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 pr@blacklivesseattle.org.

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 locally and across the state? **If elected, one of my biggest priorities will be to immediately decarcerate our state prisons.** While I know reducing incarceration will not solve all of the problems facing Black communities in our state, I believe that it is a natural starting point and an area I have gained expertise as a formerly incarcerated person serving on the Sentencing Task Force, the Statewide Reentry Council, and the Public Defense Advisory Board.

Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? Explain your answer. **As a former nurse I have seen how racism is a public health crisis.** I believe that so long as the color of someone’s skin impacts their health and economic outcomes, we need to treat racism as a public health crisis.

Do you support defunding the police? Explain your answer **I support reducing the job description of law enforcement to focus on what they are trained for, and removing from their duties responses to social and health issues.** Therefore, we will need less police officers, but we will need additional mental health counselors, social workers, mentors, and resources for our most impacted communities. I also believe that police should not have access to military grade weapons, and do not need the funding to purchase such items.

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

**I believe that police officers have gotten away with violence against our community for far too long.** While I am grateful for the passage of recent reforms, they still do not go far enough. Officers need to be held to the same standards as the people they are protecting. We need to create truly independent investigations, and end qualified immunity.

How does your racial identity shape your perspective of public policy? Explain your answer. **I am descended from people of Hispanic heritage, but I am white passing. I am also the mother of two Black sons.** I acknowledge my own privilege and recognize that there are things I have been able to do because of my perceived whiteness. When reviewing public policy that is a perspective that is always with me. I think it’s important that any legislation I look at or advocate for is being reviewed though a racial equity lens and I am collecting data and asking the questions on who will benefit and will this reduce racial disparities.

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.

**I am the only person who is currently running for state legislature who has lost**
their right to vote at one point because of a prison sentence. Not only do I support restoring people’s right to vote, I believe we should never take away people’s right to vote in the first place. I have lobbied and organized testimony for the current voting rights restoration effort for the past two sessions. Currently, my organization has a strong presence on the Voting Rights Restoration Coalition, and two of my colleagues are co-chairs.

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

Email address *

Your email

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

I am the only person who is currently running for state legislature who has lost their right to vote at one point because of incarceration. I not only support restoring people’s right to vote, I believe we should never take away people’s right to vote in the first place. *