

# First District Democrats Elections Committee

Endorsement Recommendations for May 15, 2024

## State of Washington

U.S. Senator, Position 2

### **Maria Cantwell**

Senator Cantwell has worked hard to protect and expand our voting rights, co-sponsoring the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in 2020 and the Freedom to Vote Act last summer. She will continue to call for access to humanitarian aid to areas affected by violence and she is committed to fighting for programs that work to promote America's foundational values of tolerance, respect, and freedom of religion. She voted to pass national security supplemental appropriations legislation that includes over \$9 billion for humanitarian aid. She was the Senate's lead advocate for the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Act. She supports the effort to fight climate change. These, along with her support for the extraordinarily successful Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS Act, are just a few of the examples of the hard work that Senator Cantwell has done for our state and our country. The Elections Committee recommends Senator Cantwell for endorsement.

## Congressional District No. 1, U.S. Representative

### **Suzan DelBene**

Representative DelBene has fought hard to protect our right to vote. She is a co-sponsor of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. She believes that we must prevent genocide wherever it occurs. She has fought to extend the Child Tax Credit and make it permanent and supports the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Snohomish Conservation District received \$2.5 million for the Growing Urban Forest project, funded by the Urban & Community Forestry Program through the IRA. She has worked hard to support bills that reduce pollution and fight climate change. She believes that the Supreme Court must be regulated. She believes in bodily autonomy and transparency in the funding of elections, and strongly advocates protection of privacy. The Elections Committee recommends Representative DelBene for endorsement.

## Congressional District No. 7, U.S. Representative

### **Pramila Jayapal**

Representative Jayapal is a leader in the Progressive Caucus and has risen to national prominence with her leadership and vision. Her "We the People Amendment" "would return power to the people by ending corporate constitutional rights, reversing Citizens United, and ensuring that our democracy is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people. She has co-sponsored acts to increase voter registration, protect human rights, provide healthcare for all, provide education, and eradicate poverty. She wants to project reproductive freedom and trans rights. She advocates getting rid of the outdated filibuster. She supports a ceasefire in Gaza. She received an award from the Sierra Club and was an early adopter of electric vehicles. These are some of the many reasons that The Elections Committee recommends Representative Jayapal for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## Congressional District No. 8, U.S. Representative

### **Kim Schrier**

Representative Schrier manages to hold a Democratic House seat in a purple district, balancing the needs of all her constituents while holding true to the principles of the Democratic Party. She works to expand and protect voting rights, and is a proud co-sponsor of HR-1, the For the People Act, and HR-4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, as well as working to overturn Citizens United. She has fought to affirm human rights around the world. She strongly supports effort to help poor and middle-class Americans, with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, higher minimum wages, and Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. She is a strong backer of the Inflation Reduction Act. Representative Schrier supports a practical approach to the immigration issue, and a national voting holiday or universal vote-by-mail. She wants to see Washington become a national hub for hydrogen and iron-air batteries to help fight climate change. The Elections Committee recommends Representative Schrier for endorsement.

## Governor

### **Bob Ferguson**

Attorney General Ferguson's three key issues are improving public safety in communities across the state, access to affordable health care, including behavioral health care and the full range of reproductive health care services, and the housing and homelessness crises. He plans to partner with local jurisdictions to increase the supply of affordable housing and provide emergency support funding for those on the brink of losing their homes. He will invest in improved housing services and a first-class behavioral health system. He supports Washington's capital gains tax, a progressive move towards more equitable taxation, as is his support and successful defense of the tax on Big Banks. Most importantly, he is the candidate who refuses donations from large corporations or corporate PACs. These are just a few of the reasons to support him. The Elections Committee recommends Attorney General Ferguson for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## Lieutenant Governor

### **Denny Heck**

Lieutenant Governor Heck is running for re-election. His top three issues are affordable housing, education, and economic opportunity. As Lieutenant Governor, he is committed to ensuring that the boards and commissions under his purview reflect the diversity and values of our state, making appointments rooted in equity, inclusion, and expertise. He will prioritize candidates who bring a deep understanding of the issues facing our communities, a history of service or advocacy, and a commitment to advancing progressive policies that benefit all Washingtonians. There is much more that he advocates and that aligns with our principles. The Elections Committee recommends Lieutenant Governor Heck for endorsement.

