

King County Democrats 2025 Endorsement Questionnaire

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What type of position are you running for?
City of Seattle
Which position are you running for?
Seattle Mayor
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?
Yes
Will you share a link to your code of conduct?
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HpDJN4Gmm4ByooBut0dFTMhZGQvr9CxvWQSQ8hdBLPs/edit?usp=sharing
What motivated you to run for this position and how will you evaluate your success over time?

I'm running because Seattle leads the nation in unsheltered homelessness — and we have not responded like the emergency demands. I've lived it. I lost my housing in 2024 due to an unsupported disability, and I've since experienced firsthand how broken our systems truly are. But I've also seen what's possible when we center lived experience, build from the ground up, and organize with moral clarity.

I'm running to lead that kind of transformation.

My platform, The Homeless New Deal, is a blueprint for urgent action: expanding shelter access, building social housing, launching a new crisis response team, and creating real pathways to stability and dignity. But this campaign isn't just about housing — it's about rebuilding trust in government by proving that we can respond to the people with care, not bureaucracy.

I will measure success by outcomes that matter: fewer people on the streets, more in stable housing, faster response times, and a city that shows up for its people. Progress will be public, measurable, and accountable. The goal is clear: end the experience of homelessness — for everyone, forever — and show what a city governed by compassion and courage can achieve.

In 2024, the Seattle City Council adopted 14 pieces of public safety legislation – the most since 2015. How do you rate the effectiveness of Council's efforts to reduce crime and improve public safety? What other actions do you support?

I support the Council's effort to act on public safety, but I believe most of the 2024 legislation failed to address root causes or reflect proven solutions. The only measure I support outright is the street racing ordinance — though even that could carry stronger deterrents. Many other policies, such as renewing SOAP/SODA zones, expanding jail agreements with SCORE, or increasing surveillance through ShotSpotter, are approaches that have failed here or in other cities.

Seattle is falling behind our peer cities in terms of public safety because we're not learning from what's worked elsewhere. Baltimore and Detroit, for example, have made significant progress reducing violent crime — not by repeating old tactics, but by investing in community-led safety. I strongly support efforts like Detroit's Community Violence Initiative and want to adapt those principles here.

Most urgently, we need to rebuild public trust. The Council focused heavily on hiring and allocated increased Human Resources to the Department, yet only yielded a net gain of one officer. If we want to make Seattle safer, we must focus on innovative prevention, care, and rebuilding trust—not just policing.

As Democrats, we believe that everyone deserves the dignity of shelter and security. What are your ideas around creating the diverse types of housing that are needed across all housing types in Seattle?

Everyone deserves the dignity of housing — not just a roof, but a path to stability, safety, and community. Our housing crisis isn't isolated to one population. It touches every neighborhood, from renters burdened by rising costs to families pushed out of generational communities. That's why our plan, The Homeless New Deal, emphasizes a full spectrum of solutions rooted in dignity, access, and long-term stability.

One piece of that plan is Community Supportive Shelters: small, neighborhood-based shelter communities that integrate casework, job training, and community partnership —designed to stabilize people and offer real pathways forward.

In addition to immediate shelter, we must build deeply affordable and social housing, especially under I-135 and Prop 1A. We must create transitional options like tiny homes and modular housing, while also supporting family-sized units, senior housing, and cooperative models that allow people to thrive in place.

This crisis touches everyone. The solutions must be everywhere — across all districts, income levels, and housing types. When every neighborhood helps meet the need, we get to a future where housing is not a privilege, but a right.

What additional actions should the city take to safeguard residents from federal policy initiatives that may challenge the rights and livelihoods of our residents?

Seattle must be a firewall city — a place where residents are protected, no matter who holds federal power. We've seen federal policies threaten immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, bodily autonomy, and civil rights. Our job at the local level is to meet those threats with clarity and action.

First, we must strengthen our city's sanctuary policies and ensure that no city department cooperates with federal overreach — especially around immigration, surveillance, or criminalization of healthcare and gender-affirming care.

Second, we must prepare with legal and resource infrastructure. That means funding civil legal aid, protecting data privacy, and creating funds or networks to support those affected by federal rollbacks — whether that's access to abortion, gender-affirming care, or asylum protections.

Third, we must invest in community resilience: public health systems, local food networks, mutual aid infrastructure, and housing protections that reduce our reliance on vulnerable federal systems.

Protection and resistance to harmful federal policy should begin at the local level and lean into collaboration with our state judiciary. That's how we defend our residents and lead by example.

Many cities have made commitments to reducing the impact of climate change. What are your ideas for ensuring Seattle residents have access to healthy environmental conditions? [examples might include tree canopy, infill housing, bike lanes]

Environmental justice must be central to Seattle's future. As part of The Homeless New Deal, we propose public works that align with Green New Deal values — creating jobs, restoring dignity, and building climate resilience from the ground up.

