

# King County Democrats Endorsement Questionnaire

Submitted by Melissa Chaudhry, Candidate for U.S. Congress, Washington's 9th District  
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Yes, I am a Democrat.

Yes, I affirm that the answers in this document are true and correct.

## **1) Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity).**

I am a community-rooted Democrat, systems thinker, and longtime public-interest practitioner whose work has focused on mending broken systems and closing critical gaps in people's lives. My background spans affordable housing, homelessness and hygiene access, cooperative development, sustainable agriculture and farming, resilient construction, retail, administrative work, and USPS. I have also pursued graduate-level study in Systems Science and worked on complex policy and global affairs writing.

My civic life has always centered dignity, safety, and opportunity: serving immigrant families, working-class communities, veterans, and people navigating housing and economic precarity. I helped secure \$3.2 million in federal dollars for an ecologically sustainable affordable homeownership project in King County, and I have worked internationally on climate adaptation, poverty alleviation, and food-system resilience.

I come from a labor-minded family and joined a union in every workplace where I had the opportunity. Politically, I am a grassroots Democrat. My campaign is people-powered, community-accountable, and grounded in constitutional government, equal protection, and practical care.

## **2) Why are you running for this position and what differentiates you as a candidate?**

I am running because this district needs more than careful rhetoric. It needs a proven fighter.

I do not speak about weaponized government as a theory. When my disabled veteran husband was wrongly detained by the federal government, I fought back across four federal courts and jurisdictions, without big law firms or even a single lawyer, and we won!! The government attorney arguing to keep him detained apologized in open court for “the mistake.” I know what it means when government turns its power against the people. I also know what it takes to stand up to it — and win.

That differentiates me. In a moment when many candidates can denounce authoritarianism, I have actually confronted it under enormous pressure. I am a mother of two young children, the daughter and wife of disabled American military veterans, and a community-rooted Democrat shaped by lived experience in housing, immigration, healthcare, labor, and public systems. I cannot be bought, cannot be bullied, and will not bend.

## **3) If Democrats are successful in retaking the House in November, what actions will you support to retake the power and authority inherent in Congress being a coequal branch of government?**

Congress must act like a coequal branch again: investigate, legislate, and enforce consequences. I support aggressive oversight of executive abuses through subpoenas, hearings, contempt powers, appropriations guardrails, and protection for inspectors general, whistleblowers, and career civil servants.

I will support articles of impeachment against Donald Trump, and if none are active, I will introduce them. He engaged in insurrection against the United States, and in my view the 14th Amendment should have barred him from returning to office. I will not participate in cowardice or complicity for political convenience.

Congress must also pursue accountability for crimes against children documented in the Epstein files, wherever the evidence leads. On war powers, Congress must reclaim its constitutional role: no blank checks, no endless wars, no unilateral escalation without congressional approval.

Congress must investigate and end the weaponization of DHS, ICE, and DOJ against vulnerable communities, journalists, and political opponents. No president, agency head, or political appointee is above the law.

Courage changes the odds. Ask me how I know.

#### **4) The Trump administration often ignores due process and long-standing civil rights norms. What immigration policy and goals will you advocate for?**

Due process is not a technicality. It is the architecture of a free society. Belonging is a human fact, and the paperwork should reflect it.

I will fight for a lawful, humane immigration system that protects borders without terrorizing communities or shredding the Constitution: mandatory hearings before prolonged detention, access to counsel, meaningful judicial review, family unity, humane asylum processing, and real accountability for civil-rights violations.

I support a path to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and long-settled undocumented people; labor protections for immigrant workers; and faster licensing for internationally trained professionals, including healthcare workers. I oppose for-profit detention, arbitrary detention, family separation, and surveillance systems that profit from immigrant vulnerability.

ICE has operated with far too much impunity as a post-9/11 creation weaponized against vulnerable people. That must end. What we built, we can unbuild and rebuild better: with dignity, due process, shared humanity, and the rule of law.

My family - including our little kids - has lived the horror of separation. No one should be subjected to it.

#### **5) Republicans are taking extraordinary action to limit voting. In addition to passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, what actions will you take to protect and restore the integrity of individual voting rights?**

Voting rights must be expanded, protected, and made durable.

In addition to the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, I support the Freedom to Vote Act, automatic and same-day voter registration, expanded early voting, universal access to vote by mail, automatic restoration of voting rights, and federal standards to prevent partisan purges and election subversion. I also support ending partisan gerrymandering and strengthening protections for election workers from intimidation and violence.

