



First Legislative District Democrats

*The Fightin' First - Fighting for **YOU!***

First District Democrats Endorsements August 2026 Primary Election

Our endorsements for the November 2026 General Election will be presented separately.

U. S. Congress

CD-1

No endorsement recommendation

While we appreciate incumbent Congressional Representative Suzan DelBene's many years of service, and we have endorsed her in the past, we believe her positions on several issues important to Democratic voters, including healthcare and foreign policy, do not adequately reflect the values and priorities of the First District Democrats. At the same time, we are not persuaded that any challenger is prepared to assume the responsibilities of serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Accordingly, the First District Democrats has chosen not to endorse a candidate in this race.

CD-8

No endorsement recommendation

The First District Democrats organization does not consider endorsing candidates who do not seek our endorsement. Despite being repeatedly invited to seek our endorsement, incumbent Congressional Representative Kim Schrier did not respond before the membership voted on endorsements. Further, no other Democrat challenger mounted an active campaign or sought our endorsement, so we have not endorsed a candidate for this race.

CD-7

Congressional Representative Pramila Jayapal

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has again earned our endorsement for her unwavering courage, clear progressive vision, and deep commitment to building a just, inclusive, and truly democratic society. She has been a tireless champion for economic justice—fighting for higher wages, paid sick and family leave, and strong worker protections—while leading national efforts to curb the influence of big money in politics. As one of the most prominent advocates for immigrant rights in Congress, she has worked to protect families, defend due process, and advance a humane immigration system rooted in dignity and compassion. She has been steadfast in supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking, pushing for stronger protections and essential resources. She is also a leader in defending voting rights and ensuring every person has a real voice in our political system. Her leadership reflects a belief that our communities are strongest when everyone—regardless of background or circumstance—can live with safety, respect, and opportunity. For all these reasons, we are proud to stand with Representative Jayapal.

Washington State

Supreme Court, Justice Position 1

Justice Colleen Melody

The First District Democrats endorses incumbent Justice Colleen Melody (appointed by Governor Ferguson in January 2026 to replace retiring Justice Yu) for Justice Position 1 because her experience running a statewide law practice has given her extensive background in civil rights law and in understanding the issues and needs of citizens across Washington. Before joining the Court, she served in the Washington State Attorney General's office as Chief of the Civil Rights Division, helping build the division into a nationally recognized resource that supports our communities and shields our residents from harassment, discrimination, and violence. She also previously worked as both a federal civil rights attorney and public defender in King County. Her legal career has focused on enforcing anti-discrimination protections and advancing equal access under the law. We believe that Justice Melody's experience in constitutional and civil rights matters makes her well-qualified to continue serving on the Court.

Supreme Court, Justice Position 3

Judge J. Michael Diaz

Judge Diaz earns our endorsement for Justice Position 3 due to the depth and breadth of his judicial and legal experience and longstanding record of public service. When he was an infant, Diaz's family immigrated from Peru to the Seattle area, where they lived in Ballard and White Center and spoke Spanish at home. He currently serves on the Washington Court of Appeals (Division I) and previously served on the King County Superior Court, building broad judicial expertise across criminal, civil, and family law matters. He chairs the Washington Supreme Court Interpreter and Language Access Commission, ensuring court access for non-English speakers, while also serving on the Washington Commission on Judicial Ethics. Prior to joining the bench, Diaz worked as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, giving him a well-rounded perspective on Washington's legal system. A longtime advocate for civil rights and language access within the court system, Judge Diaz understands the importance of ensuring that Washington's courts serve every community and community member fairly and impartially.

