

# King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

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Bob Ferguson
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He/Him
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<a href="https://twitter.com/BobFergusonAG">https://twitter.com/BobFergusonAG</a>
<b>Link to candidate headshot</b>
<a href="https://run.imgix.net/42ef0e27-a8bc-47df-99ab-50b85af603eb/95ee8e51-6893-462c-9df3-e370aa924aea/95ee8e51-6893-462c-9df3-e370aa924aea.jpeg?ixlib=js-3.8.0&amp;bri=0&amp;con=0&amp;sat=12&amp;high=0&amp;shad=0&amp;usm=0&amp;rect=1863%2C143%2C6329%2C4804&amp;auto=compress%2Cformat&amp;fit=fillmax&amp;w=2048&amp;q=75">https://run.imgix.net/42ef0e27-a8bc-47df-99ab-50b85af603eb/95ee8e51-6893-462c-9df3-e370aa924aea/95ee8e51-6893-462c-9df3-e370aa924aea.jpeg?ixlib=js-3.8.0&amp;bri=0&amp;con=0&amp;sat=12&amp;high=0&amp;shad=0&amp;usm=0&amp;rect=1863%2C143%2C6329%2C4804&amp;auto=compress%2Cformat&amp;fit=fillmax&amp;w=2048&amp;q=75</a>
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<b>What type of position are you running for?</b>
State Executive
<b>What position are you running for?</b>
Governor
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b>
Yes
<b>Have you ever been a member of another political party?</b>
No
<b>Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?</b>
No
<b>What top priorities will you advance with your budget?</b>
Three key issues to me are Improving public safety in communities across the state. Every Washingtonian deserves the freedom to be safe from harm. My budget will also direct funds towards better crisis facilities, intervention programs, & restorative justice infrastructure. I'll increase access to affordable health care, including behavioral health care and the full range of reproductive health care services. I took on big corporations for their roles in fueling the opioid epidemic & won \$1.2B+ for WA to combat the crisis. As Governor, I'll invest this money to improve treatment options. I'm proud to be endorsed by Pro-Choice Washington & Planned Parenthood Votes.

Tackling our housing and homelessness crises. I will partner with local jurisdictions to increase the supply of affordable housing and provide emergency support funding for those on the brink of losing their homes. I will invest in improved housing services, and a first-class behavioral health system.

I am proud to have the support of all 35 local party organizations and 11 tribes that have endorsed in this race, Governor Inslee, Senators Cantwell and Murray, and the United Farmworkers of America, just to name a few.

#### How will you generate more revenue more progressively?

I am the only candidate in this race that publicly supported Washington's capital gains tax to improve education funding in Washington. My Democratic opponent, Mark Mullet, voted against the capital gains tax. This tax generated over 900 million dollars for education and early childhood education in Washington in its first year.

I also supported and successfully defended the tax on Big Banks that make more than \$1 billion in annual profits. My opponent, Mark Mullet, voted against that bill. We won a 9-0 victory at the State Supreme Court.

As Governor, I will continue to ensure that powerful interests like these and the wealthy pay their fair share.

I am the only candidate who refuses donations from large corporations or corporate PACs.

#### What factors will primarily influence your selection of appointments to Washington's Courts?

Appointments to our state's judicial system are one of the most important things a Governor can do to improve access to justice, ensure fairness and equal treatment, and elevate qualified applicants who reflect the diversity of our state. I will look to elevate qualified applicants who are committed to the laws of our state, and the rights we enjoy and must protect. I will also encourage applicants with diverse professional experiences — working in different aspects of the law — to help ensure a variety of perspectives are represented in our courts.

I will be personally involved in these decisions, as I know how critical these appointments can be to the people of our state — regardless of whether they ever step foot in a courtroom.

#### What will you do to place Washington last in gun-related deaths?

I'm leading the fight against gun violence and mass shootings. I led the effort to ban the sale of high-capacity magazines, assault weapons, and ghost guns. I penalized negligent conduct by manufacturers and dealers with SB 5078, the firearm industry responsibility act, legislation I proposed. (My Democratic opponent, Mark Mullet, was one of two Democrats to vote against this). I've won millions for gun violence reduction programs from firearms dealers who break the law. I am 9-0 in court against the gun lobby.

As Governor, I will continue pursuing common-sense gun reforms. I will:

-Direct the State Patrol to establish the first state firearm buy-back program.

-Implement Washington's centralized background check system.

-Enact waiting periods and other programs to improve our firearm permit process.

-Support resources to train officers and implement existing laws on orders of surrender of weapons for domestic violence offenders.

-Support proven, community-based youth intervention strategies that break the cycle of violence.

I am proud to have earned the endorsement of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence. I am the only candidate endorsed by a firearm safety organization.

#### How will you address the state's housing crisis?

I will create a statewide Housing Department to elevate the issue of housing in state government, improving efficiency and accountability.

I will increase housing supply at an unprecedented scale. This includes capital investments in affordable housing, and creative solutions such as building on existing underutilized retail and commercial sites.

I will strengthen financial and legal protections to improve stability and housing affordability, particularly for families on the brink, including:

-Property tax relief for seniors, disabled individuals, and qualifying veterans.

-Emergency rental assistance, unfair warning of rent increases, and other elements under consideration in the current legislative package.

-Reasonable protections for renters in the face of predatory, disruptive, and unsustainable rent increases.

I will address chronic homelessness by coordinating systems and working with those with lived experience to improve services, treatment options, and reentry programs. I will:

-Integrate mental health and substance use treatment into primary care settings

-Focus treatment, case management, and temporary housing services on at-risk individuals exiting detention.

#### How will you mitigate climate change and preserve clean air and water?

I am proud to be endorsed by Gov Inslee & WA Conservation Action. I'm the only candidate endorsed by an environmental organization.

The following are a few of the steps I will take to promote sustainability, combat climate change, and protect clean air & water, and wildlife:

-Build Climate-Smart Infrastructure that will grow our economy and ensure that WA leads the fight against climate change. I will expand the Clean Energy Fund to establish a Green Bank in order to increase investments in clean energy installation and sustainable infrastructure.

-Protect mature forests. Trees-especially mature forests-are the cheapest, fastest, most reliable form of carbon storage.

-Dramatically expand access to electric charging stations, & enact public policies to improve the affordability of electric vehicles.

-Continue investing in transit solutions to move our region. I will electrify WA's ferry system, and work with local governments to fully phase in zero-emission electric buses by 2035.

-Advance housing policies that improve density, especially near transit, so Washingtonians can live closer to where they work.

#### What infrastructure additions and improvements will you initiate and maintain?

As mentioned, I'll build Climate-Smart Infrastructure to grow our economy and fight climate change. I'll expand WA's Clean Energy Fund to establish a Green Bank, increasing investments in clean energy installation and sustainable infrastructure. I'll expand access to charging stations and make electric vehicles more affordable.

My housing policies will improve density, especially near transit. These projects include important labor protections, such as prevailing wage protections and apprenticeship utilizations. We'll follow the HEAL Act and meaningfully engage the voices of historically disadvantaged communities.

I'll initiate critical transportation infrastructure to connect our region. I'll invest in fixing our broken ferry system.

I'll maintain and improve existing infrastructure. I'll replace aging roads, bridges, and other structures, and invest in seismic upgrades to buildings that need it. I'll invest in improving drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure to protect Puget Sound.

I'm proud to be endorsed by the WA State Labor Council and 50+ unions—the vast majority that have endorsed. Full list here: [bobferguson.com/endorsements](http://bobferguson.com/endorsements).

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

Yes