Black Lives Matter Seattle King County 2020 endorsement opportunity and process

Black Lives Matter Seattle King County and the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance congratulate you on your primary election and advancing to the general election.

We are writing to invite you to complete our short candidate questionnaire for the 2020 general election. We will be encouraging our community and allies to be voting for candidates who are supportive of advancing Black Liberation, an equal justice system for all, and community prosperity.

We are asking candidates to complete an online questionnaire, and as a backup, the questions are below. Only candidates who complete the questions will be eligible for endorsement.

The deadline for submitting your answers is Saturday, October 10, at 5:00 PM. For any questions and if you encounter technical difficulties, please contact [EMAIL REMOVED]

Endorsements will be announced on Wednesday, October 15.

About Black Lives Matter Seattle King County

Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County is a social advocacy organization fighting for the protection and liberation of Black Life through advocacy and direct action.

We believe that all Black Lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location.

The Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance is a statewide collective of people and organizations using our voice, our vote, and our power to fight for Black Lives.

Black Lives Matter Seattle King County Political Demands
We demand that racism be declared a public health crisis in Washington state.
We demand a 50% defunding of the Seattle Police Department.
We demand some of the budget formerly devoted to policing be shifted to culturally responsive, community-centric mental health and wellness services.
We demand a justice system that delivers equal treatment under the law.
We demand King County fulfill its promise to, by 2025, transform into a community resource the youth jail unit at Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center.
We demand fully funding education in Washington State with a capital gains tax by 2021.

Black Lives Matter Seattle King County Endorsement Questions

If elected, give examples of how your priorities will support the liberation and protection of Black Lives

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kqfvwKwpJO5ANGcmfakBtczYlw9tXzUmHMRIPaXJ9c/edit#response=ACYDBNhpSyVEifBolyfET8GkekL0SRp55ZIlhyYfI...
locally and across the state?
Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? Explain your answer.
Do you support defunding the police? Explain your answer.
What is your position on charging officers with bodily harm-related crimes when excessive force is used?
Explain your answer.
How does your racial identity shape your perspective of public policy? Explain your answer.
Do you support the restoration of voting rights for Washingtonians who are incarcerated or have been previously incarcerated or owe fees and fines? Explain your answer.

Non-responses to the questionnaire will be evaluated as responses to the questionnaire.
Thank you for your participation in our candidate endorsement process, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Ebony Miranda, Chair
They | Them
Advocacy and Policy Committee
Black Lives Matter Seattle King County

If elected, give examples of how your priorities will support the liberation and protection of Black lives locally and across the state? *

I will fight to restore affirmative action to the State of Washington to ensure that public resources- education, jobs and contracts are equitably available to all residents of Washington. I will fight to reform the criminal justice system to end mass incarceration by decriminalizing non-violent and low level drug crimes, abolish cash bail, implement the legal right of parole if you meet certain objective criteria and disrupt the school to prison pipeline. In addition I would provide more resources and tools for those re-entering their communities from incarceration.

Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? Explain your answer. *

Yes. Racism has led to the lack of access of African-Americans to healthcare, housing, education and justice. Given that this lack of access is the direct result of decisions made by persons in power, the response must address the systems that created the harm. In addition, like other public health issues, the failure to address them will lead to more serious issues in the future.
Do you support defunding the police? Explain your answer. *

Yes. I would reallocate funds and resources that have been used inappropriately by the police to community organizations that foster, mentor and guide troubled minority youth and assist their re-entry into the community. The dollars spent on mass incarceration and gun violence have not improved community safety. It is now time to reallocate those funds to organizations that are designed to improve public safety by preventing crime before it occurs.

What is your position on charging officers with bodily harm-related crimes when excessive force is used? Explain your answer. *

Under federal and state law, an police officer is guilty of a felony if they use unreasonable or excessive force against citizens. In order to make these laws effective we need independent agencies investigating and prosecuting claims of excessive force.

How does your racial identity shape your perspective of public policy? Explain your answer. *

As an African-American, I do not have the ability to avoid systemic racism. I must address it before it causes significant harm to my community, my family and myself.

Do you support the restoration of voting rights for Washingtonians who are incarcerated or have been previously incarcerated or owe fees and fines? Explain your answer. *

Yes. Voting is a fundamental right and should not be forfeited unless you are stripped of your citizenship.