

King County Democrats 2025 Endorsement Questionnaire

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Candidate name pronunciation
Jee Nee
Candidate pronouns
She/Her
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Link to candidate headshot
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What type of position are you running for?
City of Seattle
Which position are you running for?
Seattle Council District No. 2
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 motivated you to run for this position and how will you evaluate your success over time?

I have lived in Seattle for twenty-six years. Twenty-two years ago, I was a student at UW, working in a restaurant, and raising my child as a single mom, and I was living in the city. That is not something that is accessible any longer. We need leaders who are willing to fight for the voices of the people who do not have the time to advocate for themselves because they are working multiple jobs while raising a family. I have shared lived experiences with these hardworking people and want to center their voices. I don't only want to bring solutions rooted in community, but actually implement them. We don't need more pilots, we need action now.

I will evaluate my success when I see REAL impact in people's lives, when neighborhood centers are flourishing, when working class people are paying 30% of their income on rent, when our unhoused neighbors are housed and receiving the services they need, when corporations pay their fair share into the city, and when corporations are held accountable for the exploitation of our workers and earth.

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?

Effectiveness is not measured in the quantity of policies. These regressive policies that criminalize poverty and dehumanize our unhoused neighbors simply moves "the problem" to different areas. We need to invest in social services, behavioral health, crisis intervention, and our CARES team. Safety isn't more police, it's access to housing, mental healthcare, and community support.

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?

If we want to provide services that actually help our unsheltered neighbors, than it starts with building trust that our programs will actually work. We have to use a more robust approach than just thinking sweeping and jailing people are going to help. I supported Prop 1A in Seattle, and I will make sure it is implemented and sustained. We also need to adapt barriers to housing, there are too many flat restrictions around housing and shelter options, and people experiencing homelessness can't always fit into one set of requirements. By the time someone has reached the point of homelessness, they have likely gone through all sorts of traumas leading up to it, and are facing more and more traumatic incidents while unhoused, which makes it harder and harder to provide solutions. The biggest key to preventing homelessness is actually preventing it before it starts, which is why I believe in investing in keeping people in their homes before they begin the traumatic cycle of being unsheltered.

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

We need city level policies that protect immigrants, trans rights, reproductive access, and labor protections.

With these new actions from the Trump administration such as the Small Business Administration moving out of Seattle to target immigrant businesses, I plan to step in to help

our residents and businesses just like I did during COVID to help them stay safe and sustainable. During COVID, I founded Seattle Restaurants United to help restaurants stay open during COVID. Many of these restaurants are owned by our immigrant community, and by protecting them, we protect the rest of the city as well.

We should learn from our history and understand how allowing harmful conservative federal policies can have long lasting effects, such as Ronald Reagan's gutting of county housing authorities that continue to contribute to our housing crisis to this day. Whatever crazy malicious policy the Trump administration decides to impose on Seattle, we need to not only fight it, but we need to make sure that it doesn't become the norm and work to undo them even after Trump is gone.

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]

We need to have a bike and pedestrian infrastructure plan that includes expanding the tree canopy equitably. We need to hold large polluters accountable. And, we need to increase density and ensure a transit system to those neighborhood hubs. More accessible options to public transportation lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and my district always gets left behind in these policies. I plan to stop that trend by being the loudest voice on the council for these issues.

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

Fully fund and expand CARE team. Addressing root causes of poverty and housing, provide different levels of support including shelters and temporary housing with behavioral health services. And, we need to continue behavioral health support for individuals even after they have found more stable housing.

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?

Implement an equity filter to major decisions, fund affinity groups and support safe workplace structures for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ employees, Require equity impact reports for city projects, expand leadership pipelines for marginalized employees. We also have the ability to reinstate affirmative action on the city level. In 2022, Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order 22-02, which eliminated the ban on affirmative action in state and local public institutions. This means the city of Seattle has been able to do affirmative action for over three years, but has simply refused to do so. The "merit" based system is a myth, I-200 has harmed BIPOC owned businesses for over two decades, by turning our government contracting process into an old boys network favoring bias and cronyism.

If our hiring and contracting was truly based on "merit", than many of our projects would be done sooner and cheaper. Instead, since I-200 passed in 1998, Seattle projects such as construction and transportation have only gotten more expensive and more time consuming, resulting in budget shortfalls across the board.

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?

Yes.

Certification

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

Created on: May 12th, 2025