

King County Democrats 2025 Endorsement Questionnaire

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What type of position are you running for?
School District
Which position are you running for?
Seattle SD Director 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 are your views on charter schools and voucher systems?

I do not support increasing funding for charter schools. Public schools are under attack across our nation with on-going efforts like voucher programs and increased investments in charter schools. The best way to improve education is by funding it, and charter schools do not increase overall funding, just rearrange it. While some students may benefit from having additional options, well-funded public schools should be the base of the educational system. We have a duty to ensure that everyone has access to a world class education. Charter schools introduce issues around equitable access, quality of instruction, and teacher compensation. Unlike public schools, private and charter schools can deny admissions or price families out. Another aspect of charter schools that is a growing problem is their educator staff is non-unionized, meaning not only can they exclude students and families, but they also have undue control over teacher pay. Charter schools are not the solution to building up our educational system – they are a diversion.

What are your top three priorities for allocating limited dollars in your district?

1. Teacher salaries and support: We must support good faith negotiations with the teachers union. I stand in the strongest solidarity with our teachers, as they are the backbone of our education system. Coming from a family of educators, I understand the important role they play in our school system and student success. For students to achieve all they are capable of, we must develop educators, from para-professionals to certified staff.
2. Building maintenance: School buildings set the stage for a thriving learning environment. We must invest in stewardship of resources we have before we build new schools, especially as the district is facing a budget crisis. Families and educators report issues with potable water, infestations, leaky roofs, and broken heaters, which must be prioritized above overspending on new buildings and “innovations”.
3. Enrichment activities: All students deserve access to quality enrichment experiences, which many of us benefited from but are inaccessible to too many students. We should not provide “pay-to-play” enrichment activities for the few families that can afford them, but must give all students access to a baseline of options and activities.

What are the major barriers to effective learning in the classroom in your district?

Safe and Supportive learning environments:

Students facing healthcare, housing, food insecurity are those furthest away from being able to access our current education system. We must ensure that the baseline for our education system is met so students can feel safe and supported when they arrive at our schools. With attacks on our immigrant families, our LGBTQ community, and diversity initiatives, our education system is under threat from the federal government. Educators need support that includes teacher aids, special education supports, mental health counselors, and a supportive administration that works with families to collaboratively and transparently facilitate the village that it takes for children to succeed.

Integrated of technology:

We must find ways to integrate new technology to support learning without students overly depending on tools like AI. Students must be prepared to interact with and utilize these tools in the real world, so we cannot act like they don't exist or ban them. This also means providing increased workforce development for our educators as they face a whole new generation of learners with access to new tools. Educators, from paras, to IAs, to

What is the role of religion in public schools?

Fundamentally, religion has no role in public school, as enshrined by the ‘free exercise’ clause of the first amendment

Reasonable accommodations for students (such as dietary restrictions or access to private time/space to pray) are appropriate. Discussion and learning about different religions is healthy, such as in a Comparative Religions course.

Statements of belief or public prayer by school officials are inappropriate. Personal beliefs or opinions of teachers or other school authorities may be shared, but must be done with careful consideration of whether they will be taken as personal beliefs, or whether students may feel pressured or unduly swayed by the person's position of authority.

What are the primary issues with school capacity in your district and how would you like to see them addressed?

Our school district is currently under-enrolled for the space we have. Personally, I value the neighborhood school system in Seattle because I believe in the benefits of letting children walk to school. Proximity to learning environments is fundamental to student success, and we also must balance our budget equitably for districts across the city. As a data scientist, I think it would be important to have a strong research and data backed analysis of how consolidation would not only impact our budget, but also the accessibility of our schools. As a school board director, I would guide the district to have clear, accessible, and transparent analyses of proposed solutions to the enrollment issue facing our schools, which would mean assessing the data on K-8 schools, population growth, and enrollment projections. We must build and adopt our school system with interdepartmental collaboration, so that means looking at housing development while also balancing the current needs of the families already in our schools.

Describe a time—professionally or personally—when you’ve led through conflict or controversy. How did you reach a conclusion and how did it advance the issue being addressed?

My professional experiences have led me a firm belief in giving patience and space to others, given how often I found myself accepting and respecting co-workers who were initially difficult to get along with. I approach conflict by listening and clarifying needs and goals.

Certification

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