

Candidate name

Rob Foxcurran

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Consultant name

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Jurisdiction of office sought

County

Specific office

Assessor

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

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

I am a fifth-generation Seattleite, a Seattle Public Schools and University of Washington graduate, and a Beacon Hill resident raising my family in the community I am asking to serve.

Professionally, I bring over a decade of high-level technical experience as a certified general real estate appraiser. I currently serve as the City of Seattle's Senior Appraiser, where I navigate the most complex valuation issues in our region. Crucially, for the past three years, I served as a Hearing Examiner on the King County Board of Appeals and Equalization. This role gave me a front-row seat to the systemic inequities in our tax system: I watched corporate landowners arrive with teams of high-priced consultants to win tax breaks, while everyday homeowners and small business owners arrived unrepresented, struggling to understand a "stacked deck" that ultimately shifts the tax burden onto them.

I am a proud member and shop steward with PROTEC17. My labor background shapes my management philosophy: I believe in collective bargaining, workplace fairness, and a well-supported public workforce as the foundation of accurate, transparent government.

What motivated you to run for this position and how would you evaluate your success?

I am running because the Assessor's Office should be a shield for working families, not a source of anxiety. I watched members of my own family get priced out of the neighborhood they called home for decades, a story that has become far too common. My motivation is to "unstack the deck" for the people who need help most. I will evaluate my success by three key benchmarks:

Closing the Fairness Gap: Correcting the imbalance where residential homeowners shoulder a majority share of the tax burden. Currently, Seattle ranks poorly in commercial property tax fairness; I will judge my success by how effectively we ensure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share.

Reducing Displacement: A measurable increase in the utilization of senior, veteran, and low-income exemptions. Success means no one loses their home because they didn't know a relief program existed.

Modernization of Access: Implementing a flexible monthly payment system so that a twice-yearly "tax shock" no longer threatens the financial stability of King County families.

What are the top three issues that you will address if elected?

Equity through Accuracy: We must ensure large commercial interests are assessed as rigorously as residential properties. When corporations successfully appeal their way out of their obligations, the bill doesn't disappear—it gets sent to regular homeowners and renters. I will bring the technical expertise to defend fair, high-stakes commercial assessments.

Radical Transparency: The Assessor's Office shouldn't be a "black box." I will replace jargon with plain-language guides and create digital tools that allow every resident to see exactly how their value was determined and how it compares to their neighbors.

Aggressive Policy Advocacy: I will use the "bully pulpit" of this office to advocate for state-level reforms, specifically a meaningful homestead exemption and "circuit breaker" programs that cap property taxes based on household income.

Home ownership is elusive for many King County residents. How would you advance economic equity through the creation of generational wealth from home ownership?

Homeownership is one of the primary ways families build stability and generational wealth. In King County, that opportunity feels increasingly out of reach for young families, BIPOC communities, and first-time buyers.

The Assessor does not control housing supply or interest rates, but the office plays an important role in ensuring the property tax system does not become another barrier to stability. Accurate, consistent assessments ensure homeowners are not overtaxed relative to market conditions. Fair assessments are foundational to economic equity.

I would strengthen and modernize exemption programs that protect seniors, veterans, and low-income homeowners from being priced out. At the state level, I support a homestead exemption and expanded circuit breaker programs tied to income, tools that help families build equity without facing sudden tax shocks as values rise.

Finally, advancing generational wealth requires trust in public systems. A transparent, understandable property tax process allows families to plan, invest, and stay rooted in their communities. My goal is an Assessor's Office that supports housing stability rather than contributing to displacement.

Affordable housing remains a growing concern in King County. How will you support the expansion of affordable housing?

Affordable housing is one of the most urgent challenges facing King County, and the Assessor's Office has a meaningful role to play.

First, I would ensure assessments of multifamily and affordable housing properties are accurate and grounded in real operating conditions. Predictability and fairness in valuation matter for nonprofit housing providers, small landlords, and developers trying to make projects work in a high-cost region.

Second, I support strengthening exemption programs that reduce tax burdens for qualifying affordable housing developments. These programs are important tools for preserving long-term affordability and preventing displacement.

Third, the Assessor's Office can contribute high-quality data and analysis to broader housing policy conversations. Transparent reporting on land values, development patterns, and assessment trends helps policymakers make better decisions about where and how to expand housing supply.

Expanding affordable housing requires coordinated action across many levels of government. I will ensure the property tax system supports stability and fairness rather than creating unintended barriers to the housing development.

The cost of living in King County continues to escalate to record levels. How will you support property tax reform to help everyday homeowners, renters and small businesses?

The rising cost of living is putting real pressure on homeowners, renters, and small businesses. Property taxes are not the only driver, but they must be structured to promote fairness and reduce displacement.

My first responsibility is ensuring assessments are accurate and consistent so no one is overtaxed relative to the market. When large property owners aggressively challenge valuations, the burden shifts onto working families and small businesses. Strong, defensible assessments are a core equity issue.

Beyond administration, I believe the Assessor should actively support progressive reform at the state level. I support expanding exemption programs, strengthening circuit breaker protections so taxes do not outpace household income, and advancing a homestead exemption for primary residences. Washington remains one of the most regressive tax systems in the country, and property tax policy must be part of rebalancing that.

Renters matter too. They pay property taxes indirectly through rent, and reform efforts must account for how tax policy impacts rental housing costs.

My goal is a property tax system that is predictable, transparent, and progressive.

King County uses a standard property tax system that assesses land value and property improvements together. Why do you believe this is or is not the best model for King County?

King County currently assesses land and improvements together under a unified property tax system. That model aligns with long-established market norms and provides administrative stability and predictability in a system that affects more than 700,000 parcels.

At the same time, there is credible research supporting a greater emphasis on land value as a long-term reform goal. A land value tax can encourage more efficient land use, support housing production, and reduce speculation, all of which are relevant in a region facing both affordability and climate challenges. I believe those ideas deserve serious study and thoughtful public discussion.

Any significant structural reform must be implemented carefully to avoid unintended impacts on homeowners, renters, and small businesses. As Assessor, my responsibility would be to administer the law fairly and professionally while contributing data and technical expertise to conversations about how our property tax system can evolve in a more equitable and forward-looking direction.

The priority should always be a system that is transparent, progressive, and capable of supporting both housing stability and essential public services.

Listening to consumer perceptions and concerns about this office can inform challenges that need to be addressed. How will you stay attuned to resident concerns if elected?

My time as a Hearing Examiner taught me that many residents feel intimidated by the property tax system. Their frustration is often not just about the number on a notice, but about feeling unheard by a complex process. If elected, I would prioritize clear communication and accessibility. That means improving online valuation explanations, expanding plain-language guides, strengthening customer service, and partnering with municipalities for better local outreach. I believe in proactive engagement. The office should work with community groups and housing advocates to understand where the system creates friction, and reduce the legwork required to access exemptions people already qualify for. Government should work for people. People should not have to fight to make it work for them. The appeals process can take more than a year. My goal is to identify efficiencies so staff can address concerns before they escalate into formal appeals. Modernizing data systems and transparent reporting helps residents understand how assessments are determined. When people can see how the system works, trust increases. My goal is an office that is accurate, professional, and genuinely accessible.

Attestation

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