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.
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? *

My three legislative priorities are #1 Justice and Court Reform, #2 the Economy, and #3 the Housing crisis. On day one I would introduce a bill ending Qualified Immunity, Prosecutorial Immunity and Judicial Immunity in the State of Washington in accordance with the Washington State Constitution, Article 1, section 8 and 12. As the prohibition on immunity is already part of our constitution, I would impeach any Judge who tries to reassert immunity for the Judicial branch in violation of our constitution. People of Color are disproportionately incarcerated for victimless crimes. I support abolishing all crimes where a victim cannot be identified, the victim is the accused or the victim is nameless (i.e. society). I support eliminating most uses of no-knock warrants to only situations of life or death (i.e. hostage situation) and only when a surveillance warrant is first in place to confirm the address and target. I support auditing the Commission on Judicial Conduct to expose and remove racist, bigoted or criminal Judges. The actions of the last year have devastated small businesses where people of color are the primary owners while selectively protecting large corporations. I will put the focus on small business in economic revival. Finally this country has a long history of cities using zoning and permitting to engage in prejudice. The history of the zoning process is one of institutional racism. This allows municipal governments to deliberately discriminate against poor communities, communities of color, bigotry and other despicable behind color of law. I will introduce legislation to eliminate zoning permits and move to an Asian style of "Right to Build" where owners can build within the law without asking cities managers permission to do so. I expect a lot of opposition to ending institutionally racist policies, but I am prepared to name and shame Republicans and Democrats who cling to these backwards policies of the Jim Crow era.

As a Libertarian like our Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates I am not afraid to support the Justice reform with the Black Lives Matter movement. All Lives don't matter until Black Lives also Matter. While many BLM supporters are Socialists, I hope we can set aside our philosophical differences and work together to stop this crisis of Injustice in America.

Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? *

No. Its not something a doctor can treat. Its worse. Racism is a moral crisis and social failing.

Do you support defunding the police? *

I believe this is a municipal issue for each city to decide and I will endeavour to keep state government out of the issue.
What is your position on charging officers with bodily harm-related crimes when excessive force is used? Explain your answer. They should be held to account.

The job of a police officer is to bring people in alive and healthy to stand trial. Only the force necessary should be used to do so. Excessive force should be criminally charged and not only should we be able to sue police in civil court but also Prosecutors who fail to prosecute criminal public officials.

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

I am multi-racial and due to public prejudice I rarely disclose my racial heritage. Many times when people make racially loaded comments or support racist policies it offends me personally because it's an attack on my family and but for the random lottery of genetics I could easily be a different color. I've never in my life claimed anything other than my mixed race heritage and all sides of it are important to me.

I am several parts Native American. Native Americans are killed by police at an even higher rate than Black Americans. So I also want to say "Native Lives Matter".

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.

Those who have completed their punishment should have ALL rights restored. If they are too violent to be trusted with all their rights then it is a sign the Justice system has failed and let them out too early. This should not be acceptable to politicians either way.

I oppose all fees and fines whether civil or criminal from being used to prevent voting. A poll tax is unconstitutional and there is a conflict of interest when Courts officers can prohibit those they don't like from voting.