

# King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire

**Candidate name**

Chipalo Street

**Candidate pronouns**

he/him

**PDC Filer\_name**

Friends of Chipalo Street

**Campaign phone**

206-705-3585

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

206-705-3585

**Campaign email**

[info@electchipalo.com](mailto:info@electchipalo.com)

**Campaign website**

<https://electchipalo.com/>

**Facebook**

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

**LinkedIn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/chipalo/>

**Instagram**

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

**Link to candidate headshot**

<https://electchipalo.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/chipalo-header.jpg>

**Campaign manager name**

To be hired To be hired

**Campaign manager email**

[info@electchipalo.com](mailto:info@electchipalo.com)

**Campaign manager phone**

206-705-3585

**Consultant name**

Dean Nielsen

**Consultant email**

[dnielsen@cerillion4.com](mailto:dnielsen@cerillion4.com)

**Jurisdiction of office sought**

State Senate

**Specific office**

LD 37 Senator

**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?**

No

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

I serve as the State Representative for Washington's 37th Legislative District and as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. I am also Vice Chair of the House Finance Committee and a member of the Environment & Energy Committee. In the Legislature, I have focused on progressive revenue, affordable housing, tenant protections, education funding, climate action, public safety, and workers' rights.

My bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science lead me to a career at Microsoft. My background in technology and education also shaped my community work: I served as a teaching assistant in college and helped develop computer science curriculum for Technology Access Foundation to expand access to STEM opportunities. I was also a pro soccer referee and a member of the Pro Soccer Referee Association (PSRA). As part of that union we fought for many labor improvements.

My civic work has included serving on the board of the Institute for a Democratic Future WA where we train young people to be civically engaged and serving on the United Way of King County Public Policy Impact Committee.

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

Raised in a working-class neighborhood and a proud product of public schools, I understand the challenges families face. Housing is expensive and healthcare is unaffordable. Childcare costs as much as a mortgage and our public schools are underfunded.

With a fascist as the president, the state legislature is more important than ever. I'm the only candidate who has turned progressive values into policy and investment. I earned positions in Democratic leadership and on tax and budget committees to champion the millionaires tax, which funds education, expands healthcare access, and cuts taxes for working families. I battled the landlord lobby to pass tenant protections like rent stabilization and reformed zoning laws to increase home building.

Working alongside community, I secured \$131 million to invest in the 37th district and \$300,000 to study reparations for descendants of slaves. I fought back when Trump was reelected, restoring the abortion funding he eliminated, maintaining food assistance for immigrants, banning ICE from wearing masks, and stopping FLOCK camera surveillance in our communities.

I have unmatched endorsements from labor, environmental, and community.

**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?**

King County's housing shortage is ultimately a supply and affordability crisis. I will support major state investments in the Housing Trust Fund, permanent supportive housing, workforce housing, and social housing.

I also support policies that expand where housing can be built and reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers. That includes middle housing, ADUs, transit-oriented development, lot splitting, converting underused commercial land and buildings to housing, parking reform, faster permitting, objective design standards, and reducing duplicative SEPA review. I sponsored HB 2480 to allow residential housing on commercially zoned land because we need to open more land for homes near jobs, schools, services, and transit.

For lower- and middle-income residents, supply alone is not enough. We need deeply affordable housing, rental assistance, vouchers, tenant protections, anti-displacement strategies, and progressive revenue so we can fund housing without shifting costs onto working families. My focus is to build more homes, keep people housed, and provide tenants protections so they can not be taken advantage of.

**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?**

I was proud to be a champion for rent stabilization because renters need predictability and protection from extreme rent hikes that can force families out of their homes and communities. But rent stabilization is only one part of a broader renter protection agenda.

Going forward, I would support stronger eviction prevention, expanded rental assistance, legal support for tenants facing eviction, protections against excessive move-in fees and junk fees, stronger enforcement against landlords who violate tenant rights.