We must also confront the role of money in distorting democracy. Citizens United broke our country, and we need to repair it. I support robust campaign-finance reform, dark-money transparency, and stronger FEC enforcement so the people can trust that elected officials answer to voters, not donors - to We the People, not our modern-day self-serving financial aristocracy.

The right to vote is how the people retain peaceful power in a democracy. A free society does not require fear to function, and no one should lose access to the ballot because they are poor, working long hours, disabled, elderly, newly moved, changed their name when they married, or targeted by partisan gamesmanship.

## **6) Under the current administration, there is economic uncertainty and many citizens are struggling to get ahead. What will you do to support a tax structure that grows both the economy and the middle class?**

We need a tax code that rewards work, productive investment, and family stability — not extraction, monopoly, and speculative wealth-hoarding.

I support lowering costs for working families and small businesses by requiring the ultra-wealthy and large corporations to pay what they owe. That includes restoring more progressive top marginal tax rates, closing the carried-interest loophole, cracking down on offshore tax abuse, and ending special treatment that lets hedge funds and private equity extract wealth from our housing, healthcare, and local economies.

I would pair tax fairness with pro-growth investment: housing production, childcare, apprenticeships, community colleges, clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and small-business development. That is how you grow the real economy from the middle out.

I also support a tax code that favors long-term productive enterprise over stock buybacks and financial engineering. The point of the economy is not to make spreadsheets look healthy while families drown. The point is to create dignified lives, broad opportunity, and shared prosperity.

## **7) Access to healthcare—from Medicaid to reproductive treatments to veteran's benefits—is being curtailed or eliminated. What will you do to ensure Washington residents have access to quality care, and to protect that access from future assaults?**

Healthcare is a human necessity, and government has a duty to protect it. I will oppose cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, VA care, and reproductive healthcare, and support federal action that expands coverage, lowers drug prices, and protects bodily autonomy.

But access is not just an insurance card; it is actual care capacity. We are losing rural access, and when faith-based systems dominate a region, people can face care restrictions driven by ideology rather than medical evidence. We need workforce training, stronger community clinics, maternal care, faster licensing for qualified internationally trained providers, and federal incentives to expand capacity. The waiting rooms are full.

My father, a Navy doctor, taught me that if the military can provide high-quality care to millions, the country can too; it is a matter of political will. No provider should have to ask whether a patient can pay before treating them - and no person should have to choose between they or their loved ones suffering illness and injury without care, or going bankrupt.. We need humane, affordable care that cuts waste, middlemen, and profiteering, and protects quality care in law.

## **8) If Democrats are successful in retaking the House, what are your top three policy priorities for the first 100 days?**

1st: restore constitutional guardrails and democratic accountability. That means aggressive oversight of executive abuses, voting-rights protection, anti-corruption legislation, and ending the weaponization of government against We the People. I will use my Congressional office to document crimes, support victims, surface evidence, strengthen state-level accountability, and push state attorneys general to pursue crimes committed by politicians in office. Federal pardons do not erase state crimes. Only serious accountability can restore public trust in our institutions and rebuild the rule of law.

2nd: lower the cost of living by investing in the real foundations of stability: housing, healthcare, childcare and eldercare, apprenticeships, and wages that keep up with life: the baseline of dignity, safety, and opportunity.

3rd: protect people's dignity and prosperity: defend due process, curb private-equity abuse in housing and healthcare, protect labor rights, and redirect public resources away from profiteering and endless war toward communities, veterans, and infrastructure.

My test for my first 100 days: does this make people safer, freer, and more able to build a decent life?

## **9) Artificial Intelligence (AI) is beginning to transform how we work and access information in our country. What**

## **federal policies would you support to govern AI in the United States?**

AI should serve the public good, not become a tool for surveillance, manipulation, extraction, war, or concentrated private power. I support strong federal rules for transparency, auditability, and accountability in high-impact AI, with clear limits on biometric surveillance, predictive policing, algorithmic discrimination, and systems that undermine due process, erode healthcare access, distort criminal enforcement, or target vulnerable people.

I support federal standards and incentives to reduce the water, power, and infrastructure burden of data centers and speed the adoption of cleaner, more efficient technology. The current trajectory is neither ecologically responsible nor politically sustainable.

But ceding AI to oligarchs is a mistake. We should use it to strengthen education, medicine, & public service while protecting mental health, independent thought, & democratic self-government.

Workers deserve dignity, agency, and a future. I support reskilling, trade and technical training, cooperative business models, and protection for skilled physical work and care work that must not be sacrificed to corporate automation. AI must strengthen human flourishing, not hollow it out.