



Snohomish County Democrats

Protecting Our Future

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# Snohomish County Democrats and Affiliated Legislative Districts 2021 “General” Positions Questionnaire

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for requesting an endorsement from the Snohomish County Democrats and other affiliated legislative districts. We appreciate your interest and your participation. When a candidate asks for our endorsement we ask the candidate to fill out this questionnaire. The endorsement committee’s desire is to collect information that is important to our constituents in Snohomish County and to gain an understanding of your Democratic values.

This questionnaire will help us evaluate those candidates that are seeking our endorsement. We will evaluate candidates based on several sources of information beyond this questionnaire. At the discretion of the chair of the endorsement committee you may be invited to an interview with the full committee.

The endorsement committee will evaluate your endorsement request and make a recommendation to our membership. You may be invited to the membership meeting to make a brief statement and possibly answer a few questions. Please consider time constraints when planning to return your questionnaire. We highly encourage you to submit your endorsement request as early as possible.

Our affiliated legislative districts may, at their discretion, use this form for their endorsement request. Please contact the legislative districts you intend to seek endorsements from and see if this questionnaire will be used or if there is another form you should submit.

Endorsement questionnaires will be shared with our members and may be posted on the Snohomish County Democrats website and on the websites of our affiliated legislative districts.

Please return the completed questionnaire to: [endorsements@snocodems.org](mailto:endorsements@snocodems.org) and your LD endorsements contact.

Candidate Name:	Jason Call
Candidate for what office:	U.S. House of Representative, WA-02
Party affiliation:	Democratic
Have you filed with the PDC?	Filed with the FEC for federal office.

Campaign Address:	P.O. Box 1887 Marysville WA 98270
Campaign Phone:	360-661-8689 or 425-691-6631 (personal)
Email address:	jason@callforcongress.com
Campaign Manager name:	Ben Karpelman
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Phone number:	425-985-8030
Campaign Treasurer name:	Amy Vilela
Email:	info@progressivesconsulting.com
Phone number:	
Campaign Consultant name:	Triangle Advisers, LLC
Email:	
Phone number:	

## Candidate Background

Political background (offices held or currently held, offices ran for, party positions, etc.)

Office Held	Years in Office
Precinct Committee Officer, Marysville 56	Since 2008
Chair, 44th Legislative District Democrats Platform Committee	2020
Chair, Snohomish County Democratic Party Platform Committee	2018
Washington State Democratic Central Committee	2017–2020
Ran for Marysville City Council, Position 2 (2017)	
Ran for U.S. House of Representatives in WA-02 (2020)	

Community or Organizational Memberships (past and present):

Washington Education Association member, 1999-2017  
Board, Marysville Education Association, 2012-2014  
Board, Whole Washington, 2018-present

1) Why are you running for this office?

I have a vision for the future grounded in 30-years of progressive activism that has challenged the status quo doing too little to achieve universal healthcare, confront the climate crisis, empower workers, and make strides in racial justice. For the last two decades, voters in the Second Congressional District have not been given a choice that runs against the status quo, and I strongly feel that we deserve to have that conversation now.

2.) What qualifications do you have and what experience do you believe you bring to the position you are seeking?

In over three decades of working class activism, I have led organizing efforts to advocate for important key issues like healthcare, the environment, and being anti-war. I have served as a public school math teacher for nearly 20 years and in that time was elected by my peers to be a leader in our union.

My involvement in the Democratic Party has included serving on the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for three-and-a-half years. In that time, I led the passage of landmark resolutions that solidified progressive positions on gun control, climate, and healthcare. I led similar efforts to codify progressive priorities during my time as Platform Chair of the Snohomish County Democratic Party and the 44th Legislative Democrats.

I believe that these experiences in our community lend itself to being more in-touch with the concerns of everyday people. That is the experience and perspective I want to bring to the U.S. Congress.

3.) How long have you lived in the jurisdiction associated with the race you are running for?