At the same time, we need to keep building more homes, especially deeply affordable and workforce housing, because renters need both immediate protections and more choices in the market. My priority is to keep people housed, reduce instability, and ensure renters can live with dignity in the communities they call home.

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

I will work to ensure Washington remains a place where democracy, civil rights, and human dignity are protected to push back on the policies our fascist president is trying to push on the nation. That means defending voting rights, protecting access to reproductive and gender-affirming care, safeguarding immigrant and refugee communities, standing with LGBTQIA+ Washingtonians, and ensuring state agencies do not become tools of federal intimidation or discrimination.

I have already voted for bills that protect marginalized communities from hostile federal actions. I supported HB 1469, Washington's shield law protecting reproductive and gender-affirming care from out-of-state attacks, and HB 1155, the My Health, My Data Act, to protect sensitive health data. I also supported HB 2105, the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, and SB 5855, which increases transparency by limiting masked law enforcement activity.

**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?**

Washington must prepare for climate impacts while making sure the communities hit first and worst are not left behind. I support using Climate Commitment Act revenue and other state funds to invest in resilience where it is most needed: cooling centers and heat pumps, weatherization, wildfire smoke protections, flood mitigation, stormwater upgrades, salmon and habitat restoration, urban tree canopy, clean transportation, and resilient affordable housing.

Climate resilience should be guided by environmental justice. That's why I successfully sponsored and passed a bill to update our state's climate resilience plan and voted for a bill to prevent utilities from cutting off power during heat waves.

I also support policies that reduce future harm by cutting emissions, modernizing the grid, expanding clean energy, and ensuring major climate investments create family-wage union jobs. As federal support becomes less reliable, Washington must protect and expand its own climate investments so every community can withstand extreme heat, smoke, flooding, and other climate threats with safety and dignity.

**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?**

Small businesses are essential to Washington's economy and to the character of our neighborhoods. Both my wife and I run small businesses, so I understand firsthand how rising rents, taxes, utilities, insurance, labor costs, and administrative burdens can make it difficult to

stay afloat.

I would support policies that make it easier for small businesses to survive and grow: simplifying compliance and licensing, improving access to technical assistance and capital, investing in safe and vibrant commercial corridors, expanding affordable commercial space, and ensuring public infrastructure like transit, broadband, and reliable electricity supports local businesses.

I also believe we need to examine how Washington's tax system affects small and low-margin businesses. The B&O tax is based on gross receipts, not profit, which can be especially hard on businesses operating with thin margins. I will continue looking for ways to make our tax code fairer while still funding the public services and infrastructure that small businesses rely on.

**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?**

Affordable access to technology is no longer optional. It is essential for education, health care, employment, and civic participation. I have supported policies that make continued investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity grants. We also need programs that provide affordable devices, language-accessible digital literacy training, cybersecurity education, and technical support for: seniors, immigrants, students, people with disabilities, and families with low incomes.

I also believe digital equity must include workforce pathways. Washington should expand computer science education, career and technical education, apprenticeships, and community college programs that prepare people for technology-related jobs.

In the Legislature, I have supported that work by voting for policies like HB 1273, which strengthens CTE Dual Credit and helps students earn college credit while building pathways into high-demand careers. My own volunteer experience developing computer science curriculum for Technology Access Foundation reinforces my belief that students from every community should have access to the skills and opportunities needed to succeed in the digital economy.

**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?**

First, I will focus on implementing the Millionaires Tax so that new progressive revenue is actually directed toward K–12 education. As Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, I supported this policy because Washington needs sustainable revenue to fund schools without relying more heavily on working families. That means investing in the full school community: teachers, paraeducators, counselors, nurses, mental health supports, multilingual learners, transportation, and school meals.

Second, I will prioritize removing the special education funding cap. Students with disabilities deserve the services and supports they are legally and morally entitled to, and districts should not be penalized when the number of students needing special education exceeds an artificial limit. Fully funding special education is central to educational equity and to meeting our constitutional duty to all children.

**Attestation**

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

Created on May 30th, 2026.