

## **38<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT REQUESTS**

January 12, 2016

Dear Candidate:

Whenever a candidate asks for our endorsement, we ask the campaign to fill out our short questionnaire. It's not intended to be a comprehensive assessment of all issues. Rather, our aim is to focus on a handful of issues of key importance to the 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats. This helps us as we evaluate those that are seeking our endorsement.

Consequently, there are many important issues that don't appear on our questionnaire. This does not mean they are not important to us. To be clear: we evaluate candidates based on all available information and not just the responses to this questionnaire. Additional sources of information may include (but are not limited to), news reports, public statements, voting records, personal endorsements and contributions history, labor relations, and other endorsements received. Additionally, at the discretion of the chair of the endorsement committee, you may be invited to a meeting of the endorsement committee to answer questions from committee members.

The endorsement committee will evaluate endorsement requests and then make recommendations to the membership of the 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats. The final decision will be voted on by the membership of the 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats.

Please consider time constraints when planning to return your questionnaire. We must have sufficient time in advance of the regular membership meeting to deliberate your endorsement request and then publish the proposed action on our regular membership meeting agenda. We will not be able to accomplish that without having at least two weeks' notice before a regular membership meeting.

Endorsement requests will not necessarily be considered at the next general membership meeting. The endorsement committee chair may "hold" endorsement requests if that is deemed appropriate to allow other requests to be considered. On the other hand, the chair may also move to consider requests well in advance of the filing date if that is considered appropriate based on the nature and circumstances of a particular race.

When your request for an endorsement is published on our meeting agenda, you will be invited to attend the general membership meeting and you may speak to the membership regarding your request at that time. The general membership will have the opportunity to ask you any questions they might have about your candidacy.

One final note: Your answers to this questionnaire will be made available to members of the endorsement committee and to the general membership of the 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. You should consider this a public document open to be viewed by anyone.

Thank you for your request for an endorsement from the 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats. We appreciate your interest and your participation.

Mary Rollins, Endorsement Committee Chairwoman  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats; 425-487-2284

Return completed questionnaire to chair at: [mf158@gmail.com](mailto:mf158@gmail.com)

**Please also attach a high-resolution photo, a head shot, along with your questionnaire.**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate Name: Paul Roberts

Office Sought: Everett City Council

1. Why are you running for this office? I have a long history in municipal government and public affairs, land use and transportation planning, environmental issues, economics and public policy (over 45 years). I love bringing these skills and experience to local, state, regional and national issues that impact and effect cities - where people live, work and play. Specifically, my career and campaign will again focus on: building a healthy community, a healthy economy, the environment and a sense of place.

2. What is your work/volunteer history in regards to public and community service? In summary:

1970 Intern in Senator Warren Magnuson's Office in Washington DC

1972-76 Chief Housing Planner for the Washington State Planning & Community Development Agency, conducting market analysis and developing low income housing strategies;

1981-86 Chief of Staff to former Congressman Norm Dicks Washington DC;

1986-88 Advisor to former Governor Booth Gardner regarding economic analysis and environmental permitting to build the Everett Navy Base, and Puyallup Indian Land Claims Settlement;

1995-2001 Member, Everett School Board;

1988-2004 Director of Planning and Community Development, City of Everett significant accomplishments included planning and permitting for Naval Station Everett, Boeing's expansion to build 777 & 787 airplanes, Southwest Everett Industrial Plan/Planned Action Integration, Transportation improvements for the Everett Job Center, Shoreline Master Plan update including expansion of public access, Snohomish Estuary Plan to protect habitat in the lower reaches of Snohomish River Basin;

2003-04 Everett Site Coordinator for Governor Locke's "Team Washington" to build 787 in Washington State;

2006-08 Vice Chair of Washington State Aviation Planning Council;

2004-08 Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director for City of Marysville;

2008-13 Consultant with BERK: update of the Washington State Transportation Plan, First Special Needs Transportation Plan, and Washington State Aviation Plan;

Currently Chair of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Board of Directors,

Member of the Sound Transit Board of Directors,

Member and Immediate Past President of the Association of Washington Cities Board;

Member of the Puget Sound Regional Council - Transportation Policy Board;

Served on numerous advisory committees addressing environmental, climate change, transportation and land use issues and volunteer on various community and education organizations.

