

## 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.**

Candidate Name: [Janelle Burke](#)

Office Sought: [Everett School District, Director-At-Large, Position 5](#)

1. Why are you running for this office? Everett Public School system needs help. Too many problems, not enough people willing to put their image on the line and be “the person” that said lets take a step back and do our job. When people don’t want to do their jobs it hurts the children, their education, the community. Everyone keeps talking about what needing to be changed. As a journalist, I am honestly tired of hearing the community cry out, people coming forward with complaints but afraid to do anything about it. Everett School District really needs a complete overhaul and I think as a mother, with a vested interest, that I can be the push that the current board needs.

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

- Evergreen Middle School PTA, General Member School Year 2016-2017
- Evergreen Middle School PTA, Vice President School Year 2017-2018
- NAACP – Since December of 2015
  - Snohomish County NAACP – Legal Redress Committee 6/2017
  - Snohomish County NAACP – Communications, Press, Media Committee 4/2017
  - Snohomish County NAACP – Health Committee 6/2017
- Blue Wolf Coven – Ordained “Minister”, Priestess 2015
- BWC Community/Youth Outreach – Sewing/Cooking Class Instructor, Group Leader, Child Advocate

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

I bring a can do attitude, high spirits, the ability to listen well and to use proper discernment. I am a mother of 7 children, with 19 years-experience in conflict resolution, active listening, discernment, organizing and restructuring. The experience of motherhood has given me one of the greatest qualifying skill sets that I feel is missing or a forgotten art with education, knowing what’s best for a child.

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. None

5. Who do you believe will be your main opponent(s) in the election? My main opponents are without a doubt, the citizens of our District who are afraid of the unknown. I have no “political” experience and my outward appearance puts people off.

Based off my appearance it has been said that I am “uneducated”, that I “put people off”, that I don’t “look like I have proper training”. I have even been told that “we don’t need any more of your people on the schoolboard”.

I feel like I am climbing the steepest hill in Snohomish County and that this is truly an uphill battle. Just because I am not a politician doesn’t mean that I am uneducated and will fail. The sooner I get the general community to accept me as a person, the better chance I have at being elected.

6. Please list your five most significant organizational endorsements to date and your five most significant personal endorsements to date. Currently to date I have no endorsements.

7. How much money has your campaign raised so far? Of that, how much of that is your own money (dollars, not percentage)? None

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 don’t plan on spending money on campaigning or raising money. If money is donated, it will be used for campaigning.

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? **No, I do not and I do not plan to have any paid staff or consultants.**
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? **The current crime/drug issues in our community is very concerning and something I have been dealing with for over 3 years now being ordained. I feel that there is a great start to that solution but without the community coming together and playing their parts.**
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 am currently working with several grassroot organizations in hopes of getting the roots of why these issues still exist, short term fixes and long term goals. I do not have a definite plan currently to “fix” the issues or achieve my goals.**
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? **The most important step is not being afraid of the homeless population that makes up a good chunk of our voters. A lot of candidates are focusing on doorbelling in neighborhoods they feel safe in. I’ve made it a point to incorporate voter registration into my weekly homeless outreach and am going into those neighborhoods that may skip over. We need ALL eligible voters to vote.**
13. What is your position on Charter Schools in Washington State? **So I am on the fence with Charter Schools as they are non-traditional Public Schools in my opinion with more leeway and more opportunity to discriminate. However, there educators are top notch and from what I have gathered over the past few months, many parents of minority children love them and find them beneficial.**
- What changes would you advocate for in the public education system? **More strict, actionable discipline for Administrators that harass and abuse children on school property. Proper vetting of School Resource Officers, overall stronger, yet simplified school policies that don’t contradict themselves or that are so broad that they are open to interpretation.**
- How have you demonstrated leadership in public education policy and how will you do so if elected? **I will continue to do what I have always done. Be a voice for the children and their families that need a liaison, as well, help other parents navigate the policies, complaint processes and instill strength to fight for their children’s education in these parents so that the district knows that we are fed up.**
14. What environmental initiatives have you undertaken, what have you accomplished, and what are your immediate environmental goals if elected? **None**
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 have no relationships with any unions. I am unsure as to which way I “lean”.**
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. **I honestly, have never really paid attention to political issues. No matter how they affected me, because I didn’t know how bad things were. I have been described as a Conservative Democrat, so at times I feel lost on the issues or don’t have an opinion either way. Of course, I am paying more attention now but don’t know enough about the issues to form a fair opinion.**
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. **“Public Service” is**

such a broad term and while I am unsure of whether or not this falls under your definition of public service I will disclose that:

1. I am a woman of a non-Christian belief, who is ordained and helps the citizens of Snohomish County by providing them with a confidential listening ear and a shoulder to cry on (Ordained Minister).
2. My children and I started a ministry to help the local in need and homeless youth. We teach them how to cook, sew, have reading groups and peer groups. We want them to know that they are loved, that they have a safe place to come to and someone that will always be there for them. I do not have a 3<sup>rd</sup> that I can think of at the moment.

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

1. push for and accomplish restructuring of the school districts policies that hinder the safety and education of our children; AND
2. get more parents involved in the happenings of ESD, to ensure safety and proper education of our children; AND
3. I plan to get the Board of Directors to open their eyes and ears and stop being afraid to address the community that their decisions affect.

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? **There is no way to bring housing equity in the State of Washington as it currently is because it is too many factors that go into balancing those opportunities that are not controlled.**

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

Education disparities and Child Safety, are some major issues when it comes to our community from my point of view. I have been an advocate...I got tired of no answers, pushback and defamation for being concerned (from Administrators to Superintendent), so now I am running for office.

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