

# King County Democrats 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire

<b>Candidate name</b>
Steve Hobbs
<b>Candidate name pronunciation</b>
Steve Hobbs
<b>Candidate pronouns</b>
he/him/his
<b>Campaign Filer_Name</b>
Committee to Elect Steve Hobbs
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<b>Campaign phone</b>
(360) 322-4637
<b>Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form</b>
(360) 322-4637
<b>Campaign website</b>
<a href="https://www.electhobbs.com">https://www.electhobbs.com</a>
<b>Campaign Facebook page</b>
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/electhobbs">https://www.facebook.com/electhobbs</a>
<b>LinkedIn</b>
<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-hobbs-4810127/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-hobbs-4810127/</a>
<b>Instagram</b>
<a href="https://www.instagram.com/electhobbs/">https://www.instagram.com/electhobbs/</a>
<b>X/Twitter</b>
<a href="https://www.twitter.com/electhobbs?lang=en">https://www.twitter.com/electhobbs?lang=en</a>
<b>Link to candidate headshot</b>
<a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fc358966-635f-3807-93aa-5c6d5ae0e9c8">https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fc358966-635f-3807-93aa-5c6d5ae0e9c8</a>
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<b>What type of position are you running for?</b>
State Executive

### What position are you running for?

Secretary of State

### Are you a Democrat?

Yes

### Have you ever been a member of another political party?

Yes

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

No

### What will you do to increase voting among underserved communities, in particular communities of color and young voters?

In 2023, my office created the Civic Engagement Program (CEP). With funding from legislative partners, this program currently serves Washington with a mission to increase voter participation. Specifically, this new initiative has three engagement areas: communities of color, incarcerated individuals, and eligible rural voters facing economic hardship. I'm both excited and proud of the CEP's 39-county strategy to increase participation among historically marginalized communities. Voter registration is a critical step toward increasing community engagement, and I will continue working tirelessly to ensure all Washingtonians have the resources to take this important first step. In 2022, my office requested a legislative study by the Evans School at the University of Washington to examine ballot rejection rates among communities of color and younger voters. With guidance from the University, and in coordination with our county auditors, my office is examining outreach methods to reach our most vulnerable communities, especially when their ballot is rejected due to signature.

### What are your top legislative priorities for the next term?

As your Secretary of State, my top priorities are ensuring that our elections are secure and accessible to every eligible voter. I will continue working hard to ensure advances in these areas so every eligible Washingtonian's voice is heard. In the last three legislative sessions, we've made major strides in voter access and ease of registration, cyber- and physical security of election tools and voting centers, security of election workers in a period when we're witnessing historic turnover of seasoned election officials due to threats and harassment, protection of public libraries and the freedom to read, and accessibility of state business services. I will continue fighting every day for advances in accessible and secure elections with modern innovation, studies of best practices from around the country, and greater public awareness – especially among traditionally underserved populations.

### How will you protect election workers and facilities from threats?

This past legislative session, my office proudly supported House Bill 1241. After several years, Rep. Mari Leavitt (D-University Place) ran this bill across the finish line in the Legislature, and election workers across the state like me are grateful for her effort. This year alone, county auditors offices across Washington have received mail laced with powder, potentially posing extreme risks to election workers and staff. As we've seen since Trump's Big Lie in 2020, our frontline election workers now face threats once deemed unimaginable. This bill makes threats to election workers a Class C felony, deterring future threats against these public servants. In 2022, my office also secured additional funding for physical security grants at elections centers across our state. In future legislative sessions, my office will continue supporting and requesting legislation strengthening protections for election workers and their families.

### What actions will you take to correct misinformation about the voting process, election integrity, accusations of fraud and cybersecurity threats?

In 2021, Donald Trump fought to overturn the presidential election on bogus grounds with zero credible evidence. Since 2022, my office has prioritized responding to similar inaccurate narratives through a multi-pronged approach. With help from the legislature, my office created the Information Security Response (ISR) division for the sole purpose of responding to online factual inaccuracies. Historically, most public servants have done a good job reminding people to vote. Where we've fallen short is communicating to the public HOW the voting process works and the lifecycle of a ballot. Along with the creation of ISR, my team recently scored a legislative win which boosts election cybersecurity across our state. This measure requires counties to install certified intrusion detection systems to identify cyber threats, both foreign and domestic. Three Eastern Washington counties had either refused to install similar protection devices, or had recently dismantled them on grounds of baseless conspiracy theories. My office took action, and the legislature passed Senate Bill 5843 – significantly strengthening our cybersecurity network. Every House Republican voted against the bill.

### How will you help underserved communities gain greater access to the full range of state services, such as the registration of businesses and other legal entities, and doing business with the state?

The Secretary of State is Washington's chief corporations' officer and provides essential information about businesses and charities. To improve these important services, I am leading expansion of in-person resources in Olympia to more locations across the state. This includes opening a satellite office in Spokane County this summer and mobile, pop-up services where they are most frequently needed, such as universities, community colleges, community-led events, and in Seattle at our Washington Talking Book & Braille Library. These expanded resources will allow teams to meet customers where they are and partner with local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations to encourage and support business. Recognizing the need to modernize our state services, I am overseeing a reorganization of the Corporations &

Charities Division that increases the technical ability of the team, and adds an Education and Engagement Team that will reach underserved communities and help them gain access to the full range of services provided by this office. That team can also help connect those business owners with other state agencies they will need to interface with.

**What opportunities do you see for greater transparency and easier access to public information?**

The opportunities for greater transparency and easier access to public information are myriad. Surrounding elections, we are providing better public information about access to the ballot and processes for tabulation, logic and accuracy tests, and auditing. We have launched multiple public information campaigns including a variety of advertisements that target underserved communities. We have built a team specifically focused on engagement with communities of color, those with developmental disabilities, and those recently re-enfranchised. In 2023, I engaged with counties to offer text message updates to voters, letting them know when a ballot has been sent, received, and accepted or rejected. This provides peace of mind to most, and to the few voters whose ballots are rejected, it provides ample notification to cure those ballots with their county auditor. The prevalence of languages other than English spoken in Washington communities is increasing. We must proactively provide election communication in more languages than is currently required under federal law, and provide counties with the resources to ensure this is accomplished as quickly as possible.

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

Yes

Created on: May 7th, 2024