## Attorney General

### **Manka Dhingra**

Senator Dhingra will make an excellent Attorney General for Washington. She stands up for the people of Washington, first as an advocate, then as a prosecutor, and lately as a state senator. She fights for immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQIA individuals, workers, a livable planet, and safe communities. Her priority will be to protect people and institutions from the increasing and persistent threats from the Supreme Court, Republicans, and Trump. She flipped her district from Republican to Democratic when she won her Senate seat the first time she ran. She supports accessible and affordable health care for all. She supports gun safety laws and believes that drug decriminalization is a key step in fighting substance abuse, which is a health problem. She believes that consolidation in the healthcare industry is hurting care. These are a few of the reasons that the Elections Committee recommends Senator Dhingra for endorsement.

## Secretary of State

### **Steve Hobbs**

In 2023, Steve Hobbs led the creation of the Civic Engagement Program (CEP), which serves to increase voter participation, especially among communities of color, rural voters, and incarcerated individuals. He has also worked to reduce ballot rejection rates, particularly among young voters and people of color. This and other efforts to make voting safe, secure, and accessible, as well as to increase participation, exemplify the reasons that The Elections Committee recommends Steve Hobbs for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## Auditor

### **Pat McCarthy**

Auditor McCarthy's office found that more than \$1 million in federal funds were not well accounted for in 2022, bringing this to the state's attention so that the state can implement better tracking systems. Auditor McCarthy has held this position for years and has done an excellent job overseeing thousands of audits every year, keeping our government honest and accountable. She has worked hard to make the auditor's office, and those agencies that the auditor oversees, more efficient. Her efforts include fighting human trafficking and protecting our government's systems from cyber attacks. The Elections Committee recommends Pat McCarthy for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## Treasurer

### **Mike Pellicciotti**

Mike Pellicciotti has worked hard to refinance our debt, maintain strong credit ratings, and show that Democrats are the Party to lead responsible public fiscal management. He rejects corporate campaign donations. Under his leadership, budget deficits are now surpluses, and we have the best-funded pensions in the country. He puts working families and retirees first. He supports the SAFER Banking Act to assist in safe and accountable banking for the cannabis industry. He supports the Washington Saves program to provide retirement savings for 43% of Washington residents who do not have retirement programs through their employer. He wants to fight GOP and corporate interest, and to provide financial education in schools. Washington is a leader in ethical and climate-change friendly investing. The Elections Committee recommends Mike Pellicciotti for endorsement by a unanimous vote.

## Superintendent of Public Instruction

### **Chris Reykdal**

Superintendent Reykdal's team built a full "McCleary" funding plan six years ago, much of which was adopted by the Legislature. A core element was to completely fund special education with state funds with no dependence on local levies. The state has nearly doubled special education funding from \$2.2 billion per biennium to \$4.1 billion per biennium under his leadership. He plans to completely remove the funding cap that limits formula funds to districts based on 13.5% of their students needing specialized instruction. He believes that learning accommodations are a federal and state civil right. He believes that we need to change the bond approval requirement of 60% to a simple majority, as it is hurting district funding, especially in more rural areas. He believes in protecting civil rights and protecting our children. The Elections Committee recommends Superintendent Reykdal for endorsement.

## Public Lands Commissioner

### **Patrick DePoe**

Patrick DePoe is a member of the Makah Tribe and has worked at the state and federal level to enact positive environmental change. He has the principles and experience to be successful in this position, as well as bringing a new perspective to it with his tribal background. He believes that we must act boldly and urgently to decarbonize industries, protect the health of our forests, invest in renewable alternatives, and plant more trees to sequester carbon. He is a commercial fisherman, land manager, and Tribal leader. He believes that we need to proactively respond to increasing wildfire risk. The Elections Committee recommends Patrick DePoe for endorsement.

