

King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

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What type of position are you running for?
State Executive
What position are you running for?
Insurance Commissioner
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?
No
A large burden lies with those on Apple Health and Cascade Care to gain access to preventative care. How will you remove barriers to access?
I recognize the critical importance of removing barriers to access preventative care. To achieve this, my approach will focus on several key strategies:

Expanded Provider Networks: I will work to expand the networks of healthcare providers participating in Apple Health and Cascade Care, ensuring that individuals have a wide range of options for accessing preventative services close to their communities.

Telehealth Expansion: Leveraging technology, I will advocate for the expansion of telehealth services, making it easier for individuals, particularly those in rural or underserved areas, to access preventative care remotely.

Education and Outreach: A comprehensive education and outreach campaign will be launched to inform individuals about the importance of preventative care and how to access it through Apple Health and Cascade Care.

Reducing Cost Barriers: I will explore options for reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket costs for preventative services, making it financially feasible for everyone to prioritize their health.

What will you do to ensure access to all legally allowed healthcare options including reproductive care and gender affirming care?

I am committed to ensuring that all legally allowed healthcare options, including reproductive care and gender affirming care, are accessible to everyone without discrimination or barriers. To achieve this, I will implement the following initiatives:

Comprehensive Coverage Mandates: I will advocate for comprehensive coverage mandates that include reproductive health services, such as contraception, abortion care, and maternity care, as well as gender affirming care, including hormone therapy and gender confirmation surgeries.

Provider Network Inclusion: I will work to expand provider networks to include a diverse range of healthcare professionals who are knowledgeable and inclusive in providing reproductive and gender affirming care.

Affordability Measures: I will push for affordability measures to ensure that the cost of reproductive and gender affirming care is not a barrier for individuals seeking these services, including exploring options for insurance coverage subsidies or assistance programs.

How will you make the cost of health insurance more competitive for individuals and companies with one to 50 employees?

To address this issue, I will implement the following strategies:

Pooling Mechanisms: I will explore the implementation of pooling mechanisms that allow small businesses to band together to negotiate for better rates and benefits from insurance providers, similar to larger corporations.

Regulatory Reforms: I will advocate for regulatory reforms that promote transparency and accountability in insurance pricing, ensuring that premiums are fair and competitive for small businesses and individuals.

Subsidies and Tax Credits: I will work to expand subsidies and tax credits for small businesses and individuals to offset the cost of health insurance premiums, making coverage more affordable and accessible.

Promotion of Public Options: I will support the development and promotion of public options for health insurance, providing individuals and small businesses with additional choices and increasing competition in the market.

By implementing these measures, we can level the playing field for small businesses and individuals, making health insurance more affordable and competitive for all.

What regulatory and legislative changes will you advocate to provide quality mental and behavioral healthcare to meet the growing needs across Washington state?

To achieve this goal, I will advocate for the following regulatory and legislative changes:

Parity Enforcement: I will vigorously enforce mental health parity laws, ensuring that insurance plans provide equitable coverage for mental health and behavioral healthcare services compared to physical health services.

Network Adequacy Standards: I will establish robust network adequacy standards to ensure that insurance plans have an adequate number of mental health providers in their networks, especially in underserved areas.

Telehealth Expansion: I will advocate for the expansion of telehealth services for mental and behavioral healthcare, removing barriers to access such as geographic distance and transportation issues.

Integration of Services: I will promote the integration of mental and behavioral healthcare into primary care settings, facilitating early intervention and holistic treatment approaches.

Reducing Stigma: I will support initiatives aimed at reducing stigma surrounding mental illness and promoting mental health awareness and education in communities statewide.

How will you move the state to provide universal healthcare?

Advocate for Statewide Single-Payer System: I will actively advocate for the establishment of a statewide single-payer healthcare system that guarantees comprehensive coverage to every Washingtonian, regardless of their income, employment status, or pre-existing conditions.

Engage Stakeholders: I will work collaboratively with legislators, healthcare providers, insurers, and community

organizations to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for transitioning to a universal healthcare system.

Promote Public Options: I will support the creation and expansion of public healthcare options, such as a state-run public health insurance plan, to provide affordable and accessible coverage to individuals and families.

Address Cost Containment: I will prioritize cost containment measures, including negotiating prescription drug prices and reducing administrative overhead, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the universal healthcare system.

What will you pursue to contain costs of emergency-related insurance—such as fire, earthquake, flood, and landslide—in the face of climate change?

I recognize the urgent need to address the escalating costs of emergency-related insurance in the face of climate change. To contain these costs, I will pursue the following strategies:

Risk Mitigation and Adaptation: I will prioritize investments in risk mitigation and adaptation measures to minimize the impact of climate-related disasters, such as implementing stricter building codes and land-use policies to reduce vulnerability to floods, landslides, and wildfires.

Promotion of Resilient Infrastructure: I will advocate for the development of resilient infrastructure and green building practices that can withstand extreme weather events, reducing the need for costly insurance claims and rebuilding efforts.

Community Education and Preparedness: I will launch comprehensive education and outreach campaigns to raise awareness about climate risks and encourage communities to take proactive measures to prepare for emergencies, such as creating emergency evacuation plans and investing in home retrofits.

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

Yes

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