

# King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

**Candidate name**

Manka Dhingra

**Candidate name pronunciation**

Mun-cah

**Candidate pronouns**

She/her

**Campaign Filer\_Name**

Elect Manka for Attorney General

**Campaign email**

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**Campaign phone**

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**Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form**

(202) 320-5307

**Campaign website**

<https://electmanka.com>

**Campaign Facebook page**

<https://www.facebook.com/electmanka/>

**LinkedIn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/manka-dhingra/>

**Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/electmanka/>

**X/Twitter**

<https://twitter.com/ElectManka>

**Link to candidate headshot**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ts3O68kq1sjMKXx2Pviz7rML5CKhHGX4/view?usp=sharing>

**Campaign manager name**

Erin Schultz

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**What type of position are you running for?**

State Executive

**What position are you running for?**

Attorney General

**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 will be your priorities as Attorney General?**

Our next AG must be both a good litigator and a proven fighter with a demonstrated track record of standing up for what is right. I've spent my career fighting for the people of WA as an advocate, prosecutor, and Senator. No one will fight harder than I will for immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQIA individuals, workers, a livable planet, and safe communities.

As AG, my priority will be to protect people and institutions from the increasing and persistent threats from the Supreme Court, Republicans, and Trump. Washingtonians will need someone who understands the depth of harm caused by their attacks on reproductive rights and on our diverse communities. As a mother and a woman of color, I intimately understand.

I will prioritize consumer protection and ensure our laws keep up with technology and the sophisticated manner in which all of us are targeted for fraud. We need education and outreach into communities so that all Washingtonians know their rights and the role the AG can play in protecting them. This commitment to justice, proven leadership, and a history of delivering on the toughest issues, is what I bring to this job, and I would be honored to have your support.

**How will you organize your office to create a more-diverse workgroup?**

Washington's diversity is not reflected in our government. With my landmark election in 2017, I doubled the women of color in the State Senate. I've been the 'first' for many things my whole life and if elected, I'll be the first immigrant, first person of color, and only second woman to hold this position.

DEI is not about showing up, it's about doing the work. It's easy to come into a functioning office and run it, but quite another to change cultures. When I was elected, the Legislature didn't have an HR office, code of conduct, or infrastructure to help employees. I helped establish an HR office, including a DEI officer, established policies and procedures for hiring practices, updated resume reviews and established systems to ensure employees have input and agency in how their workplace functions. We also updated where job descriptions are posted and did targeted recruiting to ensure a diverse applicant pool. Inclusion occurs when people feel heard and valued.

I helped create the first in the nation statewide Office of Equity to ensure our government looks like the people it serves. These are some of the strategies I will bring to the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

**Which issues do you foresee needing close interstate cooperation with your peers across the nation?**

MAGA extremists are intent on rolling back reproductive rights, worker rights, protection from gun violence, environmental protections & continued attacks on immigrants, refugees, & LGBTQIA individuals.

AG Ferguson has set the standard for cooperating with colleagues and stakeholders across the country to effectively stand up against those attacks and protect our values.

I've been honored to partner with the AG's office and other legislators and elected officials across our country in coordinating on access to abortion care, gender affirming care, voting rights, privacy, drug policy and cost transparency. I was honored to have been invited to the White House to present one of my signature bills, My Health My Data, to other national leaders.

As our next Attorney General, I'll continue to stand up for what is right and collaborate with local, regional, and national leaders to get the job done.

**What will you do to support existing laws that protect tribal sovereignty and enforce treaties?**

As AG, I'll work in partnership with tribal nations in Government-to-Government collaboration that respects sovereignty, and protects the rights and autonomy of native people. This includes public safety coordination, addressing the ongoing fentanyl and opioid crises, holding polluters accountable, consumer protection, and equal protections for housing, employment, and access to justice. These are all areas where native communities are disproportionately harmed.

