

King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate name

Rebecca Saldaña

Candidate pronouns

she/her

PDC Filer_name

Rebecca Saldaña for King County

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

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X/Twitter/Bluesky/Threads/etc.

https://x.com//team_saldana

Link to candidate headshot

<https://www.rebeccasaldana.com/about>

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Jurisdiction of office sought

County

Specific office

County Council District 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

Will you share a link to your code of conduct?

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17P2AavpzeV6UxFTRsHK1ri9P3UfuByHz/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107406134899408117754&rtpof=true&sd=true>

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

I am the Senator of the 37th LD and Chair of the Senate Labor Committee. I grew up in a working-class family and have spent my career organizing alongside workers and communities to expand opportunity and strengthen our economy. Before being elected to the Legislature, I worked as a labor organizer with SEIU Local 6 supporting justice for janitors and later as Executive Director of Puget Sound Sage, where I helped build coalitions that advanced equitable development and laid the groundwork for King County's Best Starts for Kids investments.

In the Legislature, I championed policies that expand economic opportunity and affordability. I led the effort to pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, sponsored the Millionaires Tax, and supported passage of Washington's Capital Gains tax – helping fund education, childcare, and essential services. My work focuses on ensuring working families and communities of color have a strong voice in shaping public policy.

I volunteered with the Democrats Latino Vote Project in 2004; formed LPAC that is now housed at LCF/Progresso; prime sponsored the WA Voting Rights Act, and Chair the Senate Democrats Kennedy PAC to address voting rights.

What motivated you to run for this position and what essential skills will you bring to the role?

I'm running for King County Council because working families are being squeezed by the rising cost of housing, childcare, transportation, and basic necessities. Local government must play a stronger role in building an economy where people can thrive, not just get by.

Throughout my career—as a labor organizer, nonprofit leader, and State Senator—I have built broad coalitions to deliver real results. In the Legislature, I've passed policies that strengthen worker protections, expand access to childcare and workforce pathways, and lead efforts to make our tax system fairer — including advancing the Millionaires Tax and helping pass the Capital Gains tax to fund investments in education and working families.

The skills I bring to the County Council include coalition building, legislative leadership, and

deep experience working with labor, community organizations, and local governments to implement complex policies. I understand how to bring stakeholders together, move policy through government, and ensure investments deliver tangible results for residents.

A key partner funded by the county is the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. Since its inception in 2021, the organization has been led by 5 different executives and county leaders continue to express dissatisfaction. What actions would you recommend for the future of this organization?

The RHA was created to better coordinate efforts across jurisdictions and align housing and service investments. That goal remains important, but the leadership turnover signals a need for stronger governance, clearer accountability, and stronger partnerships with cities and service providers.

In the Legislature, I championed major investments in the Housing Trust Fund, tenant protections that have kept thousands of families housed, and policies to allow more housing to be built in every community. I've also supported community-led housing solutions such as land trusts and equitable development initiatives to prevent displacement.

Looking ahead, the Authority should focus on measurable outcomes: reducing unsheltered homelessness and increasing access to stable housing. That requires clear metrics, stronger coordination with cities and providers, and continued investment across the housing continuum—from emergency shelter to permanent supportive and deeply affordable housing.

On the County Council, I will work to expand housing supply, invest in prevention and behavioral health services, and ensure the regional homelessness response system delivers results for our communities.

Traffic safety has surpassed property crime as a top issue in surveys of county residents. What actions do you support to reduce traffic safety concerns?

In the Legislature, I chaired a Mobility Caucus to push deeper safety investments into the historic Move Ahead Washington transportation package. I have supported major investments in safer transportation infrastructure and transit access, recognizing that well-designed complete streets, reliable transit, and safe walking and biking routes improve both safety and affordability for families.

Key priorities include investing in safer road design such as protected crossings, improved lighting, on demand management, traffic calming; expanding safe routes to school and active transportation infrastructure; and improving coordination with cities on high-injury corridors.

Transit safety is also critical. We must ensure bus operators and riders are safe by investing in safety infrastructure, staffing, and behavioral health response where appropriate.