## Insurance Commissioner

### **Patricia Kuderer**

Commissioner Kuderer recognizes the critical importance of removing barriers to access preventative care, and her approach focuses on several key strategies: expanded provider networks, telehealth expansion, education and outreach, and reducing cost barriers. She has several approaches to making health care more affordable. Critically, she supports and will advocate for a statewide single-payer system. The Elections Committee recommends Commissioner Kuderer for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## State of Supreme Court, Justice Position No. 2

### **Salvador Mungia**

"Sal" Mungia attended law school at Georgetown University Law Center, but he came from a working-class family. He is aware of the ways socioeconomic status impacts how one is treated within social systems. Seeing his parents mistreated and discriminated against imprinted a desire to advocate for those treated unfairly and unlawfully and solidified that he wanted to advance justice for communities and constituencies like the one that he came from. He believes that judges should not change laws simply to put their views into place. He believes that is the role of the legislature, not the judiciary. However, he believes that if precedent was based on racist, sexist, ageist, homophobic, or ableist beliefs, then those decisions should be reconsidered. He has fought racial injustice for his entire career. Governor Inslee appointed him. The Election Committee recommends Sal Mungia for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## State of Supreme Court, Justice Position No. 8

### **Steve Gonzales**

Judge Gonzales is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. Judge Gonzales stood up for marriage equality 30 years ago, one of the first. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Gonzales for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## State of Supreme Court, Justice Position No. 9

### **Sheryl Gordon McCloud**

Judge McCloud is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge McCloud for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## State of Washington Court of Appeals, Division 1, District 1, Position 4

### **Leonard Feldman**

Judge Feldman is running for re-election. He teaches law school and mentors students of all backgrounds. He experienced discrimination for his identity and his actions as a judge reflect that understanding. He devoted thousands of hours to pro bono cases (and was officially recognized for doing so, including by the Washington State Bar Association and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals). He is currently a law professor at the Seattle University School of Law where he emphasizes equity and access to justice in my teaching. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Feldman for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## Legislative District No. 1

### State Senator

### **Derek Stanford**

Senator Stanford has supported a wide variety of proposals to move our state forward on this: capital gains, wealth tax, levy reform, B&O reform, transparency and accountability for tax exemptions, and many others. He believes that we need more funding for education in the state (our state has one of the lowest per capita spending). He believes we need a multi-pronged response to the housing crisis. We need rent stabilization to prevent sudden massive rent increases, increased investments in the Housing Trust Fund, and addressing our severe lack of capacity in supportive housing for those who need services. Senator Stanford believes that by pushing back against local barriers to the development of a variety of housing types, we can get market forces working for us instead of against us in resolving this crisis. His work and beliefs on many other issues is impressive and in line with the beliefs and principles of the vast majority of the populace of the 1st Legislative District (and the country). The Elections Committee recommends Senator Stanford for endorsement by a unanimous vote.

## State Representative Position No. 1

### **Davina Duerr**

Representative Duerr has worked hard for issues that affect the 1st Legislative District. Currently she serves on the Transportation Committee and as Vice Chair of both the Environment and Energy Committee as well as the Local Government Committee. She also served as an assistant whip. Her policy work focuses on the environment and local government. The Elections Committee recommends Representative Duerr for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## State Representative Position No. 2

### **Shelley Kloba**

Representative Kloba has worked hard for issues that affect the 1st Legislative District. Her support of education and women's rights shows that she is the future of the state, and her engagement in the committees she serves on is proof. The Elections Committee recommends Representative Kloba for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## King County

### King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 4

#### **Nicholas P. Straley**

Judge Straley is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Straley for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 8

#### **Matthew Lapin**

Judge Lapin is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Lapin for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 10

#### **Jaime Hawk**

Judge Hawk is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Hawk for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 12

#### **Haydee Vargas**

Judge Vargas is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Vargas for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 23](#)

#### **Nikole Hecklinger**

Governor Jay Inslee appointed Judge Hecklinger. We have found that all judges appointed by Inslee are highly capable and ethical judges. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Hecklinger for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 26](#)

#### **David Keenan**

Judge Keenan is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Keenan for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 33](#)

