

## 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
<b>Have you ever been a member of another political party?</b>

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?**

This campaign isn't about business as usual. It's about people. About fairness. About a city that lives up to its promise.

Seattle is one of the richest cities on the planet. That's not a talking point. It's true. But walk down Jackson Street or ride the light rail through Rainier Valley, and it doesn't feel that way. We've got billionaires dodging taxes while families go without the basics. This isn't a crisis of resources, it's a crisis of priorities.

Being in a union has taught me that we don't have to accept things the way they are.

We don't have to accept a city that only works for a select few. If we organize—we can build a Seattle where everyone has a home, where every kid feels safe walking to school, where our communities are rooted, strong, and filled with hope, not fear.

**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 appreciate that the Council made public safety a priority last year – passing those measures shows they're taking the issue seriously. Some of those laws, like supporting alternatives to policing and funding community-based programs, are steps in the right direction. But I'd say we still have a long way to go. We haven't yet seen a big improvement in how safe people feel in our neighborhoods. I believe we need to double down on addressing the root causes of crime. That means investing in mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and youth programs that prevent crime before it starts. I'm also a big supporter of expanding our new CARE crisis response team for 9-1-1 calls, but it's capped in effectiveness because of SPOG.

**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?**

Making Seattle affordable is a big reason I'm running. Everyone deserves a roof over their head, period. To get there, we need all types of housing in every neighborhood – apartments, townhomes, duplexes, backyard cottages, you name it. First, we have to allow more housing by updating our zoning rules. Right now, a lot of our residential land is locked up for single-family homes only. I support opening up those areas to modest apartment buildings and cottage clusters so we can welcome more neighbors. The Mayor's draft comprehensive plan didn't go far enough on this, in my opinion – it still limits apartments in too many places.

I'm a big supporter of social housing – publicly developed, mixed-income housing that is permanently affordable.

**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 stand as a bulwark for our residents' rights, especially when regressive policies come from D.C. We've seen threats at the federal level – whether it's attacks on immigrant communities, attempts to roll back LGBTQ+ rights, or other "Trump 2.0" style moves – and we need to be ready.

No matter what federal policy is, Seattle should refuse to cooperate with efforts to deport our immigrant neighbors or profile people based on religion or background. We should also legally safeguard reproductive rights and gender-affirming care within city limits, so if federal or state governments try to strip those rights, people are protected here.

**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]**

One of my big ideas is to shape Seattle's growth in a climate-friendly way. That means building a city where people don't have to drive so much. If we create more housing near jobs and transit (i.e. infill housing), we shorten commutes and reduce greenhouse emissions. I'm very passionate about urban density as a climate strategy – it lets us absorb population growth within the city instead of sprawling out into our forests and farmlands.

Another piece is transportation: we need to keep expanding transit, bike lanes, and pedestrian infrastructure so that the green choice is the convenient choice. If it's safe and easy to bike or take the train, more people will do it – I know I would love to feel safer biking around town. We should also invest in electric buses and support the transition to electric cars, trucks, and even e-bikes by building more charging infrastructure. And of course, protecting our tree canopy is crucial for healthy neighborhoods – trees clean our air, cool our streets, and improve mental health.

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

We're in a mental health and addiction crisis, and it shows on our streets. There are some positive steps underway. King County voters approved a Crisis Care Centers levy recently, which will create new mental health crisis centers – that's definitely going to help once those come online. The city has also piloted programs like Health One (sending medics and social workers to help folks in crisis) and the new CARE team for mental-health 911 calls. Those programs are making a difference, but they're still too small to meet the scale of the need. We need to seriously ramp up our investment in treatment and behavioral health services. I will advocate for using city funds, and pushing the state as well, to expand treatment-on-demand for substance use disorders and mental health. That means more treatment beds, more detox facilities, and more outpatient services that people can access immediately. I'd also like to see us partner with community-based organizations that do outreach – the people who build trust with folks on the street and can connect them to services.

**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?**

I'd push for stronger recruitment, apprenticeship, and mentorship programs to bring in candidates from underrepresented groups into city jobs – and not just entry-level jobs, but leadership positions too. We need to break down barriers in hiring and promotions so that everyone has a fair shot. I also think continuous training and education is key: the city should invest in real, meaningful anti-bias and anti-harassment training for all employees (not just a checkbox exercise). As a union shop steward, I know that when workers feel safe and respected, they perform better and stick around. So I want to foster a culture at the City where any employee – regardless of race, gender, orientation, or ability – feels they belong and can speak up if something's wrong.

**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?**

I'm a strong supporter of renewing the Democracy Voucher program. I'm participating in it and I can tell you it's been a game-changer for grassroots democracy. The program isn't perfect, but it's helped level the playing field so that ordinary folks can run for office and ordinary residents can have a bigger voice in campaigns. Instead of chasing big checks from a few donors, candidates (myself included) spend more time meeting voters one-on-one, because every voter has those vouchers to give. It encourages accountability – you're talking to all your neighbors, not just the wealthy ones.

## Certification

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

Created on: April 29th, 2025