

King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate name

Jaelynn Scott

Candidate pronouns

She/they

PDC Filer_name

Friends of Jaelynn

Campaign phone

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

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Jurisdiction of office sought

State House

Specific office

LD 37 Representative Pos. 2

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?

Yes

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

I've been a union flight attendant, a family minister, and most recently, the Executive Director of the Lavender Rights Project. I've led efforts to move \$16 million of funds intended to fund jails into investments in permanent supportive housing and social services. As one of the few Black-trans led organizations in Washington, we lead defensive advocacy against right-wing attacks on our trans and Black communities, whether they are incarcerated or simply trying to find a home.

As Executive Director, I've cultivated partnerships that have resulted in community-driven policy, protecting Black, trans, and communities of color. We've fought for trans students, both in Washington state but also nationally, and been in coalitions fighting for gender affirming care and to shut down King County Jail. Being an elected official is knowing how to talk to all walks of life. I've lived many lives and am running with that experience. Now, I am ready to pass laws in Olympia that ensure compassionate public safety, sending care workers with a helping hand instead of officers with handcuffs.

Why are you running for this position and what differentiates you as a candidate?

I'm Jaelynn Scott and I'm running to continue the tradition of firsts in the 37th LD. We, in South Seattle, were the first to send Black lawmakers to Olympia, the first to challenge the status quo of corporate greed. I am running to fight to ensure our most vulnerable communities are provided with sanctuary in this beautiful state.

Sanctuary isn't just rhetoric, it means affordable housing, economic justice, healthcare, childcare, and public safety. We cannot keep that sanctuary and what makes us special if we are priced out of our homes, can't afford to care for ourselves and our children, criminalized, and targeted by federal overreach. While billionaires, lobbyists, and right-wing think tanks try to hijack our democracy, I plan to stand on business with pragmatic solutions.

Now, I'm ready to pass laws in Washington that ensure compassionate public safety offering social workers with hugs and not officers with cuffs, care for our neighbors with childcare for all of our children and state-funded healthcare for all, and taxing those who can afford it to make living in the 37th affordable for all of us.

According to Research Firm ECO Northwest, King County is on track to miss its affordable housing goals for the future. What policies or budget choices will you support to escalate the production of housing in King County, particularly for residents from lower and middle-income levels?

When it comes to housing, we have an affordability crisis and an accessibility crisis. Not only is housing too expensive for working class Washingtonians, both in cities and rurally, we lack key investments to link services in the continuum of housing from shelter to permanent supportive housing. When it comes to lower and middle-income levels, there needs to be more wrap-around services, like behavioral healthcare and substance use treatment. We need to build on community-based partnerships like Lavender Rights Project and Chief Seattle Club did in King County to provide inclusive, accessible, and permanent supportive housing.

We also need to build housing, not jails. Local municipalities like Seattle have passed new progressive revenue to fund a social housing developer – a model worth expanding in King County, not to mention the state. We fork over billions to private banks and developers working

on public projects. Social housing gets us one step closer to more efficient public services and goods.

Recent years have seen historic policy wins for renters in the legislature. What additional policy priorities would you advocate for to address the needs of renters?

Renters have seen some historic policy wins with rent stabilization passing in 2025, but this bill was a compromise and does not reflect the policy wins that renters deserve. Seattle is one of the most expensive cities to rent in, let alone buy a home. The agreed upon rent increase cap of 7-10% is much higher than other leading and comparable states. 5% would be an improvement. We also need to ensure we fund tenant supports, enforcement, and organizing efforts statewide, as we have unequal renter support, especially for rural renters.

In the current federal administration, marginalized communities have been under attack. How will you work to protect democracy and human rights in our state?

The Federal government is playing games with people's lives, their privacy, and their wellbeing. In the longterm, we need to give life support to our democracy right now. What that means is limiting corporate and uber-wealthy individual influence over local politics. In the short term, we need to provide targeted, but sustained support and protections for our immigrant, trans, and communities of color. This starts with regulating our local tools of surveillance that the federal government weaponizes. We've made some steps locally to stop ICE, but many bills failed this session. When it comes to reproductive and gender affirming care, our state needs to step up. This also means ensuring we have clinics and providers who can provide continued mental and behavioral health care. Everyone who uses our healthcare system is suffering as the result of HR.1. Our state's wealthiest individuals and corporations received billions in tax breaks thanks to Trump. We must protect our local democracy finding creative solutions to put politics back in the hands of the people. To protect our democracy, we need statewide democracy vouchers and a progressive revenue source to fund them.

