

King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

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What type of position are you running for?
Municipal

What position are you running for?

Seattle Council, Position 8

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

Will you commit to change zoning, permitting, and other obstacles in your city to increase housing availability for mid and lower income levels?

Yes

Will you commit to an increased percent of funding towards community and behavioral health services?

Yes

Will you actively support increased non-auto dependent transportation?

Yes

Do you support alternatives to the forced removal of unhoused people?

Yes

Do you support regulations to restrict police practices historically applied unfairly or abusively?

Yes

Do you support offering broadband internet access as a public utility?

Yes

Will you support allocating public safety budget dollars to the LEAD and CoLEAD programs of community-based intervention and diversion?

Yes

All municipalities are facing housing issues in their region. What changes will you make and how will you fund those changes?

As a policy leader who has spent years working to address homelessness, housing instability, and our affordability crisis, I know that our growing city needs housing of all types– for families, workers, young people and seniors on fixed incomes. The affordability crisis is real, and there is no simple solution: nearly half of Seattle renters pay more than 30% of their income to housing, and it is now found that Seattle will need 112,000 total new homes over the next 20 years. To address this urgency, I will:

- Protect, grow, and diversify investments into affordable housing to the scale identified by statewide-modeling efforts, including promoting zoning and comprehensive plan updates that increase housing options and affordability in every Seattle neighborhood while preventing displacement and gentrification
- Expand strategies that help people maintain their housing to prevent homelessness, including emergency rental assistance and utility shut off assistance.
- Prioritize increasing funding for changes and expansions to homelessness services and temporary housing as identified in the Five Year Plan.
- Advocate for state-level renter protections, including caps on rent increases.

All municipalities are facing behavioral health issues in their region. How is your community specifically affected, what changes will you make, and how will you fund them?

Born to struggling teenage parents, I have seen firsthand the traumatic cycles of incarceration, substance use, and homelessness that many families in Seattle are facing today, and I've spent my career working on issues of health, housing, and budgeting. To take care of our communities, I will:

- Work at the grassroots, city, and state level to keep guns out of the hands of our youth, dangerous individuals, and people at risk of harming themselves or loved ones.
- Innovate and introduce newer models that support crime intervention, prevention and community wellness.
- Continue investments in programs like Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Community Passageways, and others that help restore lives, prevent violence, and end cycles of incarceration and generational harm.
- Continue to invest in dual-dispatch programs like the CARE team.

- Combat the overdose epidemic by increasing access to community-based treatment, supporting efforts with partners to grow our behavioral health workforce and facilities, and ensuring overdose reversal medication and fentanyl testing access is expansive.
- Work alongside and listen to communities most impacted by violence.

Ongoing inequity is an issue in King County. Other than housing, what are your immediate plans for addressing this injustice?

I am the only candidate in this race who has consistently supported progressive revenue as an essential need to invest in our priorities rather than choose between them. Making sure our wealthiest households and corporations pay their fair share is the most important step we can take to address inequity in our region and across our state.

A specific priority for equitable investment of progressive revenue is our kids. For too long the opportunity gap has prevented kids of color and in lower income areas from achieving their full potential. I believe that every child should have access to an excellent education regardless of where they live. Everybody deserves equal chances to get the necessary education and skills to later become successful adults and join the workforce and/or pursue higher education.

We need to expand resources to meet the needs of all the kids who have fallen behind or are struggling coming out of the pandemic. It is going to take time, staffing, and significant resources, but the costs of not acting with urgency to address these challenges are unacceptable.

Many cities have claimed a commitment to reducing carbon emissions. What specific actions will you take to ensure that your city drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

We are seeing the effects of climate change on our doorstep. Heat waves and wildfire smoke caution us about what could be ahead if we do not act locally to create a more sustainable future. Further, we continue to see people of color and working-class communities disproportionately impacted by our changing climate from health outcomes and displacement. To build true climate resilience, we must:

- Support infrastructure investments and leveraging of state and federal funds to modernize existing public buildings and push for adoption of Seattle's Green Building standards.
- Target critical projects that increase green spaces– such as parks, community gardens, and urban forests– in historically under-resourced neighborhoods ensuring equitable access for all communities.
- Establish workforce development initiatives focused on training people in green industries for a just transition.
- Combat car emissions by thoughtfully investing in and encouraging greener modes of transportation.
- Protect Seattle's Green New Deal funding to maintain and accelerate climate action and sustainability policies and community partnerships citywide.