Judge Jaime Hawk

We also endorse Judge Hawk for Justice Position 3 because of her extensive federal and state legal experience and longstanding commitment to improving the courts and building public trust in the justice system. Raised by a single mother and the first in her family to attend college, Hawk has devoted her career to protecting constitutional rights and civil liberties. Currently serving on the King County Superior Court, she has also worked as a juvenile public defender, assistant federal defender, and Legal Strategy Director for the ACLU of Washington's Campaign for Smart Justice. That latter role provided significant appellate experience focused on civil rights and criminal justice reform. Judge Hawk's broad legal background and passion for equal justice make her well-qualified to continue serving the people of Washington. *Note:* Our endorsement of Judge Hawk occurred after the submission deadline for the state and county voter guides, so it will not appear in her candidate statement. This timing does not reflect on our support for her campaign.

Supreme Court, Justice Position 4

Judge Ian Birk

Judge Ian Birk earns our endorsement for Justice Position 4 because of his comprehensive understanding of federal and state constitutional law, broad appellate experience, and clear commitment to maintaining public trust in the judiciary. He has served in all three divisions of the Washington Court of Appeals—Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane—giving him a statewide perspective on how the law affects communities across Washington. Before joining the bench, Judge Birk handled complex constitutional and public interest litigation, in addition to arguing cases before state and federal appellate courts. Throughout his career, he has also worked to expand access to justice, including more than a decade of volunteer service with the King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinics assisting individuals and families who could not otherwise afford legal representation. Birk brings intellectual rigor, thoughtfulness, and a strong understanding of the judiciary's role in protecting the rule of law. We believe his experience and perspective make him exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court.

Supreme Court, Justice Position 5

Justice Theodore Angelis

The First District Democrats endorses incumbent Justice Angelis for continued service on the Washington State Supreme Court in Justice Position 5 because of his extensive appellate and judicial experience and deep knowledge of Washington law. Prior to his appointment by Governor Ferguson in 2026, Angelis served as Chief Judge of Division II of the Washington Court of Appeals. As a practicing lawyer he argued numerous cases before the Washington Superior Court and appellate courts throughout the state. His practice was unusually broad, covering such diverse matters as intellectual property and real property, business disputes, consumer protection, online misconduct, police conduct and immunities, and Washington and Federal constitutional law. His decades of experience in appellate litigation, judicial service, and complex civil legal work bring valuable perspective and experience to Washington's highest court.

Supreme Court, Justice Position 7

Chief Justice Debra Stephens

The First District Democrats endorses Chief Justice Debra Stephens for re-election to Justice Position 7 in recognition of her leadership in safeguarding the integrity, independence, and accessibility of Washington's judicial system. A member of the Washington Supreme Court since 2008, Stephens previously served on Division III of the Washington Court of Appeals and currently serves as Chief Justice, a position to which she was elected by her fellow justices. Throughout her career, she has emphasized civic education, judicial independence, and ensuring that Washington's courts serve all communities fairly and effectively. As Chief Justice, Stephens helped guide Washington's court system through the COVID-19 pandemic, leading reforms that expanded remote access to court proceedings and modernized court operations throughout the state. She has also worked to reduce barriers to accessing the justice system through her leadership on statewide commissions focused on access to justice and equity. Notably, she recently helped convene Washington's first Judicial-Tribal Summit to strengthen understanding between state courts and tribal communities. Her experience, leadership, and commitment to maintaining public trust in the judiciary make her exceptionally well-qualified to continue serving on the Court.

1st Legislative District

State Representative, Position 1

Representative Davina Duerr

The First District Democrats endorses incumbent Davina Duerr for her proven leadership and effective advocacy for more affordable housing, better transportation solutions, and environmental protections. Before joining the state legislature in 2022, Representative Duerr was active in the First Legislative District, serving as a Bothell City Council Member from 2016-2022 and involved in civic efforts including education and landmark preservation. A working architect, Representative Duerr brings a progressive housing mindset to her state legislative work. Her creative problem-solving and innovative solutions have allowed our legislature to find paths forward on challenging growth management issues. She has consistently maintained an open mind, learning with and from her constituency about issues such as housing development, the environment, and privacy. She's a strong advocate for our community and its interests in Olympia.