3. What qualifications/experience do you bring to this office? See #2 above. Additionally, I have a BA degree in Urban Planning with emphasis in environmental science and economics, and additional education in land use and environmental law, and mediation and dispute resolution.

4. Please list any Democratic clubs and/or organizations that you are a member of, including the length of time you have been a member and any leadership positions you have held in those clubs/organizations. I have been a member of the Democratic Party in various locations since 1968 - currently member of the 38th District Democrats.

5. Who do you believe will be your main opponent(s) in the election? I currently do not have an announced opponent, though I expect to have one and am preparing for a race.

6. Please list your five most significant organizational endorsements to date and your five most significant personal endorsements to date. It is still early in the process, and I have endorsement requests pending.

However, I have endorsements from the Snohomish County Labor Council and tentatively the Transportation Choices Coalition. Individual endorsements include: Congressman Rick Larsen, Sen. John McCoy, Rep. Mike Sells, and Everett City Council Members Tuohy, Stonecipher and Franklin.

7. How much money has your campaign raised so far? Of that, how much of that is your own money (dollars, not percentage)? I have approximately \$10,000 of which approximately \$500 is my own money.

8. How much money do you expect your campaign will spend? How do you plan to raise the amount above and beyond what you have raised so far? My budget is \$20,000, and I intend to raise funds primarily from individual solicitations.

9. Do you plan to have any paid campaign staff or use paid consultants, and have you included paid staff and consultants in your overall costs? I will have some limited campaign consultants assisting. I do not plan to have paid campaign staff.

10. Crime and drug use/violence is a significant issue in our district. Describe how you view the current crime/drug problem and what steps, if any, you will take in the next two years to address those problems. If this requires additional funding, from where should that funding come? I describe this problem as “wickedly complex.” Crime, drugs, housing, homelessness, mental health, are related and symptomatic of broader economic and social issues. This is far too complex to address in this questionnaire. However, I have spent considerable time working on these issues in the past several years, and expect to spend considerable time again if reelected. Some highlights of my work:

- Supported the City’s Streets Initiative

- Did not support measures that would have criminalized homelessness and punish homeless people

- Supported and helped lead efforts for barrier free housing

- Supported and led efforts to bring these issues to the forefront of the Association of Washington Cities and the attention of the State (Governor, Legislature and State Agencies) and to advocate for additional funds from the state in housing, mental health, law enforcement and substance abuse - including extension and expansion of document fees and other sources of funding.

- Supported filing law suit against Purdue Pharma for illegally pushing opioid medication in Everett, and thereby subjecting residents to opioid and heroin addiction.

11. We live in a very diverse community. Our minority citizens are not fairly represented in employment and are far behind in prosperity. What are your accomplishments regarding diversity and economic equity and what are your goals regarding diversity, economic equity, and civil rights? How will you achieve those goals? I have been a leader in diversity issues, as the original City Council representative on the City’s Diversity Committee and sponsor of the Ordinance creating the Diversity Advisory Council. I continue to support outreach efforts in our communities, including areas such as Casino Road and Northeast Everett where there are concentrations of minority populations. As a School Board member, I worked to bring funds to schools with high ELL - English Language Learners - and for special needs children. I am currently working on environmental justice issues, identifying areas in the Puget Sound region - including Everett - where pollution impacts impact low income and minority populations. And, I am currently working on improving outreach to all of Everett’s neighborhoods and will continue to do so if reelected.

12. What steps, if any, do you think need to be taken to improve voter turnout in the district, increase public involvement, and to reduce voter apathy? As noted in Q-11 above, we need to reach out to our community,

through our neighborhoods, and through other means to engage our community. I support, and am personally active in such outreach efforts. We also have begun appointing more diverse representatives to positions of leadership in the City.

13. What is your position on Charter Schools in Washington State? What changes would you advocate for in the public education system? How have you demonstrated leadership in public education policy and how will you do so if elected? I oppose Charter Schools. I was a Member of the Everett School Board for 6 years and I have always opposed Charter Schools. I believe they divert scarce resources from public education. I support fully funding public education, and also support and have advocated for apprenticeship programs beginning at the 10th grade level for students who seek career paths other than a 4 year college.