Will you support allocating ongoing operational and future capital funding, as well as prioritizing public lands to ensure the Seattle Social Housing Developer (as enacted by I-135) is successful?

Yes

Will you support re-funding JustCARE or a similar program to provide community-based public safety resources?

Yes

Do you support safe consumption sites in every city council district?

Yes

Will you introduce or support legislation to fund affordable childcare facilities, with workers paid a living wage?

Yes

Will you support moving Seattle elections to even years to increase voter turnout?

Yes

What specific legislation would you introduce to reform the Seattle Police Department?

Coming from a family impacted by incarceration, addiction and instability, I know that polarization of public safety doesn't address the real concerns of residents across our city. We must follow the data– and our values. We are currently in a state where uniformed officers are being called upon to respond to a myriad of social conditions and emergency situations that would be more appropriately addressed by a social worker or other kind of emergency responder. I support the creation and investment into an effective third department of public safety that could do alternative responses. Further, there are critical Community Violence Intervention investments that Black community partners in Seattle's Central District have pointed to as critical that we should explore expanding investments in.

I support investments into de-escalation training, anti-racism training, and accountability mechanisms such as a separate civilian body that would oversee independent investigations are critical. I am willing to do the hard work to work with communities to discern what are the investments that actually make our communities safer and improve trust and peace of mind– for all of us.

What are your policy priorities to ensure that Seattle residents are able to earn living wages?

I'm proud that Seattle now has the highest minimum wage in the country (\$19.97/hr) but this is still not nearly enough to make ends meet. During my time as a waitress (tipped worker) in Seattle, I made \$12.50 an hour. While the tips I was able

to make at the job were enough to be able to continue living and going to school in the city limits, tips are unreliable and do not offer the same type of rights and protections that a living wage would. I think the minimum wage in any jurisdiction should be a living wage that allows workers to afford to live and thrive, which we know a minimum wage does not do.

I was disappointed that CM Sara Nelson has introduced legislation that will repeal the hard fought gains the previous council implemented to protect delivery app drivers and I have stood with workers in urging Councilmembers to reject the repeal.

While I believe we need more elected leaders who will stand with workers and fair wages, we need more unions and more organized workers who can speak with a collective voice. They can also ensure that all workers – whether they are being trained or earn tips – earn the minimum wage as a minimum.

Do you support the taxes recommended in the 2018 Report of the Progressive Revenue Task Force? Please share your thoughts.

Our city is home to some of the wealthiest corporations in the country, as well as a thriving airport, seaport, and tourism industry, yet we are currently facing close to a quarter-billion dollar budget deficit, and we are at serious risk of essential programs being cut which will impact working families across Seattle, especially frontline communities. I am the only candidate in this race who has consistently supported the need for progressive revenue. To keep our programs and services, I will:

- Build a coalition across communities, organizations, and elected officials to explore progressive revenue options, ensuring we protect programs and corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share.
- Protect and defend Jumpstart funding – designated towards affordable housing, equitable development, and Green New Deal initiatives – from long-term backfilling of the General Fund.
- Explore additional revenue options – including a local capital gains tax, high payroll tax, and real estate transfer tax – that can generate revenue to fund programs that address our city's most critical issues.
- Work with Seattle's state delegation to explore how the Legislature can create more revenue options.

Will you support a Comprehensive Plan that includes upzones that allow for multifamily housing, light industrial, and commercial uses in all residential areas, as well as allowing for high rises near all light rail stations, as described in the proposed Alternative 6 plan?

Yes. Through the 2023 Housing Levy, Seattle voters just tripled our investment into affordable housing, and the I-135 social housing program was approved by a 14-point vote margin. These are public signals about the need to expand affordable housing options. Now it's up to our City Council to adopt a Comprehensive Plan that lives up to that expectation. To truly make housing more affordable, advance racial equity, mitigate displacement, and meet our climate goals, I support the following changes to the One Seattle Plan:

- Allow for more family-sized homes in middle housing by increasing the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for fourplexes and six-plexes.
- Allow more, taller homes near transit to give people more choices in how they get around their neighborhoods and make transit a convenient option for more people.
- Expand the number of neighborhood centers to create lively, walkable community hubs throughout Seattle by increasing the radius and equitably balancing growth across the city.
- Promote equitable development and address displacement by ensuring a broad range of developers build affordable housing, and create wealth-building opportunities for BIPOC communities.

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

Yes

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