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

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? *

I am white and I know I was sort of sheltered from racism for most of my childhood and young adulthood. It was not until I left high school and moved back to Washington, DC where I lived for 4 1/2 years that I finally saw what I felt was true racism. I still don't feel that I truly appreciated the scope of our American racism until I completed my Bachelor's Degree in 2017. That opened my eyes a lot to the struggles of black and brown people in America. I have tried to expose myself as much as possible by being a supporter of Push Black on line so that I can more fully understand our structural racism and have empathy for Black and Brown communities. Our history is criminal; we, the white community, need to make amends for past transgressions against innocent people.
Yes, we can and must do better for all people in Washington and in America but mostly for our Black and Brown people. The evidence is well documented that our treatment of black and brown people is negatively affecting their health and their length of life. We must move out of this phase of denial and work to heal this rotting blemish in our society.

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

Yes, it is clear to me that they are misusing their funds. They obviously need more training as they need to figure out how to take people into custody without murdering them. Other countries have figured this out. We can also.

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

Officers must be held accountable for their actions. No one is above the laws of our state and our nation.

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

I am sure it interferes with my perspective. That is why I have been trying to proactively understand where black and brown people’s perspectives are coming from.

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

I don’t feel that owing of fees and fines should be something that would be in the way of anyone having their voting rights restricted. I would also be open to allowing incarcerated individuals to continue to be able to exercise their right to vote. The evidence from other countries shows that this may be a much better policy for us to strive to achieve.

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. *

This form was created inside of BlackLivesMatter Seattle.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kqfVwKwpJO5ANGcmfatkBtczYLw9tXzUmHMRIPaXJ9e/edit#response=ACYDBjAerHVO37dAfIC-K5e47zyfTL0xd7rYxy8O… 3/4