14. What environmental initiatives have you undertaken, what have you accomplished, and what are your immediate environmental goals if elected? I am proud to have played a major role on environmental issues in Everett, the Puget Sound region, and the State of Washington in support of clean air, clean water, and enforcement of related state and federal laws protecting our environment. Most recently, as Chair of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and as President of the Association of Washington Cities, I have brought issues associated with climate change (adaptation, mitigation, and green economy) to the front of the public agenda. This includes environmental justice issues. If reelected, continuing work on climate change and environmental issues will be my top priority.

15. Do you believe you lean more toward labor or more toward management? Do you have a history of union membership/union service? Describe your relations with labor and past labor related accomplishments. More toward labor. Many years ago I was a member of AFSCME. I am proud to have had labor support in every election I have ever run, including this election. I have worked hard to bring family wage jobs to Everett, Puget Sound and Washington State. I have supported apprenticeship programs, prevailing wages, and project labor agreements for major capital construction projects.

16. List the milestones in your public service career that demonstrate Democratic ideals. List any actions or issues supported by Democrats that you did not support and explain your position on those issues that caused you to oppose. My answers to earlier questions address my history. My career milestones include work on environmental issues, climate change, water quality, equity and justice issues, open government, transportation (including providing transportation options for disadvantaged persons), supporting diversity and job creation and labor issues. I respectfully disagree with some Democrats regarding the formation of City Council Districts, though I agree with the need to reach out to our community. I believe there are risks inherent in the districts proposal, and I have made my views known in that regard. However, my work in exploring this issue has raised awareness and better understanding of demographic and socioeconomic issues in Everett that need to be addressed. I have a history of addressing these issues as well as open government issues, and remain committed to improving community involvement.

17. List three of your most significant accomplishments that you made in your most recent term as an elected official or, if never elected, your three most significant accomplishments in public service. First, development and passage of the ST-3 transportation package including connecting the Southwest Everett job center, and stations at SR99 and SR526/Casino Rd. Second, advancing discussions and planning on climate change

(adaptation, mitigation and building the green economy) and other environmental issues. Third, establishing City Council Procedures and a Committee structure which relate to transparency, open government and better government.

18. Describe the three “stretch goal” accomplishments you intend to achieve in your next term if elected. First, as noted, my top priority is the environment - addressing climate change at the local, regional and state level (mitigation, adaptation and the green economy). I simply believe there is no greater threat to life on this planet and the human species. Second, is jobs and economic development. I am working on proposals to build the green economy in Washington State, including the manufacturing centers in Everett and Snohomish County. Third, bringing together all of Everett with community outreach - recognizing and celebrating our diversity.

19. The district has a large homeless population. The City of Everett has the third lowest rate of home ownership in the state at 55.5% renter occupied (state average is 37.2%). Per capita income is one of the lowest in Snohomish County, and slightly above the state median (Everett \$25,102, state median \$22,632). Everett has the highest percentage of low-income residents in Snohomish County. With these facts in mind, what measures do you propose to balance the scales and bring greater opportunity for housing, home ownership and economic equity to Everett residents, particularly to minority citizens? Throughout this questionnaire I have discussed these issues (please see responses to questions 10, 11, 12 and others). I have specifically worked to shed light on Everett’s demographics and socioeconomic characteristics. I have also dedicated much of my career to helping build the largest job base in Washington State in Southwest Everett. These efforts have resulted in bringing billions of dollars of investments to Everett and Snohomish County, creating tens of thousands of family wage jobs and building one of the strongest economic centers in the nation. That said, it is not enough. We need to reach out to all parts of our community, help build social infrastructure, and promote inclusion. Given what is happening on the national level to divide our nation, this work has never been more important, and I am committed to it. Also, continuing to build upon our economic base, creating job opportunities and job training and education opportunities, is an essential component of this work.

20. What do you consider the major issue facing our community today, and how do you intend to address it? I don’t think there is one major issue. However, the divisive actions of this administration towards immigrants and people of color presents an immediate risk to our society and our community. The war being waged by this administration on the media, facts, people of color, science and those working to address climate change, presents an immediate and long term risk to our survival as a nation and life on this planet.

Finally, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US THAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER IN EVALUATION YOUR CANDIDACY? I think I have covered the important issues in my responses. Thank you for the opportunity to answer these question. I am proud to be a member of the 38th Dist. Democrats and I ask for your support.

Thank you,

Paul Roberts