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ago)

to me

Thank you for submitting your candidate questionnaire to the King County Democrats for consideration. A copy of your submission is at the bottom of this message for your reference. If you have any questions about this email or the process, please reply to this email or reach out to endorsements-help@kcdems.org. Thank you for participating!
Your submission:

King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate name
Nyjat Rose-Akins
Candidate name pronunciation
Nih-ZHET
Candidate pronouns
She/Her
PDC Filer_name
Elect Nyjat
Campaign phone
253-200-5213
Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form
202-491-7021
Campaign email
info@electnyjatforjudge.com

Campaign website

<https://electnyjatforjudge.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/electnyjat>

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nyjat-rose-akins-83895613/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/electnyjatforjudge>

Link to candidate headshot

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14szvniP7aGS6d405Pq_DH4_Oesoje3N7/view?usp=sharing

Campaign manager name

Heather Merrill

Campaign manager email

info@electnyjatforjudge.com

Campaign manager phone

603-300-8669

Consultant name

Raven Tyler

Consultant email

raven@nwpcconsulting.com

Jurisdiction of office sought

District Court

Specific office

West District Court, Judge Pos.1

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

Yes

Will you share a link to your code of conduct?

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14DAPRDj23WO88PMhqxWEp0fKaFsQaUDh/view?usp=sharing>

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

I am a dedicated public servant, bringing more than sixteen years of experience to my candidacy for King County District Court. I earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Howard University and a Juris Doctor from Seattle University School of Law. I have served as a Judge Pro Tempore in King County District Court and municipal courts since 2019. I also serve as a Pro Tem Commissioner in King County Superior Court, presiding over involuntary treatment matters and ex parte proceedings, including protection orders, adoptions, divorce decrees, and minor settlement agreements.

Previously, I worked as an Assistant Seattle City Attorney and Assistant City Prosecutor, where I handled a wide range of cases, advised government agencies, and collaborated with community stakeholders on issues involving public safety, homeless encampments, and nightlife. I also served as President of the Prosecutors' Union.

My community involvement includes serving on the Board of Columbia Legal Services and as Treasurer of Dynamic Urban Opportunities, which provides scholarships to young Black women pursuing higher education. I am also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

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

My proudest accomplishment is my decision to run for judicial office. It required me to step outside of my comfort zone, navigate an unfamiliar and demanding process, and remain grounded in my belief that our courts can better serve our communities. That experience strengthened my resilience, deepened my commitment to public service, and reaffirmed my belief that accountability and compassion can coexist.

I am also proud of my community involvement, including serving as Treasurer of Dynamic Urban Opportunities Foundation, where I help support scholarships for young Black women pursuing higher education. This work reflects my commitment to expanding opportunity and giving back to the community.

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

Throughout my career, I have observed that some injustice arises from barriers to access rather than intent, particularly for individuals facing mental health challenges, financial instability, or language barriers. These factors can affect a

person's ability to understand proceedings, participate meaningfully, or comply with court obligations.

In response to my observations, I work to ensure that every person who appears before me is heard and treated with dignity. As a Judge Pro Tem, I request interpreters when needed, allow additional time for understanding, and use alternatives such as community service when appropriate. I observe individuals closely and, when accepting a guilty plea, I ask whether this is how they wish to proceed to ensure no one feels coerced. I have paused proceedings when I feel there are competency concerns to ensure fairness.

These experiences reinforce my commitment to individualized justice, applying the law consistently while remaining mindful of the challenges people face and the importance of a fair process.

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

To restore faith in the integrity of the justice system, I will continue to ensure that every person who comes before the court is heard, treated with dignity, and understands the process. My experience has shown that trust is strengthened when individuals feel that the system is fair, accessible, and consistent.

As a judicial officer, I will focus on clear communication, thoughtful decision-making, and applying the law evenly in every case. I will remain attentive to barriers such as language access, financial hardship, and mental health challenges, and address them within the bounds of the law to ensure meaningful participation.

Ultimately, public confidence is built through daily actions—demonstrating fairness, maintaining professionalism, and ensuring that the courtroom is a place where justice is not only done, but understood.

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?

Cases involving malicious harassment or hate crimes require careful line-drawing between protected speech and unlawful conduct. The First Amendment protects even offensive expression, but it does not protect threats or criminal acts. In these cases, the law generally requires proof that a person was targeted, harassed, or assaulted because of a protected characteristic such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability.

Threatening harm or engaging in conduct directed at someone based on those characteristics is not protected speech. The challenge is ensuring that courts carefully apply the legal standards to distinguish protected expression from behavior that crosses into criminal conduct.

As a judicial officer, my role is to apply the law and controlling precedent to the specific facts of each case, ensuring that constitutional protections are respected while also holding individuals accountable when their actions meet the elements of the offense.

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

Cases involving emerging technologies often present questions where the law has not fully caught up with innovation. In many instances, the legal framework lags behind a rapidly evolving world, and it can take time for statutes and precedent to address new developments.

In approaching these cases, I would remain grounded in existing law and precedent while carefully analyzing how those principles apply to new contexts. Courts should be thoughtful and measured, guided by established legal standards, but not disconnected from the realities of technological change. The Court must remain consistent and deliberate in its application of the law while recognizing the evolving landscape.

The role of the court is to interpret and apply the law, not to legislate from the bench. As a judicial officer, I would approach these matters with careful analysis, a willingness to understand the technology at issue, and a commitment to applying the law consistently and transparently.

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 2021 Gender Justice Study highlight that inequities persist within our court system and underscore the importance of remaining vigilant in addressing bias. As a judicial officer, I would work to address these inequities by ensuring that every decision is grounded in fairness, consistency, and an awareness of how bias can affect outcomes.

As a woman, I have seen progress over time, but I have also experienced how expectations can differ. Early in my career, I was told that I needed to wear pantyhose in court, which reflected gender-based norms in the profession. Experiences like that demonstrate how expectations can shape how people are perceived and treated.

Those experiences make me mindful that individuals may come into the courtroom having been treated differently based on gender, race, or socioeconomic status. I am intentional about ensuring that all parties are heard and that the courtroom is a place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

