

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

February 2, 2017

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: [mfrl58@gmail.com](mailto:mfrl58@gmail.com)

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

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate Name: Kristin Kelly  
Office Sought: Snohomish County Council District 5

1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for County Council District 5 because I want to ensure better protection of Snohomish County's environment, help improve the economy for everyone, and work toward building communities in both our urban and rural areas that will be sustainable and great places to live.

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

I have worked for 15 years for two non-profit organizations, Futurewise and Pilchuck Audubon Society, as their Program Director and Smart Growth Executive Director, respectively, working a large variety of land use and environmental protection issues, which included education, outreach and advocacy. I started the Livable Snohomish County Coalition, and hosted 5 environmental summits on a variety of issues important to Snohomish County. Before that employment, I moved to Snohomish County in 1989 to own and operate a small business, which I did for 14 years. During that time, I organized a community group to fight against inappropriate commercial development, and now that area is a county-owned park. I raised my son in the Snohomish School District, and was an active in his academic and non-academic achievements. (He is an Eagle Scout from Troop 32). I was elected in both 2005 and 2015 to serve on the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission in 2006 and 2016 and advanced some of my issues to the voters who voted those changes into the charter. I have served on numerous county and city stakeholder committees to do with land use and environmental protection and permitting issues.

3. What qualifications/experience do you bring to this office?

I bring leadership to this office. I have been the main environmental leader on a host of issues for over 15 years, which included stopping inappropriate development on our farms, forests, parks, and rural areas; ensuring our environmental regulations for critical areas and shorelines were strong, stopped many unnecessary urban growth area expansions, worked on creating better cities and urban growth areas, and stopping a new city of 15,000 people on the west bank of Lake Roesiger. I have worked extensively with planning staff at Planning and Development Services, Surface Water Management, Public Works, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Planning Commission and County Council members on a variety of issues. I have a deep understanding of the County Government, have a great network of citizens throughout the county, and have the passion and commitment to serve. I have also proven I am electable after two very successful campaigns and election to the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission.

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.

5. Who do you believe will be your main opponent(s) in the election?

There are two opponents, Sam Low, Republican, who has held this position for one year, and Tara Schumacher who I do not think has much governmental experience.

6. Please list your five most significant organizational endorsements to date and your five most significant personal endorsements to date.

Hans Dunshee, Karen Guzak, Ellen Gray, Nancy Dawson, Michelle Gundersen.

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 a commitment so far of \$1,250, but just filed on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and have not yet started fundraising as still setting up systems.

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?

I have not yet put together a budget, but my best guess right at this moment, is I should raise at least \$20,000 and hopefully up to at least \$50,000. I plan to raise money mostly through direct communication with my large network of contacts, through support from the Democrats (hopefully), and through fundraisers and the kickoff.

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 have not yet hired any paid staff or paid consultants. Will do so if money permits, but will be using a host of volunteers.

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 know drugs and drug-related crime is a big issue for Snohomish County and its cities. I don't believe there is just one way to fix the problem, and throwing money at the problem or jailing people is not always the most effective way. We need more education and volunteers to help with this problem. There are many systems already in place or planned and I will continue to support the work that has already been accomplished, and will be open to finding effective ways to deal with this important issue to the residents of Snohomish County. I would explore funding options within the budget process and other avenues to ensure success in finding solutions.

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?

Some of the work I have done over the years for two environmental organizations is reaching out more effectively to our diverse communities. I received a grant several years ago from Puget Sound Regional Council to do work along Highway 99 regarding land use and transit use. I spoke with many small business owners in our Korean, Vietnamese and Latino communities. I know there is a disparity, and one of my main goals is how to ensure a good economy for all people. One big problem is affordable housing and in the places that make the most sense for access to transportation, medical needs and good food sources. I was on the Charter Review Commission who were successful with the voters to establish a Human Rights Commission in our county's charter, and will continue to work with the Commission and others throughout the county and region to advance social and economic justice.

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?

This is definitely a tough one. While on the Charter Review Commission we discussed whether or not to change the local elections to even years to match up with legislative and federal elections as a way to get better voter turnout. We decided not to advance that issue. I do believe the county by itself can do a better job of ensuring voter registration and voting. One way that has been explored is making all mail-in ballots free (no

stamps needed). I'd be looking for ways to help advance voter turnout.