State Representative, Position 2

Bothell City Council Member Position 3 and Deputy Mayor Jenne Alderks

Jenne Alderks has earned the endorsement of the First District Democrats because of her strong record of public service, effective policymaking, and dedication to transparent, community-centered government. She is currently serving her second term on the Bothell City Council where she also is Deputy Mayor, and where she has served diligently during a period of growth and change. Alderks has a strong track record of advocacy and smart policy development on issues ranging from effective use of behavioral health resources to equitable and inclusive growth to funding essential government programs. She has distinguished herself by successfully navigating challenging community conversations while consistently creating opportunities to hear from constituents and bring their voices to our government. We also appreciate her commitment to skill-building for a career in public service—recently she not only earned a Masters of Public Administration but also certificates in public policy and municipal leadership.

King County

Assessor

Rob Foxcurran

Rob Foxcurran earns our endorsement due to his unique qualifications as a senior real estate appraiser for the City of Seattle and his experience as a Hearing Examiner on the King County Board of Appeals and Equalization. He is also the shop steward for his union and brings his experience of labor issues to the table. We were impressed by his grasp of critical issues related to tax fairness that fall within or adjacent to the purview of the Assessor, including historical development patterns and the role of untaxed properties. He has thoughtful proposals for improving tax fairness and affordability for residents of King County, including homestead exemptions, approaches for equalizing appraisal rates between residential and commercial properties, and accepting monthly property tax payments.

Director of Elections

Director Julie Wise

Incumbent Director of Elections Wise is a 23-year veteran of the Elections Division and has provided steady and sure-handed guidance by leading the Division for the last 8 years. During her tenure as Director of Elections, she has consistently demonstrated her commitment to excellence in elections administration. As a nationally certified elections administrator, she has led King County Elections to adopting the highest standards of election security and transparency while consistently engaging with our community to share the intricate details of the systems and processes that have been adopted to ensure that our elections are safe and secure, and that every legal vote is correctly tallied. She has supervised the installation of additional ballot drop boxes and engaged with federal government security experts to audit and increase the security of the county's elections operations and IT systems.

Prosecuting Attorney

Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion

We enthusiastically endorse Incumbent Prosecuting Attorney Manion—whom we also endorsed in 2022—who has brought the professionalism she promised to this challenging position. This includes addressing the large pandemic-era case backlog and improving agency transparency through a public data dashboard. She has also followed through on her commitment to strengthen community safety through a balanced program of improvements, such as reducing gun violence, combatting retail crime and property theft, and developing programs to address gender-based violence and wage theft. We value how her office routinely refers cases to diversion or alternative programs such as veterans or mental health courts. She has honored her commitment to thoughtfully exercise prosecutorial discretion and continues to defend our community from unconstitutional federal overreach.

Superior Court, Judge Position 20

Judge Kent Liu

Incumbent Judge Kent Liu earns our endorsement because of his extensive legal experience, longstanding public service, and commitment to improving access to justice. Appointed to the King County Superior Court by Governor Ferguson in 2025, Liu brings nearly three decades of prosecutorial and civil litigation experience, including many years with the Washington State Attorney General's Office. His work has included criminal prosecutions, representing state agencies, handling complex public safety matters, and leading efforts addressing organized retail crime. Outside his legal work, Liu has supported community-based violence prevention initiatives and volunteered with the King County Bar Association Neighborhood Legal Clinic, helping provide legal assistance to low-income and immigrant communities in Seattle's International District.

Superior Court, Judge Position 32

Judge Daniel York

The First District Democrats endorses incumbent King County Superior Court Judge Daniel York for Position 32. Appointed by Governor Ferguson, Judge York brings over 15 years of family law expertise, during which he notably led the family law section of the King County Bar Association. His judicial philosophy centers on expanding access to justice and securing critical wraparound resources for therapeutic and restorative community courts. Furthermore, as a Marine Corps veteran, Judge York offers a unique and vital perspective to the judiciary as the sole veteran currently serving on the King County Superior Court bench.

