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? *

I am running against a 20 year incumbent who was sanctioned by the Commission on Judicial Conduct for saying that Black people are more likely to be gangsters than white people. He said this in the context of a murder trial and admits that he said it. https://www.cjc.state.wa.us/materials/activity/public_actions/2017/8583FinalStip.pdf Also in that same murder trial, State v. Karl Emerson Pierce, my opponent allowed the prosecution to use a peremptory challenge to dismiss the only potential black juror in the jury pool. https://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/963444.pdf As a judge, I will ensure that Black people and other people of color are not unfairly excluded from serving on juries.

I am in favor of court alternatives for justice-involved youth. I volunteer for the Partnership for Youth Justice, a diversion program of the King County Superior Court. Young people who complete the restorative justice program do not end up with a criminal record -- which is so important because a criminal record can limit education and employment opportunities. As a judge, I will work to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Ultimately, I hope to do what I can to end systemic racism in the justice system.
Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? *

Yes -- and the statistics are proof of that:

Black people are more than 3 times more likely to be killed by the police in the U.S. than whites according to a Harvard study.

Black people are being infected with COVID-19 at 3 times the rates of whites and are dying from the virus at 2 times the rates than whites according to a report from the National Urban League.

Do you support defunding the police? *

As a judicial candidate, I am limited in the topics I can discuss. I can say that I am for solutions that will result in fewer unarmed Black people being killed by police. I support having more alternatives than just police to respond to 911 calls such as mental health professionals, social workers, and others with crisis and de-escalation training. Not every 911 call needs a police response. I went to law school in Eugene, Oregon and they have an innovative program that has unarmed crisis response teams that respond to about 20% of the 911 calls, primarily those related to mental health. https://www.npr.org/2020/06/10/874339977/cahoots-how-social-workers-and-police-share-responsibilities-in-eugene-oregon

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. *

As a judicial candidate, I am limited in the topics I can discuss. I can say that I believe in the Rule of Law: that the law applies equally to everyone.
How does your racial identity shape your perspective of public policy? Explain your answer. *

Black Lives Matter is personal for me. My husband is Black. I have a Black teenage stepdaughter. Their lives matter. My husband and I participated in the West Seattle March for Black Lives and also a Vigil for Black Lives to remember unarmed Black people who have been killed by police in the Puget Sound. I wrote a blog post for the National Women's Political Caucus about what BLM means to me personally: https://www.nwpcwa.org/free_to_love

I am running against a 20 year incumbent who said that Black people are more likely to be gangsters than white people. I am endorsed by these African American civil rights leaders who share my belief that the King County Superior Court needs a new and more inclusive voice: Larry Gossett, Lem Howell, Gary Gayton, Bruce Harrell, Norm Rice and more on my website www.carolynladdforjudge.com.

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. *

As a judicial candidate, I am limited in the topics I can discuss. In Washington State, those convicted of felonies are automatically eligible to vote once they are no longer incarcerated or in community custody. Fines and fees do not need to be paid before voting rights are restored. https://www.aclu-wa.org/pages/voting-rights-restoration-washington-state

Recognizing the importance of 2nd chances for justice-involved people, I have volunteered for the King County Bar Association's Records Project to vacate eligible criminal convictions. I have also written about the importance of 2nd chances in housing and employment for formerly-incarcerated people: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e2d67ebe51be56e41da5e7/t/5e2f46a5367de60ba6d5fd5a/1580156581624/Bar+Bulletin+_+Second+Chances+in+Employment+and+Housing+for+Forme.pdf