

King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate name

Garmon Newsom II

Candidate name pronunciation

Gar-mon

Candidate pronouns

He/him

PDC Filer_name

Jason Bennett

Campaign phone

206-745-2010

Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form

Yes

Campaign email

Info@NewsomforJudge.com

Campaign website

<https://newsomforjudge.com/>

Campaign manager name

Raven Tyler

Campaign manager email

Raven@NWPConsulting.com

Campaign manager phone

253-354-3456

Consultant name

Raven Tyler

Consultant email

Raven@NWPConsulting.com

Jurisdiction of office sought

Municipal Court

Specific office

Seattle Municipal Court, Judge Pos. 5

Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?

Yes

Will you share a link to your code of conduct?

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gMngSigghP4MDU0rQWbP4Qfl_njLPXvHCVKXMHb-Qjs/edit?pli=1&tab=t.0

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

I graduated from Morehouse College, a Historically Black College with a longstanding tradition of developing principled leaders, and The George Washington University Law School. Over 34 years, I have served as a felony and misdemeanor prosecutor, civil defense and municipal attorney, and City Attorney, as well as serving as a pro tempore judge.

My career has afforded me an understanding of the justice system from multiple vantage points—prosecution, civil defense, municipal representation, and the judiciary. Complementing work, I have remained actively engaged in my community. I have volunteered as a coach for athletic teams and mock trial programs, served as a mentor to students, provided meals during Thanksgiving holidays and at homeless encampments, and hosted high school students interested in pursuing legal careers in my office. I also served on the King County Ethics Board.

I have previously been a union member. My wife and I are also regular contributors to charitable organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, educational institutions, and the Washington Innocence Project.

Please tell us about your proudest accomplishment either through your civic, public and/or community involvement?

Rather than a single defining moment, I take the greatest pride in sustained engagement with young people and the opportunity to contribute to their growth and development. Through mentoring, coaching, and hosting student interns at my office, I have had the privilege of supporting individuals as they explore their potential and build confidence.

For example, one high school student who participated in a legal internship program ultimately changed their academic trajectory to pursue pre-law studies. In other instances, students—sometimes facing physical or developmental challenges—have demonstrated remarkable growth, often exceeding their own expectations. Observing that progress, and knowing that I played a small role in it, has been among the most meaningful and rewarding aspects of my community involvement.

What injustices have you perceived, either within or outside the courtroom, and what was your response to those events?

As an African-American attorney, I have experienced hostile and demeaning conduct in the courtroom—from judges and opposing counsel—sometimes in full view of others who said nothing. Those moments are not abstract concepts; they are real, and they shape how people experience our justice system.

Too often, people in that position are silent because speaking up carries professional risk, and the burden shifts to the person subjected to the conduct. I made the decision, at times, not to escalate those incidents—but I did not ignore what they represent.

My decision to seek this bench is a direct response to those experiences. I know what it feels like to be treated unfairly without cause. As a judge, I will not tolerate disrespect, bias, or intimidation in my courtroom—toward anyone. Every person who walks into my courtroom will be treated with dignity, and every attorney will be held to the same standard of professionalism. That is not aspirational—it is a baseline expectation.

What will you do to restore faith in the integrity of the justice system?

Trust in the justice system is earned in the courtroom, one decision at a time. People must know that the process is fair, that the rules apply equally, and that the outcome is grounded in law—not bias, inconsistency, or unpredictability.

As a judge, I will insist on fairness in every case. That means giving each party a full and meaningful opportunity to be heard, applying the law consistently, and ensuring that similar cases are treated similarly. Sentencing must make sense—grounded in the facts, the law, and the individual circumstances—not guesswork or disparity.

Respect matters just as much as rulings. People may not always agree with a decision, but they should always understand it and feel they were treated fairly. I will communicate clearly, rule decisively, and conduct proceedings in a way that builds confidence—not confusion.

Faith in the system doesn't come from words—it comes from what judges do. I intend to earn that trust.

In cases involving “malicious harassment” or hate crimes, what are some of the issues in balancing free speech rights against the need to control offensive activity?

Judges must be disciplined in how they speak about issues that may come before the court, but the core principles are clear.

Our Constitution protects free speech—including speech that is offensive or unpopular. That protection is fundamental. At the same time, the law draws a firm line when conduct becomes criminal—when it crosses into threats, harassment, or intimidation based on bias.

The role of a judge is to enforce that line faithfully and carefully. Laws must be applied in a way that protects constitutional rights while also holding individuals accountable when their conduct violates the law. That requires precision, restraint, and a clear understanding of the difference between protected expression and unlawful behavior.

I will apply the law as written—firmly, fairly, and with compassion when appropriate.

New technologies like AI and advances in practice are continually changing. How would you approach cases involving novel legal issues or emerging technologies?

The law does not stand still, and neither can judges. New technologies will continue to challenge existing legal frameworks, and courts must be prepared to address them with both caution and clarity.

My approach is straightforward: understand the technology, apply established legal standards, and require proof of reliability. Parties who rely on emerging technologies must demonstrate that those tools meet the standards required by law – the Frye test.

Artificial intelligence, for example, is powerful—but it is not infallible. It can produce errors, incomplete analysis, or unsupported conclusions. That means it must be scrutinized, tested, and verified—just like any other evidence presented in court.

Innovation cannot come at the expense of reliability or fairness. I will ensure that new technologies are evaluated carefully and that decisions remain grounded in sound legal principles.

A 2021 Gender Justice Study of Washington Courts found evidence of many gender inequities. How would you support a criminal justice system that rectifies these historical

and systemic inequities?

The findings of the Gender Justice Study confirm what many have experienced: barriers in the justice system are real, and they disproportionately affect people based on gender, race, and economic status.

Addressing those inequities requires action—not just acknowledgment. I support practical, immediate steps that improve access to justice: reducing or waiving financial barriers where appropriate, expanding remote access to court proceedings, improving juror participation, and addressing policies that unnecessarily penalize people for failures to appear.

Courts should work for the public—not create obstacles that prevent people from being heard. That includes exploring solutions like childcare access and supporting mentorship and outreach efforts that help prevent inequities from compounding over time.

As a judge, I will be committed to a system that is accessible, fair, and accountable. Equal justice cannot be an abstract principle—it must be visible in how the court operates every day.

Attestation

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

Created on May 6th, 2026.