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?

This issue probably doesn't really relate to the office of Snohomish County Council; with that said I am opposed to Charter Schools and the weakening of our public school system, especially in light of the new federal administration. If elected, when opportunities arise, I will definitely advocate for public education and not charter schools.

14. What environmental initiatives have you undertaken, what have you accomplished, and what are your immediate environmental goals if elected?

I have been involved with many environmental issues county-wide and some statewide issues as well. County-wide, I have worked to stop conversion of farms and forests into housing and commercial developments, ensuring strong protections of our water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, tree retention and replacement, unnecessary urban growth area expansions in our rural areas, transfer of development rights to save farms and forests, transit oriented development around our transit stations and along transit corridors, ensuring our county and state parks are preserved in a way that best serves the public and not special interests. If elected, and given my knowledge of the next four years, working toward a Transfer of Development Rights Program to help our local farmers and encourage growth in our urban areas, urban centers and cities will be a top priority. Also want to revisit the Tree Canopy Ordinance for our urban growth areas that are changing rapidly and losing trees at an alarming rate, ensuring urban growth area expansions do not happen that do not follow the county's policies or the Growth Management Act; ensure our county's policies and regulations do not continue to benefit only the development community; ensure our water quality, wetlands, frequently flooded areas and landslide areas are protected to Best Available Science.

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.

I believe unions are important to protect workers' rights. I have belonged to several unions over the course of my lifetime including the Longshoremen's Union during my many years working in salmon canneries in Alaska during my 20's.

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.

To the best of my knowledge I have supported Democratic ideals since I began voting at 18 (many years ago).

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.

As County Charter Review Commission in 2006, I worked to get more openness and transparency in our county government, and put to the voters, who voted yes, so there would be public comment time at every county council meeting and hearing and at planning commission meetings as well. Before that became part of the County Charter, public comment time outside of public hearings was only at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays. I also helped advance that the County Council would put online in real time a list of actions taken. In 2016 as County Charter Review Commissioner I worked to get the following issues to the ballot, which the voters agreed to: ensure the County Council meet at least once a year in each of the 5 council districts instead of having all their meetings at their chambers during the day; all public hearings regarding the budget process and any policy

changes to the County's Land Use Comprehensive Plan must include an evening hearing. While budget hearings already usually included an evening hearing, it was not in code or in the charter. Now Comprehensive Plan Changes must also include evening public hearings (they used to only happen at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays), so that the public has the opportunity to engage. If elected, I will do more to advance public notification, participation, transparency and accountability.

18. Describe the three “stretch goal” accomplishments you intend to achieve in your next term if elected.

I'm sad to say I do not know what “stretch goal” means. If elected, I want to concentrate on ensuring better protections for our environment, ways to increase economic success for everyone, and helping people with community building, whether they live in a city, and urban growth area or in the rural areas.

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?

Snohomish County has a big problem with providing affordable housing to all income levels. I applaud Everett who are now seeking ways to deal with the homeless problem of their city. I have been engaged with affordable housing with my work over the last 15 years, and want to build on all those efforts with real policy and programs that will ensure housing for everyone.

20. What do you consider the major issue facing our community today, and how do you intend to address it?

Another 200,000 people are expected to move to Snohomish County in the next 20 years. There will be many challenges with this huge population increase. Over the last 25 years, Snohomish County has been the fastest growing county in Washington State. We need strong leadership to tackle how we will find affordable housing, protect our environment, help our small businesses and large employers, protect our workers, and build communities that people want to live in, raise their families and be engaged. I believe I can help make that happen.

Finally, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US THAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER IN EVALUATION YOUR CANDIDACY?

I'm a strong believer that many very qualified people do not run for public office because the political system has become more about money, special interests, and dirty politics, then focusing on the qualifications of the candidate and their ability to lead. I have also seen where great candidates have not been given the support they need from the party. I do not believe someone has to be rich (to fund their own campaign) or need to raise a ton of money to have a successful campaign. I plan to run a grassroots campaign relying on my support I've achieved over the years working on county land use and environmental issues, and believe I have a great chance to be successful in the election. I hope the 38<sup>th</sup> will endorse me.

My email is [kkellyforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kkellyforcouncil@gmail.com). Please contact me immediately if you need more information or clarification.