#### **Mark A. Larranaga**

Judge Larranaga is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Larranaga for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 39](#)

#### **Joe Campagna**

Judge Campagna impressed us with his respect for transgender individuals in his court, as well as his civic involvement as an attorney, which included service as a board member of Washington Appleseed, a non-profit dedicated to driving systemic change on social justice issues, and pro bono work for inmates seeking clemency and for individuals seeking asylum in this country. He was a leader in expanding the use of video courts, which allows people to take care of court business while holding down jobs or providing childcare. He was also a leader in starting the Shoreline Community Court, which provides housing and behavioral health resources to people charged with low-level offenses and provides a resource center open to anyone. We believe that he deserves re-election. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Campagna for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 41](#)

#### **Paul M Crisalli**

Judge Paul M Crisalli graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law. He clerked for several judges including Justice Mary E Fairhurst of the Washington State Supreme Court. He worked in private practice for a number of years before he began working for the Attorney General's office. He started in Labor and Industries' Division and in 2018 moved to the Complex Litigation Division where he served as the divisions appellate advisor and co-chair of the AGO's Ethics Committee. In 2023, Governor Inslee appointed him to the King County Superior Court. He was interviewed and unanimously recommended for endorsement.

### [King County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 46](#)

#### **William L. Dixon V**

Judge Dixon is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Dixon for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

#### [Northeast Electoral District, Judge Position No. 7](#)

##### **Peter Peaquin**

Judge Peaquin is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Peaquin for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

#### [Shoreline Electoral District, Judge Position No. 1](#)

##### **Raul Martinez**

Judge Martinez is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Martinez for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

## [Snohomish County](#)

#### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 3](#)

##### **Cindy A. Larsen**

Judge Larsen is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. Judge Larsen has experience on both sides of the bench and brings that experience to her career. She headed the Juvenile Law Committee. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Larsen for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

#### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 4](#)

##### **Edirin Okoloko**

Judge Okoloko is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. Judge Okoloko is one of the top-ranking judges in Snohomish County according to the Bar Pool. He was inspired to be a judge by watching lawyers in Nigeria fight military rule in court. He opened a path to becoming a law clerk, attorney, and judge for competent and qualified foreign students. As a former prosecutor, he saw that as the first line of defense for a defendant, as he would not bring charges if the charges were not warranted. He believes that judges must have humility. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Okoloko for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

#### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 9](#)

##### **Karen D. Moore**

Judge Moore is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. She has worked with the YMCA, teaches Street Law, and received an award from the Red Cross. As an attorney, she negotiated a contract with the firm that hired her to allow her to do pro bono work. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Moore for endorsement with a unanimous vote.



## Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 12

### **Whitney Rivera**

Judge Rivera is the incumbent judge, appointed by Governor Inslee. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. Judge Rivera was raised in south Snohomish County and restarted the Community Court program. She is a strong mentor for students. We highly recommend Judge Rivera for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 13](#)

#### **Jennifer R. Langbehn**

Judge Langbehn is the incumbent judge. Governor Inslee appointed her. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Langbehn for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 14](#)

#### **Paul W. Thompson**

Judge Thompson is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. He believes that the constitution strongly protects privacy in Washington. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Thompson for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 15](#)

#### **Bruce Weiss**

Judge Weiss is the incumbent judge. We participated in an interview with the Judge and found them to be qualified, and we had no concerns about them. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Weiss for endorsement with a unanimous vote.

### [Snohomish County Superior Court, Judge Position No. 17](#)

#### **Patrick M. Moriarty**

Judge Moriarty is the incumbent judge. He was a commissioner during the pandemic, where he collaborated with other judicial officers to keep the court open and functioning. They developed new hearing procedures and employed modern technologies to allow litigants to appear remotely via Zoom, Court Call, and Microsoft Teams. They recognized this as an opportunity to provide better access to the court system beyond the pandemic and reduce barriers for the public to engage with the court system. He has attended training courses related to bias, implicit bias, and to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in interacting with the public and in the decision-making of the court. The Elections Committee recommends Judge Moriarty for endorsement with a unanimous vote.