I continue to lead on the Tribal Warrants bill, a priority bill for our tribal nations. This bill compliments tribal sovereignty by creating processes that allow for the detention and enforcement of tribal arrest warrants for individuals not living on tribal land. In addition, I helped create the Cold Case Unit at the AGO while on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Taskforce, so I know first-hand the role gender based violence plays in native communities. My work on 988 helped create the first and only Native and Strong crisis line in the country.

I am honored to have received the endorsement of the Tulalip Tribes and Native leaders across WA, including elected, Native legislators.

**How will you advance police accountability?**

As the State Senate Law & Justice Chair, a career prosecutor, and advocate, I've been working on cultural changes in law enforcement for decades.

As Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I helped create the 40-hour crisis intervention training and trained officers for a decade.

In the State Senate, I've led on police accountability –in fact many of the policies the AGO is tasked with implementing were passed under my leadership. I've worked with impacted families, stakeholder groups and law enforcement to ensure greater transparency, accountability in hiring, training, reporting, intervening, data collection, and decertification processes. I played an instrumental role in setting up the Office of Independent Investigations.

I'm humbled to have won the NAACP President's Award for my "spirit of excellence in leadership with an extraordinary passion for justice and equity for all."

This experience and a trusting relationship with our state's diverse communities will enable me to continue to work on use of force and Independent Prosecution issues.

**What strategy do you have for protecting consumers from predatory business practices or harmful interstate restrictions?**

Consumer protection is a core and critical function of the AGO. Protecting consumers from fraud, price gouging, cyberattacks, monopolistic mergers, and other unethical practices is increasingly important, especially in the arena of healthcare. I'm proud of the work I have done as Chair of the Senate Law and Justice Committee to advance and improve consumer protection laws– which has set a foundation for stronger AG enforcement.

However, effective enforcement can only occur when the community knows what the AG's office does and what their rights are. People whose names sound like mine are often targeted in ways that mainstream Americans are not. To be truly effective in protecting consumers, the AG's office has to go into communities and engage in outreach and education. That will also help the AG's Office understand the unique challenges faced by all consumers in our state and build a trusting relationship so that communities feel comfortable reaching out to the AG. I aim to create these avenues of communication and trust between the office and the community, and hope to see it become a standard within the office.

**How will you work to protect the privacy of individuals?**

Privacy issues are becoming more and more urgent every day. I was the prime sponsor of the only data privacy bill to have been signed into law in recent history in the State of Washington. In order to truly address privacy, cybersecurity, and online fraud, it is imperative that our elected officials have a good understanding of technology and future innovation. As a representative of one of the most technologically sophisticated districts in our state with personal relationships with leaders and experts in the field, I will always be at the forefront of addressing privacy.

In fact, I have been coordinating with California legislators on privacy issues for the last few years to ensure that we can keep up with the protections being offered by the European Union. Implementation and enforcement of privacy laws will always be a priority for me as your next AG. My proven leadership on this issue will play a critical role in enabling our state to be not just a national leader, but an international leader in this arena.

**What actions will your office take to protect the environment?**

Taking on polluters is personal for me. I was born in Bhopal and my father worked at Union Carbide (the company behind the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and still the world's largest industrial accident to this day). He often complained of company leadership of environmental and safety corners cut. They often did not listen, and my dad died of colon cancer at the age of 40. All of this to say that this issue is a lived experience and personal to me.

As AG, I will bring the same tireless advocacy I have led with in the State Senate to:

- Expand the AG's Environmental Division to better meet the needs of frontline and vulnerable communities– taking on polluters, reducing exposure to dangerous chemicals, dirty water, and climate impacts
- Better enforce the laws to safeguard our old growth forests, salmon recovery efforts, reduce carbon pollution, and maintain progress on climate action
- Strengthen and enforce laws that help families and communities, protect our natural legacy, and set a national standard
- Stand steadfast against partisan attacks from MAGA supporters and donors, polluting industries, Trump, Congress, and the Courts– from rollbacks and attacks on laws that must be preserved

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

Yes

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