Seattle should expand its urban tree canopy, following Portland's lead, which committed to planting 650,000 trees by 2030. This will reduce heat islands and improve air quality — especially in neighborhoods historically denied green investment. We also need to build more infill housing, expand bike and transit infrastructure, and reduce car dependency — all while keeping communities intact and walkable.

Crucially, we must partner with Indigenous communities, especially those fighting for ecological protections along the Columbia River and in local waterways. They've led the way in environmental stewardship for generations, and their leadership must guide us now.

A healthy city is one where housing, air, water, and mobility are treated as interdependent rights — not afterthoughts. Climate justice isn't a silo. It's the foundation of a thriving, equitable future.

Communities across the city continue to face behavioral health issues. What actions are making a positive impact and what else will you advocate for?

Seattle is in a behavioral health crisis — it's not just visible, it's widespread. What's working are the efforts rooted in compassion and continuity: peer-led recovery, supportive housing, and Medicaid-backed case management through programs like Foundational Community Supports.

These programs are underfunded and disconnected. We are proposing a new coordinated system under called Seattle H.O.S.T. — the Homeless or Serious Transitions Team — a mobile crisis response and casework system for people experiencing homelessness, fleeing violence, or navigating major life transitions. It would integrate behavioral health, physical care, housing, and follow-up — meeting people where they are and staying with them.

I'll also advocate for city-owned transitional stabilization centers, increased access to low-barrier outpatient mental health care, and a citywide push for peer credentialing and paid recovery pathways for those with lived experience.

We must stop treating behavioral health as a silo. It touches housing, safety, education, and community connection. Healing starts with trust, and trust starts with consistency — not short-term fixes, but long-term systems of care.

What actions should the city take to strengthen its commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and promote an inclusive work environment to set an example for all employers in Seattle?

Seattle must lead by example — not with slogans, but with systems. At a time when DEI is being attacked across the country, we must strengthen our commitment, embed equity into every level of city governance, and show other employers what it truly means to build belonging.

First, we propose a Citywide Equity Compact — inviting major employers to publicly commit to transparent benchmarks for pay equity, inclusive hiring, and workplace belonging.

Second, we'll invest in structural equity inside city government: fully fund the Office for Civil Rights, protect DEI staff from political rollback, and implement mandatory racial and social equity impact reviews for all major legislation and budget proposals.

Third, we'll champion Access Seattle — our bottom-up approach to city services that centers inclusion, especially for marginalized communities. When we design systems for those most excluded, we improve them for everyone.

This campaign is about restoring access — not just to housing and healthcare, but to fairness, dignity, and opportunity. That's how we lead. That's how we show the country what's possible.

What is the best approach to reducing the Fentanyl crisis in the city?

The fentanyl crisis is not just a drug issue — it's a public health emergency and our response must reflect that. We reduce its impact by combining harm reduction, housing, and targeted public safety.

First, we must expand low-barrier treatment and recovery, including mobile clinics, peer-led programs, and stabilization centers. Harm reduction saves lives — and lives are the first step to recovery.

Second, we must provide safe, supportive housing, not jail cells or tents. You can't recover without stability. That's why our Homeless New Deal includes transitional housing, trauma-informed care, and long-term recovery pathways.

Third, we must coordinate crisis outreach and mental health care through a system like our proposed Seattle HOST Team, ensuring no one falls through the cracks.

And finally, the role of police must be redefined: targeting organized trafficking, preventing crime, and dismantling fentanyl supply chains — not managing poverty. When we invest in housing and behavioral health, we take that burden off police and free them to focus on real public safety.

We need urgency — but rooted in care, not optics. That's how we save lives and restore safety in Seattle.

Cities thrive when they have a vibrant downtown core. What is needed to sustain continued revitalization of the downtown core of the city?

A thriving Downtown Core is a reflection of a healthy city — one where communities are strong, needs are met, and opportunity is shared. If that's not what we see in Downtown Seattle today, it means we have unmet challenges in our neighborhoods and across our systems.

Seattle ranks near the top globally in cost of living. We must focus on making this city livable and accessible for everyone — not just those in tech or high-income sectors.

That means orienting public services around meeting basic needs: food, clean air and water, housing, work for those who can, support for those who can't, and resources for those with ideas and drive to lead.

We need to diversify our economy so that artists, service workers, makers, and small business owners can thrive. We need to support education and young people — including expanding the Seattle Promise — and give our next generation a reason to stay and build here.

And we must center those with the greatest needs — people living outside, navigating crisis, or facing invisible barriers. When we support our most vulnerable neighbors, we build a city that works better for everyone.

Certification

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

Created on: April 14th, 2025