

First District Democrats Elections Committee

Endorsements for the General Election, November 5, 2024

United States

President

Kamala Harris

In addition to the many accomplishments of the Biden Administration, in which she played a key part casting tie-breaking votes in favor of their legislation, Vice President Harris on her own has proudly represented the United States on the global stage in meetings with over 150 world leaders and bolstered vital alliances against tyranny abroad — and she is just as committed to stopping would-be authoritarians and dictators at home. She is leading the charge to protect fundamental freedoms, including the right to an abortion and the right to vote. Her work to alleviate the problems in foreign countries that drive people there to flee to the United States has significantly reduced the influx of refugees here; from Venezuela alone, by 90%. She is the right choice to lead this country forward.

Vice President

Tim Walz

Governor Walz is the perfect complement to Vice President Harris on the ticket. His teaching, coaching, military, legislating, and governing experience will bring to the White House an honest, practical view to the problems facing all Americans. His personal sacrifice and magnanimous spirit will serve us well.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Attorney General

Nick Brown

Nick Brown was raised in Steilacoom, WA, earned his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and his law degree from Harvard Law School. He served as a JAG officer and worked in private practice and as general counsel for Governor Inslee. In 2021 was appointed US Attorney for Western Washington.

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 to vote for Steve Hobbs.

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.

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.

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.

Public Lands Commissioner

Dave Upthegrove

Dave Upthegrove will bring his decades of political experience to the position, where he plans to be a strong advocate for protecting the environment, acting to fight climate change while balancing the need for school funding and good jobs, especially in our rural communities. He will work with the tribes to protect their treaty rights, implement fire prevention and control measures, and expand recreational opportunities.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

Snohomish County

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.