

Candidate name(Required): **Judge Jaime Hawk**

Candidate name pronunciation: **Jay-mee Hawk**

Candidate pronouns: **she/her**

PDC Filer\_name(Required): Jaime Michelle Hawk

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Link to candidate headshot www.judgehawk.com

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Are you a Democrat? (Y/N)

As an elected judicial officer, pursuant to Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 4.1(a)(5), I may not publicly identify myself as a member or a candidate of a political organization.

Have you ever been a member of another political party? (Y/**N**)

Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? (**Y**/N)

**You have 1200 characters, about 200 words, to answer each question.**

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

I was raised by a single mom and was the first in my immediate family to attend college. After attending Gonzaga on scholarships, I began my legal career. I first served as an attorney fellow with the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee staff for Sen. Edward (Ted) Kennedy, working on immigration issues, the Violence Against Women Act, and Supreme Court nominations. There I worked with then–Prof. Elizabeth Warren on the bankruptcy bill, deepening my understanding of economic justice.

I began legal practice as a juvenile public defender in central WA, leading a reform project. Later I served 7 years as a federal public defender, defending individuals and protecting their constitutional rights, including work defending undocumented immigrants facing imprisonment and deportation by DOJ attorneys and ICE agents.

I then worked as a civil rights attorney, including as a Legal Strategy Director at the ACLU of WA, advancing statewide criminal justice reform. I became the first attorney at the ACLU of WA to become a judge in our state, when Gov. Inslee appointed me to the King County Superior Court, where I currently serve. I have the sole endorsement of Gov. Ferguson for Supreme Court, Pos. 3.

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

One of my proudest accomplishments is my work advancing juvenile justice reform early in my career. As a public defender in Grant County, I helped implement a reform project following a breakdown in the county's public defense system. At the time, children — including many youth of color — were routinely overcharged and pleaded guilty without a trial or transferred into adult court with little advocacy.

Through this work, I challenged those practices by advocating for individualized representation, presenting mitigating evidence, and ensuring young people received fair hearings. In one case, I successfully prevented a 15-year-old from being transferred to adult court, allowing access to rehabilitation instead of adult punishment. Beyond individual cases, the project led to broader system improvements and outcomes.

This experience shaped my understanding of how justice can vary based on geography and access to counsel. It also informed my later work as a federal public defender, when I defended and gave voice to many immigrant clients who had been detained by ICE agents, removed from their families, and faced DOJ prosecution. It continues to inform my work today as a judge.

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

Throughout my career, I have seen injustices shaped by race, poverty, gender, and geography. As a public defender, I represented youth and adults whose outcomes often depended on access to resources or where they were charged. I saw children pushed into adult court, people detained pretrial due to inability to pay bail, and individuals with addiction or mental health needs lacking support. I saw how laws and limited access to counsel could produce unjust outcomes. These experiences reinforced my commitment to fairness and equal treatment.

In response, I have led a criminal justice reforms, challenged unlawful practices, and advanced statewide reforms at the ACLU of Washington focused on pretrial fairness, jury bias, and access to counsel. As a judge, I advance court reforms and improvements through my work on the Washington Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission. I also ensure all who appear in my courtroom are treated with dignity and respect, confront bias, and apply the law fairly and transparently.

**What will you do to restore faith in the integrity of the justice system?***(Required)*

Restoring faith requires transparency, fairness, and consistent treatment for all who come before the court. In my legal career, especially as a public defender, I have seen how trust is eroded when outcomes appear unequal — whether due to race, gender, wealth, geography, or access to counsel.

As a current judge, I work to build trust every day by ensuring that all litigants are heard, treated with dignity, and understand the process and outcomes in their cases. Clear, accessible communication — both in the courtroom and in written decisions — is essential to public confidence.

I have also worked beyond the courtroom to improve systemic integrity. Through my leadership with the ACLU of Washington and collaboration with judicial committees, I have advanced reforms addressing pretrial inequities, jury bias, and access to counsel.

If elected to the Supreme Court, I will continue this work by promoting clarity in decisions, supporting evidence-based reforms, and engaging with communities across Washington. A justice system that is fair, transparent, and accountable is essential to maintaining public 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?***(Required)*

People must be safe and free from violence. Cases involving malicious harassment, also known as a hate crime, is an important issue and must be treated with careful constitutional and statutory analysis. The historical foundation of the malicious harassment law in Washington is rooted in the idea that the intent to commit a hate crime, while also causing criminal harm in the process, should be identified as a more separate, more serious offense than if the offense was

committed without that hateful malicious intent. Our Supreme Court has previously found our Washington malicious harassment statute to be constitutional. These prior considerations by the Court have balanced free speech rights against the need to control offensive activity.

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

New technologies like AI are evolving rapidly, and clear judicial guidance is still developing. These tools are increasingly used by pro se litigants, making AI's impact on the justice system current and timely. As a justice, I would support thoughtful, court-led efforts to address these challenges.

If elected, I would be one of the more recent trial judges to join the Supreme Court and one of the younger justices on the Supreme Court. I bring firsthand experience with how AI is already shaping courtroom practice by the parties. That perspective is important.

I would remain grounded in existing legal frameworks while encouraging careful, informed discussion about how emerging technologies affect trial courts. My approach would balance adaptability with restraint — ensuring decisions are practical, well-reasoned, and mindful of the real-world impact of AI on the justice system.

**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?** *(Required)*

This election for Position 3 may likely determine whether women retain a majority on the Washington Supreme Court, making it especially consequential. Maintaining a majority female court strengthens public trust and ensures the law reflects lived realities. Women's experiences inform how courts understand real-world impacts.

Throughout my career, I have worked to address the inequities identified in the 2021 Gender Justice Study. Before law school, I was a domestic violence advocate. As a federal public defender, I represented women whose involvement in the legal system was often tied to trauma, addiction, poverty, and coercion. These experiences reinforced the need for trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health services, and alternatives to incarceration.

At the ACLU of Washington, I advanced reforms to reduce disparities in pretrial detention and sentencing — areas where women, especially women of color, face distinct harms. I have also supported women's leadership through Washington Women Lawyers and the Center for Women and Democracy.

As a judge, I work to confront bias, improve access, and promote fair outcomes. As a Justice, I will continue advancing gender equity statewide.