Superior Court, Judge Position 45

Judge Tenanya Scheinman

Judge Tenanya Scheinman was appointed to this position on the King County Superior Court in May 2026 and is seeking election to serve the remainder of this term. She was appointed to the seat by Governor Bob Ferguson due to her strong career advocating for the people of Washington both as a prosecuting attorney in cases involving securities fraud and as a public criminal defender. Her work volunteering for the Northwest Immigration Rights Project speaks to her alignment with the First District Democrats' commitment to civil and human rights, and she has earned our endorsement.

Northeast Electoral District Court, Judge Position 1

Assistant Attorney General (WA State) Josh Schaer

Josh Schaer earns our endorsement for Judge Position 1 because of his broad legal experience, longstanding commitment to public service, and strong record of community involvement. Currently serving as Assistant Attorney General in the Torts Appellate Program with the Washington State Attorney General's Office, Schaer has spent more than two decades working across Washington's legal system as a public defender, civil litigator, and Judge Pro Tem in multiple Eastside courts. He has committed to strengthening public confidence in the justice system through consistent application of the rule of law and protection of civil rights. In addition to his legal work, he served two terms on the Issaquah City Council and has remained active in youth mentorship, legal assistance, and supporting community service organizations throughout the region.

Judge Jan Trasen

Judge Jan Trasen also earns our endorsement for Judge Position 1 because of her considerable legal experience, community service, and advocacy. Currently serving as an Administrative Law Judge in the Office of Administrative Hearings, Child & Family Care Division, Trasen has served as a public defender for more than two decades—for 16 years with the Washington Appellate Project and for 10 years with the Legal Aid Society. She also currently serves as a Judge Pro Tem for King County District Court. She has committed to interpret the law, apply the facts, and ensure that all parties are treated fairly. In addition to her legal work, she serves on the Board of Directors of The Ruby Room, a Renton non-profit that supports low-income and foster-involved youth, and she volunteers as a judge for mock-trial and moot-court competition at the University of Washington. *Note:* Our endorsement of Judge Trasen occurred after the submission deadline for the state and county voter guides, so it will not appear in her candidate statement. This timing does not reflect on our support for her campaign.

Northeast Electoral District Court, Judge Position 3

Judge Lisa O'Toole

Incumbent Judge Lisa O'Toole has our strong endorsement for re-election to Judge Position 3 because of her decades of public service, extensive judicial experience, and commitment to ensuring that Washington's courts remain accessible and fair to all. Before joining the bench, O'Toole served as both a King County prosecutor and Judge Pro Tem, and she is now seeking a fourth term after more than 12 years as a judge. Serving on the executive committee of one of the highest-volume courts in Washington state, she has emphasized collaboration, consensus-building, and ensuring that every person who enters the courtroom feels heard and is treated fairly. Judge O'Toole is a strong supporter of therapeutic and restorative justice programs, which work to address the underlying causes of nonviolent offenses while promoting accountability and reducing repeat offenses.

Northeast Electoral District Court, Judge Position 4

Judge Kevin Peck

Incumbent Judge Kevin Peck has earned our strong endorsement for re-election to Judge Position 4. He brings a passion for justice, transparency, integrity, and fairness, which is coupled with a strong commitment to ensuring that all who appear before him understand the legal process, their rights, their choices, and the reasoning behind his judgments. Judge Peck's commitment to continuously improving our court system and achieving justice both for our community and for those brought before him is exemplified by his support for alternative paths to justice including community court, therapeutic court, and domestic violence court.

