

King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate name

Maria Cantwell

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Link to candidate headshot

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=470127954504381&set=a.470127921171051>

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What type of position are you running for?

Federal

What position are you running for?

U.S. Senator

Are you a Democrat?

Yes

Have you ever been a member of another political party?

No

Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?

Yes

What actions will you take to protect democracy?

Protecting and expanding voting rights is a critical step towards protecting our democracy, that's why I co-sponsored the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in 2020 and the Freedom to Vote Act last Summer. The Freedom to Vote Act would restore key provisions from the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act that were rolled back by the damaging Shelby County ruling by the Supreme Court in 2013. We have an accessible and reliable voting system in Washington State that should be replicated nationwide. The Freedom to Vote Act would expand the right to vote by:

- Making it easier to vote for all Americans, including establishing Election Day as a public holiday
- Better securing elections against voter fraud and cyberattacks
- Preventing partisan actors from subverting their own state's election system
- Stopping big-money donors from anonymously influencing elections I've also supported ending the filibuster in order to pass voting rights legislation.

The WA State Democratic Platform states: The United States must work closely and persistently with other countries to prevent or stop genocide wherever it occurs. What will you do to uphold this principle?

I will continue to call for access to humanitarian aid to areas affected by violence and am committed to fighting for programs that work to promote America's foundational values of tolerance, respect, and freedom of religion.

The shocking October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas on innocent Israeli civilians were heinous and reprehensible and unleashed a terrible cycle of violence and recrimination. That's why I continue to support President Biden's vigorous efforts to facilitate the return of Israeli hostages and avoid a wider regional war.

The international community should be doing everything it can to protect and get aid to innocent Palestinian civilians. The Senate recently passed national security supplemental appropriations legislation, which I voted for, that includes over \$9 billion for humanitarian aid. Approximately \$1 billion of that aid will go to helping the civilian Palestinian population in Gaza and the West Bank. In addition, the Administration is working to build a temporary pier to deliver aid directly to Gaza with the assistance of the U.N. World Food Program.

The President issued a National Security Memorandum in February, that lays out standards that any country receiving U.S. weapons must adhere to. These standards include abiding by international law, facilitating the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance, and ensuring the weapons are not being used in a way that is not consistent with best practices for reducing civilian harm.

Despite the horrors of the ongoing war, I believe that Israelis and Palestinians must continue to strive for an enduring peace that recognizes and respects the rights and dignity of both peoples. It is the long time policy of the United States to support a two-state solution.

It is incumbent on all of us to try and prevent the hostilities in the Middle East from fueling hate here in the United States. In the face of the alarming increase and growing intensity of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic incidents, we must continue to reject and condemn violence and discrimination against any person because of their ethnicity or religious beliefs.

What programs and strategies will you pursue to lift people out of poverty?

I've been the Senate's lead advocate for the expansion of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and insisted that strengthening the program be included in the 2024 Tax Package that is awaiting passage in the Senate. The Tax Credit has been responsible for more than 3.8 million units of affordable housing throughout the nation and when passed, this expansion will create more than 200,000 new units over the next 2 years.

I have joined with my colleagues to work to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help increase employment rates and earnings of parents as well as reduce child poverty. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Act would increase the maximum credit from \$1050 to \$4000 per child and make the full credit available to families with income under \$125,000.

I will continue to push for policies that lower prescription drug costs, like those in the Inflation Reduction Act that capped the cost of insulin at \$35/month and put a yearly cap of \$2000 on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for Medicare enrollees.

We must support programs that tackle rising costs and support job training as tools to reduce poverty.

The Inflation Reduction Act is one of the key accomplishments of the Biden Administration. How do you rate its implementation to date, and what are the next steps?

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is 10 years of predictable investment to support innovation that lowers costs for consumers and drives new jobs for Washingtonians. As a key architect of several key provisions in the bill, especially those related to climate resiliency and greenhouse gas reduction, I am pleased with the IRA's implementation so far.

We are seeing companies like Divert developing a new Integrated Diversion and Energy Facility, which will turn food waste into carbon negative renewable energy, in Longview with the help of the 30% Investment Tax Credit included in the IRA. McKinstry here in Seattle foresees a significant increase of building electrification and energy efficiency work over the next few years, meaning good-paying jobs for Washingtonians in the building trades.

While the IRA makes key gains on lowering prescription drug prices, investing in clean energy technology, and driving down energy costs we need to make a concerted effort to train and skill workers for the economy of the future. Next steps to the IRA should include further investment in job training programs that will create good paying middle class jobs.

What will you do to avoid catastrophic climate collapse and the humanitarian crises that accompany it?

According to a report from the world's top scientists, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is essential to blunting the impacts of climate change. In other words, just reducing future emissions is no longer enough, we need to figure out how to remove and trap carbon pollution from the atmosphere. In 2022 I introduced the CREST Act which builds upon previously authorized carbon removal research and development programs to include biomass, geological, aquatic, and atmospheric carbon removal solutions that can permanently sequester carbon dioxide or use carbon dioxide to produce valuable products such as biofuels.

Title II of the CREST Act creates a five-year pilot carbon removal purchasing program which utilizes an innovative reverse auction mechanism to find the most cost-efficient strategies for domestic carbon removal solutions meeting specified performance metrics.

Carbon capture programs, along with aggressive investment in clean energy, grid efficiency and transitioning off fossil fuels are all part of the puzzle needed to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

What will you do to expand and balance the Courts, including the Supreme Court?

The United States Senate has confirmed 193 Article III judges nominated by Biden: one associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, 41 judges for the United States courts of appeals, 149 judges for the United States district courts and two judges for the United States Court of International Trade. I will continue to work with the Biden administration to fill all vacancies and ensure their confirmation in the Senate.

In regards to the Supreme Court, I consider a deep knowledge of civil rights, privacy rights, data rights, voting rights, worker rights, health care, and reproductive rights essential for the position. It is important to me that nominees to be a Supreme Court justice have a strong track record of considering all facts in a case and consistency in their application of the law over the course of their career. Nominees should hold viewpoints that will uphold the Court's role in our constitutional system of checks and balances and hold no one individual above the law.

I will evaluate nominees to federal courts and to the Supreme Court of the United States based on their character, professional experience, legal skills, ethics, objectivity, integrity and their track record of upholding civil rights, privacy rights, data rights, voting rights, worker rights, access to health care, and reproductive rights.

CERTIFICATION: The candidate hereby certifies that, to the best of their knowledge, the provided information is true and accurate.

Yes

Created on: May 1st, 2024