



## King County Democrats 2025 Endorsement Questionnaire

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<b>What type of position are you running for?</b>
City of Seattle
<b>Which position are you running for?</b>
Seattle Council District No. 2
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b>

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 motivated you to run for this position and how will you evaluate your success over time?**

Seattle is at a crossroads. We are becoming a playground for the rich at the expense of working families. We must tax wealthy corporations and the ultra-rich to fund the essential services our community needs.

Representation matters. District 2 is the most diverse in the City, and we deserve representation for the marginalized voices that have been ignored for too long. As an attorney at the City, I have a solid understanding of how City government works, and can use my legal training and knowledge to be a strong advocate for D2.

For the past six years, I've been working daily to address our housing and homelessness crisis. I have helped the Office of Housing with funding hundreds of millions of dollars to create thousands of affordable homes. We CAN build enough housing to make it affordable for all, and we can build enough shelter to get our houseless neighbors off the street. To do this, we need City leaders who understand the complexities of housing development and finance and policy, and I'm the candidate with that expertise.

I will fight to end exclusionary zoning and ensure the wealthy parts of the City that have been segregated are no longer off limit.

**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?**

We all deserve to feel safe, including those who are living on our streets who often suffer the most from a lack of public safety, and I believe we need a comprehensive approach to public safety. It's unclear whether the 14 pieces of public safety legislation are effective, but it IS clear we are NOT doing enough to address the root causes of public safety issues, including housing affordability and homelessness, growing economic inequality, and starved government services including behavioral health and the epidemic of substance abuse in our community.

We need a more diverse and representative police force with greater accountability and a better relationship with our community. We need more 911 alternatives, like the CARES Team or Health 99 or Health One, because many 911 calls do not require an officer with a gun. We must also invest in gun violence prevention and interruption at the scale of the crisis, especially affecting our youth. Our city should significantly increase and create dedicated long-term funding to address youth gun violence and mental health in schools.

**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?**

We must build tens of thousands of units of housing, of all types including market-rate, affordable housing, social housing and more, throughout the city. We can also build more housing faster and easier, by reducing or eliminating design review, parking requirements and minimizing street-level commercial requirements (while also permitting corner stores in residential areas).

Voters overwhelmingly supported Social Housing, which can be a critical piece of the puzzle and allows us to reimagine how our city grows. The City can update zoning rules to allow social housing in more places and the developer to take advantage of incentives and bonuses currently offered to traditional affordable housing. We must also rapidly scale up investment in tiny-home villages, low barrier shelters, and other immediate options to get people off the streets and into safer options.

And we need to stop more people from becoming homeless to begin with. That means investing in rental assistance and growing our housing mediation program for tenants who are falling behind on rent. Every option must be on the table including using local funds for housing vouchers.

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

The chaos at the federal level demands City leaders be creative and bold in addressing the crises impacting our communities. During the pandemic, AAPI people like myself faced skyrocketing hate and now we are seeing hate crimes rise again. Using every tool at our disposal we must respond with solidarity now, as our LGBTQ+ and immigrant neighbors face the same kinds of hatred but worse yet coming directly from the highest levels of our government. That means growing programs that help our community navigate their legal and constitutional rights, and we can crack down on the bigoted attacks these communities are facing with new resources like stronger training on hate crimes and supporting the new statewide hotline for victims of bias incidents.

At the same time, blue cities will face declining revenue and federal support. We must rise to what this moment requires by increasing local revenue sources, like passing a capital gains tax, a tax on excess compensation for CEOs, a vacancy tax and more so that we are better prepared for the federal funding cuts and so we can support local residents who are being impacted, including immigrants, LGBTQIA, or fired federal workers.

**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]**

The strongest response to climate change is building dense, walkable neighborhoods where people can live without a car. Transitioning away from our car-centric suburban neighborhoods in Seattle is necessary to increase affordability and our quality of life and address climate change. Research shows that transit-oriented development in particular, with multi-family density, reduces carbon emissions significantly compared to single-family neighborhoods. Ensuring every neighborhood can build these kinds of housing options and maximizing human centered development is our best way to become a more climate friendly city.

We can have both housing and trees, but we need density and to reduce parking requirements to have both. And we need to invest in planting trees in medians and other public spaces, especially in District 2 which has fewer trees compared to many other parts of Seattle.

We can support walking, biking, busing and light rail, by creating safe sidewalks and intersections, slowing down traffic on our arterials (road diets), adding bike lanes, increasing bus services (and addressing public safety concerns on transit) and expanding light rail.

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

I would fight for greater housing and shelter options (more tiny home villages and transitional shelters). We need to increase our treatment options, including by increasing access to private treatment options. We should have treatment on demand. I support the opening of the opioid overdose recovery center. I also support programs like DESC's STAR Center and Purpose Dignity Action's LEAD and Co-LEAD programs.

**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?**

The City currently has a Race and Social Justice Initiative which was codified into City ordinance in 2023 and Departments present annual reports on their RSJI work, which is great. However, the RSJI initiative is only meaningful if there are financial resources to support the work, so I would propose Departments dedicate a certain amount of their budget

and/or time to RSJI work. And City workers need protections when they raise RSJI concerns in their workplace, so I would propose strengthening those protections in the City's HR policies.

**In 2015, Seattle voters enacted Initiative Measure No. 122, widely known as the Democracy Voucher program. Do you support the renewal of the 10-year property tax levy that funds Seattle's Democracy Voucher program?**

Absolutely. The Democracy Voucher Program has been successful in increasing the diversity of candidates who run for office, the number and diversity of residents who contribute to campaigns and is helpful to offset the influence of big-money in politics. As a candidate running a grass-roots campaign (including a focus on small-donations), I am extremely thankful for the Democracy Voucher program!

#### **Certification**

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

Created on: April 18th, 2025