredictable and at times punishing market. We also need rent stabilization that limits rent increases year over year and, importantly, ends "reno-victions/demo-victions" where tenants are displaced without any right to return and rents hiked up for the next tenant. The "right to return" is a fundamentally important piece of any housing strategy. Finally, I believe a state bank would go a long way in funding new social housing projects because our state could then borrow at very low interest rates and build sustainable high-quality housing stock for people of all incomes and the people of our State - not large property management corporations or developers - would own the buildings. Our state-level housing investments from the Department of Commerce and the Housing Finance Commission must be equitably distributed as well, with particular focus on BIPOC-led housing.

---

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**

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.

---

**Q58**

Respondent skipped this question

Ratings and Endorsements

---

**Q59**

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)

---

**Q60**

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?

---

**Q61**

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.

---

**Q62**

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 own privilege and/or bias or encouraged others to point out to you your own implicit biases?

---

**Q63**

Respondent skipped this question

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.)

---

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)

**Emijah Smith**

Date

**5/18/22**

---

**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)

**Giovanna Orecchio**

Date

**5/18/22**

---

**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)

**Democratic organizations overlapping the jurisdiction of my campaign whose rules require sharing questionnaire responses publicly may share this questionnaire publicly.**

---

**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.**

---