

## King County Democrats 2025 Endorsement Questionnaire

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Erika Evans
<b>Candidate name pronunciation</b>
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<b>Candidate pronouns</b>
she/her/hers
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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 City Attorney
<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?**

Yes

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

I was raised in a household deeply rooted in civil rights activism, where I saw how bias and crime devastate vulnerable communities. That foundation shaped my career—as a prosecutor, civil attorney, pro tem municipal court judge, and community leader—committed to fairness and safety. I’m running for City Attorney to carry that mission forward on a broader scale.

This isn’t a desk job—it’s a leadership role that demands listening, collaboration, and action. As City Attorney, I will engage directly with community members, small businesses, City leaders, prosecutors, law enforcement, and experts in gun violence prevention, restorative justice, youth engagement, and behavioral health to build a safer, more just Seattle.

I’ll measure success by real outcomes: safer neighborhoods, restored trust in the legal system, and meaningful improvements in people’s lives.

**The Seattle City Council passed legislation for Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) and Stay Out of Prostitution Area (SOAP) laws that went into effect last year. How would you rate the effectiveness of this legislation to crack down on drug users and sex workers? What other actions would you take?**

While I commend the Seattle City Council for taking steps to address public safety, the true measure of effectiveness lies in the quality of legislation, not the quantity, and its implementation. Some “public safety” legislation, like SOAP and SODA laws, sounds good to some people with legitimate concerns for their neighborhoods, but does nothing to address public safety. Drawing lines on a map does not prevent someone from committing a crime or engaging in self-harm. Instead, these types of laws have been proven to disproportionately target and impact Black, brown, and other marginalized community members, resulting in overpolicing of some and failing to address the actual causes and perpetrators of narcotic distribution, human trafficking, and other illegal activities.

I have spent my career ensuring that justice is fair, law enforcement is accountable, and our legal system works for everyone. As such, I support data-driven legislation that looks at the entirety of the problem, not just symbolic or band-aid solutions, that works not just to address immediate public safety concerns but also works to solve root causes.

**In 2023, the city attorney disbanded the Community Court diversion program for low-level, non-violent misdemeanors. What approach do you support in addressing these types of crimes?**

The Republican incumbent was wrong to disband Community Court, and if elected, I will restore and improve upon this proven model of harm reduction and community safety. The termination of Seattle’s Community Court in 2023 left a significant gap in addressing low-level, non-violent misdemeanors. As City Attorney, I advocate for a balanced approach that combines accountability with opportunities for rehabilitation. This includes implementing diversion programs that connect individuals to essential services such as mental health support, substance use treatment, and housing assistance. Additionally, restorative justice initiatives can facilitate reconciliation between offenders and victims, promoting community healing. By collaborating with law enforcement, community organizations, and public health agencies, we can develop comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of criminal behavior, ultimately enhancing public safety and fostering trust within the community.

**One of the things that makes the city attorney a powerful position is prosecutorial discretion. Which kind of cases would be your top priority and why?**

As City Attorney, my top priority cases will be addressing domestic violence, tackling the DUI backlog, and property crimes. Domestic violence cases now take an average of 50 days to

file, double the time from 2021. Survivors deserve swift justice and protection, and I will work to expedite these cases to ensure their safety and well-being.

The backlog in DUI cases, with an average filing time exceeding 80 days, poses significant risks to public safety. Leveraging my experience in prosecuting DUIs, I will streamline processes to hold offenders accountable promptly, reducing the danger impaired drivers pose on our roads. We must also address assaults and hate crimes, with zero tolerance for harm and marginalization of others.

Property crimes, particularly those affecting small businesses and vulnerable communities, require a balanced approach. While recognizing that some offenses stem from underlying issues like substance use or mental health challenges, I will employ diversion programs and restorative justice principles to address root causes. At the same time, ensuring accountability is crucial to supporting victims and deterring future offenses.

**In the event that the views of City Council members and/or the mayor do not align with your own views, how would you plan to work effectively with those individuals to promote strong Democratic values?**

As City Attorney, my job is to be both legal counsel for the City Council and Mayor and an independent voice for all of the people I serve. In that capacity, I will inevitably encounter situations where my views are not aligned with those of the City Council and/or Mayor. In the face of those challenges, I will lean on collective values, find common ground, and work to ensure that our city's needs and safety are at the forefront of decisions. I firmly believe that collaboration and leadership is how we ensure Seattle is safe, protected, and thriving.

As City Attorney, I serve as a legal advisor and advocate. I will use my professional and lived experiences to advise city officials and other city agencies on how to best navigate the law in a legal, ethical, and moral manner. Misalignment on issues will not deter me from getting the job done—I will work with my city partners to ensure we are placing people first in everything we do.

**The Seattle Police Officers Guild (SPOG) approved a new contract in 2024. How do you feel about the contract and how would you like to influence future negotiations with SPOG if elected?**

While working in the City Attorney's Office, I worked directly with SPD, SPOG, and community leaders to improve accountability, address overpolicing and bias, and educate and defend officers in challenging legal situations. I am also the victim of police bias through being falsely detained as a young woman, and I experienced a frightening incident when SPD wrongfully discharged firearms at and into an apartment building where my husband and I lived.

I know all sides of these issues and am uniquely qualified to address them.

While competitive compensation is essential for attracting and retaining qualified officers, future negotiations must also prioritize robust accountability measures. I understand that one of the core components of addressing public safety challenges is rebuilding trust and supporting best practices and community-driven policing.

As City Attorney, I will advocate for collective bargaining agreements that balance fair compensation with enhanced oversight and transparency. This includes ensuring that disciplinary processes are clear and effective and that mechanisms are in place to build public trust. Collaborating with community stakeholders, city officials

**In July 2024, Monsanto agreed to pay Seattle \$160 million to settle a lawsuit over the contamination of the Duwamish River. What priorities would you pursue for the leadership of the civil division of the city attorney's office?**

The Civil Division is critical to address the full range of policy issues facing the city, elected leaders, and residents, and a critical tool in accountability and justice for workers and marginalized communities.

I understand the need to expand environmental actions through the office, especially in the face of Trump's rollback of environmental justice, climate, clean air, and clean water policies.

In addition, we must leverage the skills of our attorneys to address worker rights, fighting wage theft, worker misclassification, and abuse of employment laws. Housing rights were discussed earlier in this questionnaire, and are another venue in which the CAO can be a legal ally and bully pulpit for housing rights and access.

We need a City Attorney willing to fight for our city, no matter the opponent, and with the experience to serve with compassion and leadership.

**The city attorney's office expanded access to more beds at the downtown county jail and through the for-profit SCORE facility in Des Moines to accommodate more low level offenders. Would you advocate for continued expansion in the number of beds?**

I oppose the use of for-profit and private prisons, and SCORE in particular has a concerning track record. People have died there, and their medical and sanitary conditions are unacceptable. As City Attorney, I would focus on alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders, and negotiate with King County for appropriate and needed access to their carceral facilities. Expanding diversion programs and restorative justice initiatives can provide more effective solutions to many of the misdemeanor criminal behaviors that come before the CAO. Collaborating with community organizations, healthcare providers, and law enforcement to create comprehensive support systems is crucial. These approaches aim to address the underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior, such as mental health challenges and substance abuse, leading to better outcomes for individuals and the community.

**Certification**

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