Northeast Electoral District Court, Judge Position 6

Denice Gagner

Denice Gagner has earned our endorsement for election to Judge Position 6 based on her temperament, broad legal experience, community involvement, and thoughtful approach to fairness and accountability within the justice system. For more than two decades, she has worked across many areas of law. Her well-rounded background includes serving as a victims advocate for sexual assault and domestic violence cases, as a prosecutor, as a criminal defense attorney, and most recently as a Judge Pro Tem in King County courts. Gagner has spoken about the importance of balancing faithful application of the law with treating people with dignity and humanity, particularly those navigating difficult life circumstances. Outside the courtroom, she has remained active in local schools and currently serves on the Redmond Planning Commission. Her legal experience, collaborative approach, and commitment to justice is coupled with a commitment to ensuring that the people she engages with know they are heard and respected. This makes Gagner well-prepared for judicial service.

Northeast Electoral District Court, Judge Position 7

Judge Peter Peaquin

Incumbent Judge Peter Peaquin is endorsed for re-election to Judge Position 7 by the First District Democrats because of his extensive courtroom experience and deep knowledge of the justice system. Judge Peaquin was appointed to District Court in 2023 and elected in 2024, having previously worked in private practice as a criminal defense attorney and also as a public defense attorney. He has defended clients accused of misdemeanors and of felony charges, and tried hundreds of cases to juries. Judge Peaquin notes that this experience taught him to look beyond the label of "defendant" and consider the humanity of the individuals he represented. As a district court judge, he continues to offer respect to defendants and also prosecutors and litigants. His service as a community court judge has provided him with experience in alternative paths to justice and accountability for certain offenders. Judge Peaquin believes the judicial system works best when he holds to his oath and ensures due process rights for those who come before his court.

Shoreline Electoral District Court, Judge Position 1

Judge Raul Martinez

Incumbent Judge Raul Martinez has earned our endorsement for Judge Position 1 based on his broad legal experience, commitment to public service, and thoughtful approach to judicial leadership. Appointed to the King County District Court in 2023 and elected to retain the position in 2024, Martinez brings more than two decades of experience as a prosecutor, civil litigator, appellate attorney, and legal advisor. The son of migrant farmworkers, he has spoken about the importance of fairness, equality, and ensuring that all who enter the courtroom are treated with dignity and respect. In addition to presiding over both criminal and civil matters, Judge Martinez serves on several court committees focused on education, court operations, and judicial administration, while remaining active in community engagement efforts throughout North King County.

Shoreline Electoral District Court, Judge Position 2

Judge Karama Hawkins

The First District Democrats endorses incumbent Judge Hawkins for election to Judge Position 2 because of her broad legal experience and her focus on using the court as a driving force for ensuring accountability and facilitating positive change. Elected to the King County District Court in 2022, Hawkins brought previous experience as a public defender and Judge Pro Tem. She presides over the King County Mental Health Court and the King County Regional Veterans Court, and is recognized for her role in establishing the Federal Way Therapeutic Court Program. She serves on multiple court committees and task forces focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and rehabilitation through therapeutic courts. She also dedicates time to community outreach and pro bono service.

Snohomish County

South District Court, Judge Position 1

Judge Beth Fraser

Incumbent Judge Fraser has earned our endorsement for re-election to Judge Position 1. Her extensive experience includes more than 13 years as a district court judge in addition to more than a decade as a trial attorney and public defense attorney. She is committed to working within the community to continue building trust in the legal and judicial system. Judge Fraser has developed a deep and respectful understanding of the financial, social, and mental health challenges facing many of those who appear before her. She believes that justice requires compassion as well as accountability. She embraces her court's therapeutic approach as the most effective way to help appropriate defendants move out of the legal system, improve their lives, and strengthen the community.

South District Court, Judge Position 2

Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin

The First District Democrats endorses incumbent Judge Jeffrey Goodwin for re-election to Judge Position 2. He has served as a District Court Judge since 2004, giving him a perspective that balances accountability and compassion. He is committed to helping defendants understand every stage of the court process—from how the proceedings work and what the law requires, to factors judges consider when reaching decisions and the reasoning behind those decisions. He strongly supports the effective use of community resources, including mental health court and community court, as tools for achieving just outcomes. He takes especial pride in participating in outreach programs and mentoring new judges to the district and municipal court system.