At the same time the risk of climate catastrophes is increasing, federal funding and infrastructure support is being cut to address growing climate needs. What policies do you support to improve Washington's climate resiliency, recognizing that marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted?

I am supportive of the Green New Deal, we can achieve a net-zero greenhouse gas emission state and transition to renewable and zero emission energy. This crisis demands a bold vision that realizes we are out of time to save our earth. We must look to other nations, especially China, leading the way with investments in wind and solar energy. Our nation is continually engulfed in wars under the backdrop of our dependency on fossil fuels, spending billions protecting this dependency instead of investing in the future of our planet. We can and should be leading the way.

I am supportive of WA's own Climate Commitment Act (CCA) that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in WA by 95% by 2050. The CCA is an investment in our workforce, environment, and our children. Communities of color disproportionately bear the burden of our negligence to address this crisis. I am not supportive of WA State legislator's plans to divert \$500m from CCA funding to fill our budget gap. We need to tax the largest corporations in the world in our state who have contributed significantly to the current crisis. I will fight to maintain funding of the CCA.

Across the state, small businesses are the backbone of the state's economy. What policies would you support to improve the environment for small, local businesses?

Our state's tax code has long impacted small business. High sales taxes, B&O taxes, and property taxes mean small business have a harder time making it amongst behemoths like Amazon. In Seattle, Councilmember Rinck passed a recent adjustment to our B&O tax that alleviated taxes for small businesses by increasing the rate for the many mega-corporations in

our City. Washington has a disproportionate amount of mega-corporations because we provide a tax sanctuary. We must instead provide sanctuary for our remaining communities of color, especially our Black communities who are being displaced in the 37th. Property taxes are pricing our neighbors out of their homes, we must combat gentrification with policies that make our cities more affordable for our increasingly displaced communities. We need to revisit our tax policy for small businesses.

For citizens to function in today's world, everyone needs affordable access to technology and the necessary skills and supportive resources to succeed in the digital age. What policies will you support to ensure rural and marginalized communities are not left behind?

Technology changes quickly, so when it comes to policy, we need to think years ahead, not just in response. We need to pursue privacy policies that not only shield states from federal oversight, but also from local infringements on our privacies. We've already seen cases of our FLOCK camera data being requested by Texas in the investigation of a woman pursuing reproductive healthcare. We need to fight to end this flow of our data. This might mean having to shut down the cameras because this technology moves and changes quickly. To support and protect rural communities, this means starting with our schools, but not policing them. It means teaching students responsible technology use and ensuring digital and online access. We also need to ensure that we are not giving big tech access to all of our data. We saw countless bills last session dealing with AI, addictive algorithms, and age verification technology and we need to be careful of the impacts of some of these well intentioned regulations. Age verification protocols have led to major leaks of personal information of minors, not to mention unintended censorship of certain websites.

It is our paramount duty to make ample provisions for the education of all children in our state. What two top education policy priorities will you work to address in the next legislative session?

In Washington state, we've had a perpetual school funding crisis, one exacerbated by a parallel reluctance to fix our broken tax code. When it comes to funding our schools, we need to think about Pre-K to Higher Education, or P-20. In 2025, our legislature cut back on promises made to catch up in funding early education. This year, we took over a billion from a former Microsoft executive to fill in the gap. We need to be building a strong union labor workforce in our public schools and my concern is ensuring that all educators and students, from childcare to higher-ed have what they need to thrive.

My priorities going into the session will strongly align with what our teacher unions are fighting for during the session, as they are lock-step with what our schools need from a labor perspective. What I am hearing is that we need to expand our funding for childcare so we can have childcare for all in Washington state.

Young people are stuck on their phones in schools because they want their education to be relevant, stimulating, and culturally relevant. We must address the phone crisis, and, in turn, we must consider how to make our curriculum more relevant and experiential.

Attestation

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