

# King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

<b>Candidate name</b>
Tariq Yusuf
<b>Candidate name pronunciation</b>
Tar-rick You-suh-ff
<b>Candidate pronouns</b>
he/him/his
<b>Campaign Filer_Name</b>
Tariq for Council
<b>Campaign email</b>
<a href="mailto:info@tariqforcouncil.org">info@tariqforcouncil.org</a>
<b>Campaign phone</b>
(206) 395-9356
<b>Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form</b>
(425) 737-3410
<b>Campaign website</b>
<a href="https://tariqforcouncil.org">https://tariqforcouncil.org</a>
<b>Campaign Facebook page</b>
<a href="https://facebook.com/tariqforcouncil">https://facebook.com/tariqforcouncil</a>
<b>Instagram</b>
<a href="https://instagram.com/tariqforcouncil">https://instagram.com/tariqforcouncil</a>
<b>X/Twitter</b>
<a href="https://x.com/tariqforcouncil">https://x.com/tariqforcouncil</a>
<b>Link to candidate headshot</b>
<a href="https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/6606d00f6c5c1a7e2f6b8610/1dcf1602-99ba-4e33-8462-aabe0769b5d7/IMG_8024.jpg?format=2500w">https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/6606d00f6c5c1a7e2f6b8610/1dcf1602-99ba-4e33-8462-aabe0769b5d7/IMG_8024.jpg?format=2500w</a>
<b>Campaign manager name</b>
Imran Mehkri
<b>Campaign manager email</b>
<a href="mailto:imranm@tariqforcouncil.org">imranm@tariqforcouncil.org</a>
<b>Campaign manager phone</b>
(708) 691-1577
<b>What type of position are you running for?</b>
Municipal
<b>What position are you running for?</b>
Seattle Council, Position 8
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b>
Yes
<b>Have you ever been a member of another political party?</b>

No

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

No

**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?**

Qualified

**For any Yes/No questions you answered "qualified", please explain:**

I absolutely support alternatives like the LEAD program. My nuance is on the involvement of law enforcement in these programs given the historical relationship of law enforcement with the most disproportionately affected communities. I want to see a version of this program that puts law enforcement as a second or last line of defense to make these programs more possible.

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

As a product of the Seattle Housing Authority, I believe that having a social safety net is critical to creating a society that works for everyone. First, with the explosion of growth in the region primarily due to the tech boom, I believe that we need to start tapping into those record profits and ensuring that the companies that benefit from our communities also bring benefit back. As such I would support expansion of taxes on the largest businesses in the region to help address budget deficits and fund additional programming. Second, I plan to audit the current property tax levies allocated to housing and evaluate if we are using the current resources we have as effectively as possible. Third, I plan to chair a study on homelessness in the region with a particular focus on chronic and temporary issues. My anecdotal brush with homelessness leads me to believe that there are some issues that are chronic (e.g. minimum wage, housing inventory) and some that are temporary (e.g. job loss, substance addictions). A careful analysis of these issues will allow us to cater our program towards helping get people back on the social ladder and work their way towards providing for themselves.

**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?**

Mental health is an endemic crisis within the Seattle and King County communities. This issue straddles social class; affecting both white and blue collar workers. We have a number of organizations dedicated to assisting individuals with specific social backgrounds and contexts. I would like to see more dedicated grant and non-profit partnership opportunities with organizations addressing mental health challenges within the community. A large reason for this is the stigma that surrounds mental health (particularly fears of institutionalization by the government). Non-profit organizations can do the work of dispelling misconceptions, offering more catered solutions, and speak to specific community or contextual concerns that are challenging to address as a comprehensive agency solution. I plan to address this through a payroll head tax that will be dedicated to addressing mental and physical health challenges in the region.

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

Fundamentally, the core issue is a lack of investment and re-investment into local communities. A large part of my community social services strategy centers around lifting voices and organizations that are currently doing work to serve their communities. This will be both through increased focus on grants and partnerships, but also by reforming city contracting policies to ensure that the money we spend for the city helps to uplift local communities and businesses. As I enter office, I want to begin with a thorough contract and procurement process review to find places where we are wasting money or allocating resources outside of our immediate community. As we enter the next fiscal year, this option has the potential to have a positive "splash" within communities to help create jobs and positive impact.

Combined with a comprehensive approach to social services, this will help bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots.

**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?**

Continued investment in all-electric and alternative fuel vehicles within the city will be critical to managing the city's carbon footprint. I believe that we should also look for incentives to leverage alternative green fuels that don't require individuals to purchase new vehicles such as algae-based bio-fuels. I plan to also take a closer look at business incentives for reducing carbon emissions within their operations. Businesses cause a significant impact on the green decisions available to consumers and we should ensure that we are making inroads towards reduction of single-use items, unchecked air pollution, and building with sustainable and local materials.

**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?**

Fundamentally, we need to stop believing that any solution can be solved by an officer with a firearm. We focus on resolving too many problems by calling 911 and having a cop show up. Many issues can be resolved using alternative response methods and experts within their fields. It's a strain on policing and impacts the community negatively. First, I would like to review and reform dispatch procedures to be centered around use-of-force potential. Dispatchers should have the tools available to dedicate specific resources that can help with common classes of problems. Second, I will advocate towards diverting funding from the police department to dedicated organizations to solve specific common issues such as substance abuse, mental health responses, and property issues. The majority of people that call 911 do not need a response that can escalate to potential violence.

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

With the previous discussion of housing, I first believe that we also need to look at the costs of common community staples like fuel and groceries to require that corporations do not abuse their positions to upcharge customers to line the pockets of shareholders. Several stories by local and national media have focused on the increase of prices independent of the cost of production. Second, we need a living wage that is tied to the cost of living in the region. It is unethical to have a minimum wage so low that individuals have to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. This is different from the current legislation that adjusts purely based on inflation. Beyond this, I plan to work with local unions and trade associations to better understand what other challenges individuals within the city are facing.

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

Absolutely, with Seattle's current tax approach, it puts the onus on individuals to solve a societal problem. Fundamentally, we need to start taxing where the money is: within corporate profits and greed. Solutions like the pay ratio surtax, gradual increases based on hours and employee size, and a simple no-frills system that is easy for businesses large and small to both understand.

**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?**

Development of regions surrounding Seattle have build places to "live at" not "live in." I support creating upzoned regions that make it easier for communities to create thriving environments where they can live, work, and play. Currently, the majority of blue collar workers must commute from outside the city, this creates a fundamental inequity in how our society operates and is long overdue for correction.

**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