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

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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

Email address *

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

My top three priorities focus on; expanding access to housing and healthcare, and the creation of a strong economic recovery, with a focus on small business and working class families. This strong foundation of my priorities will center and support the liberation and protection of Black Lives. Black lives have always been disproportionately harmed through systemic racism. As someone who has both lived experience as a Black woman and professional experiences with racism, I will hold the voices of Black lives at the center of my work and combat systemic racism through the implementation of new policies aimed at uplifting and creating thriving communities of color across our state. During COVID-19 small businesses, but particularly those owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have suffered without federal and state support. My aim for economic recovery is to center their voices and the voices of the working class families across my district and this state. My aim for families is that they have all the support they need to thrive, through changes to our regressive tax code, education, healthcare, and housing.
Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? Explain your answer. *

Absolutely, racism is a public health crisis. The evidence is clear; from intergenerational trauma, to the increasing rise of hate crimes, police violence against Black people, and the impacts of racist policy in our healthcare and housing systems. Systemic racism infiltrates our communities, bleeds down family trees, and continues to impact generation after generation. When my son was in High School an unknown person committed arson on the school campus, while spray painting hateful anti-Black statements on the ground. Through grassroots organizing, I helped facilitate the fight to bring our community back together. This experience led me to where I am today, fighting for my community, for Black lives across our state, for greater representation in public office, and to see a future where Black lives not only matter, but also thrive.

Do you support defunding the police? Explain your answer. *

I support reinvesting social service funding into Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities through strategic investments in education, housing, healthcare, mental health, and other areas. These types of investments help to limit the increasing number of officers involved shootings and fatalities while responding to mental health crises. Recently in my own district a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis was shot and killed by an officer. This tragedy could have been avoided, had a mental health professional been called in with the officers.

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

The way in which officers are able to continue to harm people, but particularly BIPOC, and get away without any real disciplinary actions is atrocious and further harms our communities. Officers who have previously been involved in use of excessive force are far more likely to repeat the offense. Having real consequences for their actions is an important part of holding officers accountable and moving forward to create real systemic change.
How does your racial identity shape your perspective of public policy? Explain your answer. *

I proudly identify as a Black woman, member of a working family, and as a blended family of color. I can speak personally about racial inequity and many of the challenges facing working-class communities. I personally have had experiences of racism directed toward me right here in my own community. Often in the form of microaggressions and many times I have spoken up. State officials need to take an active role in working towards equity in our governmental systems. For example, we need to actively invest in schools in lower-income areas. Too often, the quality of education in these locations are inadequate because of a reduced budget. The divide in education quality creates both a social and racial divide between areas with different economic statuses. In addition, we need to invest in students with unique needs that require special assistance, be it academic, mental health, or counseling. This lens comes from my unique lived experience, shaped very much so by my racial identity.

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 I support the restoration of voting rights for incarcerated, previously incarcerated, or individuals who owe fees and fines. We know that these systems often work together to harm BIPOC communities, much like the school to prison pipeline. These laws that reduce a person's voting power were put in place to reduce the voting power of BIPOC. I will do everything in my power to restore the essential right to vote for everyone.