Finally, we should align transportation and land use so more people can safely walk, bike, or take transit. Safer streets improve mobility, reduce injuries, and strengthen our communities.

In 2025, the Council approved a Safe and Stable Communities Sales Tax to protect public safety and preserve essential services amid budget challenges. What other new taxes do you support to offset budget shortfalls for the county if cuts from the federal government continue?

We can't balance budgets on the backs of working families. If federal cuts threaten essential services, King County should continue exploring progressive revenue options that ensure those with the greatest resources contribute their fair share.

Washington's tax system remains one of the most regressive in the country. In the Legislature, I

helped pass the Capital Gains tax, which has already generated billions for education, and I sponsored the Millionaires Tax to ensure the wealthiest households contribute more toward the services our communities rely on. I have also worked to build a new generation of progressive leaders in the Legislature willing to close loopholes and tax the rich.

I've advocated for giving counties and local governments greater flexibility within their existing taxing authority so those tools can be used more strategically to deliver equitable outcomes.

Potential options include progressive revenue tools authorized by the state, closing tax loopholes, and exploring revenue tied to economic growth and large corporate activity. Any new revenue should prioritize core services like public health, housing stability, behavioral health care, and community safety.

As part of its public safety mandate, the council is responsible for preparing for and mitigating risks from natural disasters and other hazards through its 2025-2030 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. What are your top three priorities highlighted within the plan and how would you show support for them?

Three priorities stand out: climate resilience, infrastructure preparedness, and community readiness.

First, climate change is increasing risks from extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke. We must invest in climate resilience—especially for vulnerable communities—and strengthen coordination across public health and emergency management systems.

Second, we must ensure critical infrastructure such as transportation corridors, utilities, and communication systems are resilient during disasters. That includes maintaining roads and bridges, strengthening grid reliability, and integrating climate adaptation into infrastructure planning.

Third, we need strong community preparedness. That means supporting local emergency response networks, culturally competent outreach, and ensuring residents have the information and resources they need to respond during emergencies.

King County should lead by investing in prevention and preparedness so our communities are safer before disasters occur.

Historically, King County has led in services for survivors of gender-based violence including trans survivors. Its new budget allocates nearly \$2 million for sexual assault and domestic violence services. What additional actions would you take to support survivors?

Well, this session I joined Sen. Dhingra and others to ensure full funding for victim services, which meant finding an additional \$24 million to fill the gap left by draconian federal cuts. Supporting survivors requires both strong services and prevention efforts. King County should continue investing in survivor-centered culturally impactful services including shelter, legal assistance, trauma-informed counseling, and culturally competent advocacy programs.

We must also ensure services are accessible for historically underserved communities, including immigrant, LGBTQ+, and rural residents. Partnerships with community organizations are essential to reaching survivors who may face barriers to accessing support.

Prevention is equally important. Investments in youth programs, economic stability, and behavioral health services can reduce risk factors associated with violence.

Finally, we must ensure the justice system treats survivors with dignity and that accountability systems work effectively while prioritizing safety and healing. Survivors should know their community stands with them and that support is available when they need it.

In 2025, Council passed a \$20 billion budget for the 2026-2027 biennium. About 17% of the budget makes up the general fund and is flexible to fund local priorities like public health, public safety and elections. How do your priorities align with the designated general fund spending over the next two years?

My work advancing the Capital Gains tax and Millionaires Tax reflects my belief that stable public services require fair and sustainable revenue systems.

I support protecting investments in public health, particularly behavioral health services and crisis response systems that reduce strain on emergency services. I also support funding programs that prevent homelessness and expand access to stable housing.

Community safety requires investments across the continuum—from prevention and youth programs to effective courts and public defenders. We must also support the workers who deliver these services, from behavioral health professionals to transit operators.

Finally, we must invest in affordability—especially childcare, workforce development, and economic opportunity—so families can remain in King County and our economy can continue to grow.

My approach is to ensure general fund investments deliver measurable results and strengthen the health, safety, and stability of our communities.

Attestation

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

Created on April 5th, 2026.