

King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate name
Denny Heck
Candidate pronouns
He/him
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Heck for Lt. Governor (D)
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Consultant name
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What type of position are you running for?
State Executive
What position are you running for?
Lieutenant Governor
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
What are your top three legislative priorities to advance to the floor for debate?
Affordable Housing: Access to affordable housing is a basic human right and a cornerstone of stable communities. I am dedicated to implementing policies that address housing affordability by increasing affordable housing stock, protecting tenants' rights, and tackling homelessness.

Education: Education is the key to unlocking opportunities and fostering economic mobility. I prioritize investments in education from early childhood through higher education to ensure every student has access to quality education regardless of their background. By supporting educators, expanding access to resources, and promoting innovative learning initiatives, we can empower our youth for success in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Economic Opportunity: a robust economy is essential for creating jobs, generating revenue, and supporting vital public services. I advocate for policies that promote sustainable economic growth, including investing in infrastructure, supporting small businesses, and fostering innovation across industries. By prioritizing these issues, aim to build a more equitable and prosperous future for all Washingtonians, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

As Lieutenant Governor you will have the power to make appointments to over forty boards and commissions. What principles will guide your process and what do you look for in candidates?

As Lieutenant Governor, I am committed to ensuring that the boards and commissions under my purview reflect the diversity and values of our state. My guiding principles in making appointments will be rooted in equity, inclusion, and expertise. I will prioritize candidates who bring a deep understanding of the issues facing our communities, a track record of service or advocacy, and a commitment to advancing progressive policies that benefit all Washingtonians. Additionally, I will seek out individuals who represent the diversity of our state in terms of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and lived experiences, ensuring that the voices of historically marginalized groups are heard and valued in decision-making processes. By appointing qualified and diverse candidates, I aim to foster a more inclusive and representative government that works for the benefit of all residents of Washington state.

How will you use the position of Lieutenant Governor to improve economic equity for all Washingtonians?

As Lieutenant Governor, I will leverage my position to champion policies and initiatives aimed at improving economic equity for all Washingtonians. This includes advocating for raising the minimum wage to ensure fair compensation for workers, supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs through access to resources and funding opportunities, and promoting workforce development programs that provide training and skills for high-demand industries. I will also prioritize investments in affordable housing, healthcare, and education, recognizing that these are fundamental pillars of economic security and opportunity. Additionally, I will work to eliminate barriers to employment and advancement faced by marginalized communities, such as systemic discrimination and lack of access to capital. By fostering an environment that values equity and opportunity, I believe we can create a more prosperous and inclusive economy that benefits everyone in Washington state.

What will you do to advance legislation to provide quality mental healthcare facilities to meet the growing needs across Washington state?

As Lieutenant Governor, I will utilize my role as the presiding officer of the state Senate to advance legislation aimed at providing quality mental healthcare facilities to meet the growing needs across Washington state. I will work closely with senators from both parties to prioritize mental health legislation, ensuring that it receives proper consideration and debate on the Senate floor. This includes advocating for the creation of special committees or task forces dedicated to addressing mental health issues, as well as utilizing procedural mechanisms such as committee hearings, amendments, and floor votes to move relevant bills forward. I will also collaborate with stakeholders and advocacy groups to build support for mental health initiatives and mobilize grassroots efforts to pressure lawmakers to take action. By leveraging the procedural tools available to me as Lieutenant Governor, I am committed to advancing legislation that improves access to quality mental healthcare for all Washingtonians.

It was reported that nearly half of the hospital beds in Washington are controlled by religiously affiliated healthcare systems. What will you do to ensure access to all legally allowed healthcare options, including reproductive care and gender affirming care?

I will leverage Senate procedures to ensure access to all legally allowed healthcare options, including reproductive care and gender-affirming care, despite the dominance of religiously affiliated healthcare systems in Washington state. I will prioritize advancing legislation that protects individuals' rights to comprehensive healthcare services by utilizing procedural mechanisms such as committee assignments, scheduling, and floor debate to bring relevant bills to a vote. This includes advocating for measures that safeguard access to reproductive healthcare, such as contraceptive services and abortion care, as well as gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. I will work with senators from both parties to build consensus and support for these initiatives, while also engaging with stakeholders and advocacy groups to amplify the voices of those affected by restrictions on healthcare access. By using my position as presiding officer of the Senate to advocate for equitable healthcare policies, I am committed to ensuring that all Washingtonians have access to the full range of legally permitted healthcare options, regardless of religious affiliation.

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

Yes