



A note from the Endorsements Committee

For King County Democrats, working to elect candidates who represent the changing face of our electorate is a year-round commitment.

Members from the 18 local party organizations that make up King County Democrats spend 6 months developing questions reflective of our progressive values and the Washington State Democratic platform.

For 2026, offices ranging from city special elections through State Supreme Court Justices and United State Representatives are on the ballot. By providing candidates with a thoughtful questionnaire as early as possible in the year, local party organizations are able to jump-start their candidate endorsement discussions.

We are committed to building a party through which constituents see their vision for the future reflected through the lens of candidates who are connected to their community.

Together, we are building for a better future.

Kat Pipkin, Endorsements Chair
Dean Rodenbough, Endorsements Vice Chair
endorsements-leadership@kcdems.org

Are you ready to run for office?

Below are our 2026 questions to help you prepare for filling out the online questionnaire form.



2026 Questionnaires

Questionnaires included (8):

- Judicial
- King County Assessor
- King County Council
- King County Director of Elections
- King County Prosecuting Attorney
- Seattle City Council
- Washington State Legislature
- U.S. House of Representatives



Judicial Races

In 2026, judicial races include: State Supreme Court, State Appellate Court, King County Superior Court, King County District Court, and Seattle Municipal Court.

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity).
2. Please tell us about your proudest accomplishment either through your civic, public and/or community involvement?
3. What injustices have you perceived, either within or outside the courtroom, and what was your response to those events?
4. What will you do to restore faith in the integrity of the justice system?
5. 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?
6. New technologies like AI and advances in practice are continually changing. How would you approach cases involving novel legal issues or emerging technologies?
7. 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?



King County Assessor

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity.)
2. What motivated you to run for this position and how would you evaluate your success?
3. What are the top three issues that you will address if elected?
4. Home ownership is elusive for many King County residents. How would you advance economic equity through the creation of generational wealth from home ownership?
5. Affordable housing remains a growing concern in King County. How will you support the expansion of affordable housing?
6. The cost of living in King County continues to escalate to record levels. How will you support property tax reform to help everyday homeowners, renters and small businesses?
7. King County uses a standard property tax system that assesses land value and property improvements together. Why do you believe this is or is not the best model for King County?
8. Listening to consumer perceptions and concerns about this office can inform challenges that need to be addressed. How will you stay attuned to resident concerns if elected?



King County Council

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity.)
2. What motivated you to run for this position and what essential skills will you bring to the role?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. 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?



King County Director of Elections

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity.)
2. What motivated you to run for this position and what relevant experience will you bring to this role?
3. With so much misinformation surrounding elections and specifically mail in ballots, how do you intend to address and prevent misinformation and disinformation related to elections?
4. We hear so much about institutions being compromised. What cybersecurity challenges do King County Elections face, and what approach would you take to address them?
5. It is a constant challenge to motivate voters to complete and return their ballots. What initiatives will you implement to educate voters about their eligibility, rights, and the voting process?
6. Given King County's diverse population, what specific actions will you take to ensure language access is not a barrier to voting? Beyond the seven languages currently offered, how will you assess the need for and implement additional language services?
7. The current Presidential administration is threatening to curtail mail-in voting and enact laws making voting more difficult with strict voter ID requirements. What will you do to protect King County's safe, accurate, and effective elections process?



King County Prosecuting Attorney

1. Please briefly describe your education, employment, community and civic activity and other relevant experience.
2. Given the broad range of challenges facing the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office, what are your priorities for the next four years?
3. Prosecutors must adhere to the principle of fairness when handling cases, ensuring equal treatment for all parties. How will you ensure that conflicts of interest, evidence tampering or other misconduct will not impact your office operations?
4. Between 2021 and 2025, King County funded the work of Restorative Community Pathways to divert youth offenders away from courts and detention centers. In 2025, the prosecutor's office halted this practice, citing a youth recidivism rate of 50%. What long-term approach do you support to address youth offenders?
5. One of the things that make the prosecuting attorney a powerful position is prosecutorial discretion. What kind of cases would be your top priority and why?
6. A substantial number of felony cases in King County involve substance abuse and mental health issues. What proven sentencing solutions are most effective for offenders with these challenges?
7. In alignment with our Democratic values, we advocate for a diverse and inclusive workplace. How would you work to improve the office's ability to attract and retain a more diverse staff?
8. Civil litigation is an important practice area for the prosecuting attorney. Which civil case areas should take precedence?



Seattle City Council

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity.)
2. What motivated you to run for this position and what relevant experience will you bring to this role?
3. Please describe your governing philosophy and values. How would you integrate data, evidence, values and community voice in your policy choices?
4. Massive changes in federal funding are negatively impacting the city budget. How do you plan to address potential budget shortfalls for the city of Seattle? Please specify programs you will invest in or protect, and programs you will cut or reduce funding.
5. In light of the federal administration's decisions to reduce funding for housing programs, communities like Seattle may experience even higher rates of homelessness. What specific actions will you support to reduce homelessness?
6. Renters now make up a majority of Seattle residents. How will you prioritize renters' needs if elected?
7. Despite the decrease in shooting incidents and homicides in Seattle during the last two years, rates remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. How do you plan to work with officials from the Seattle Police Department, King County Public Health, community groups, researchers and other invested groups to reduce gun violence?
8. In recent years, climate uncertainty continues to impact our region. What would you do to improve emergency preparedness and climate resilience for the city of Seattle?
9. Amid a growing population and density across the city, Seattle launched Vision Zero in 2015 to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on city streets. If elected, what steps will you take to support this vision?



Washington State Legislature

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity.)
2. Why are you running for this position and what differentiates you as a candidate?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. In the current federal administration, marginalized communities have been under attack. How will you work to protect democracy and human rights in our state?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. 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?
9. 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?



U.S. House of Representatives

1. Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity.)
2. Why are you running for this position and what differentiates you as a candidate?
3. If Democrats are successful in retaking the House in November, what actions will you support to retake the power and authority inherent in Congress being a coequal branch of government?
4. The Trump administration often ignores due process and long-standing civil rights norms. What immigration policy and goals will you advocate for?
5. Republicans are taking extraordinary action to limit voting. In addition to passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, what actions will you take to protect and restore the integrity of individual voting rights?
6. Under the current administration, there is economic uncertainty and many citizens are struggling to get ahead. What will you do to support a tax structure that grows both the economy and the middle class?
7. Access to healthcare — from Medicaid to reproductive treatments to veteran's benefits — is being curtailed or eliminated. What will you do to ensure Washington residents have access to quality care, and protect that access from future assaults?
8. If Democrats are successful in retaking the House, what are your top three policy priorities for the first 100 days?
9. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is beginning to transform how we work and access information in our country. What federal policies would you support to govern AI in the United States?