Since 1999

4.) Please describe your involvement with and contributions towards your local Democratic party organization, if any?

For nearly twenty years I have volunteered to get Democrats elected up and down the ballot. I have donated to numerous local Democratic candidates such as John Lovick, April Berg, Stephanie Vignal, and Ben Briles in the 44th Legislative District. I have volunteered and donated to numerous presidential campaigns, including Howard Dean, John Kerry, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama, and Bernie Sanders. My commitment to strengthening Democratic representation in government isn't limited to just my local community. I have traveled cross-country to support Democrats in efforts to unseat Republicans to either achieve majorities or build on existing ones. I continue to support and donate to Democratic candidates locally and nationally. I have also contributed to local Democratic-aligned organizations such as Fix Democracy First and FairVoteWA.

I have served as a Precinct Committee Officer in Marysville for over a decade, helping to organize my community and build a more inclusive Democratic Party with a greater focus on the concerns of working people. PCOs are the bedrock of our party and I intend to never lose touch with those roots.

5.) What are the three most important issues facing you, if elected, and how would you solve them?

1. **Climate crisis.** The most pressing issue facing our planet is the climate crisis. The window to avoid the worst consequences of warming is rapidly shrinking, and we must more aggressively push for the end of fossil fuels. I believe Northwest Washington has an ample opportunity to be a leader in renewable energy technologies like electrifying our transportation network, pivoting to local and organic farming systems, and curtailing the enormous carbon emissions from the U.S. military. Whereas Representative Larsen has voted to maintain federal subsidies for Big Oil while accepting money from Exxon Mobil, I stand firmly behind a Green New Deal that seeks to directly confront the climate crisis.
2. **Healthcare.** The Affordable Care Act was signed into law with an intent to achieve universal healthcare later on, but more than a decade later, the same sky-high premiums and racial and economic disparities in healthcare persist. The ACA was good, but not perfect, and we must make it better. I agree with the platforms of the SCDCC and Washington State Democrats that we must take the next step to achieving universal healthcare by building a single-payer Medicare for All system. A 2021 report from the Congressional Budget Office found that Medicare for All would dramatically improve health outcomes while costing *less* than our current system. Sadly, Representative Larsen has been proud to tell constituents that he has opposed single-payer since he took office in 2001. In that time, Democrats have evolved but our representation in Congress has not.
3. **Getting big money out of politics.** Ending outsized and undue influence in Congress from special business interests is of paramount importance to defending our democracy. I support efforts to overturn *Citizens United* through constitutional amendment or reversing the decision in an expanded Supreme Court. I support publicly-financed elections that would effectively ban contributions from corporate-linked PACs. Corporate corruption in government is a major reason behind why government can be ineffective and why the public may distrust our institutions. I am proud to practice those values by being the only candidate in the race who has pledged to not accept any money from any corporate PAC.

6.) Why are you seeking an endorsement from the Snohomish County Democrats and LDs?

Our campaign is the best aligned with the positions in the Snohomish County Democratic Party platform than any other campaign in the race. I am the only Democrat in the race who supports key issues endorsed in SCDCC's platform like single-payer healthcare, opposition to fast track authority on trade agreements, and the federal legalization of cannabis. An endorsement would be both a validation of those principles and a message to voters that this campaign is best representative of Democratic values.

7.) List your most significant organizational endorsements and your most significant personal endorsements (maximum of 3 of each).

I am proud to have earned the endorsements from progressive organizations like Blue America and Future Generations, the latter being a youth-led group focused on the environment.

I am also humbled to receive the endorsement of:

- **Jordan Sears**, former Chair of the 39th Legislative District Democrats, member of the Gold Bar City Council, former Gold Bar Mayor Pro tempore, and current candidate for the Snohomish County Public Utility District.
- **Linda Redmon**, current mayor of Snohomish who unseated Republican John Kartak.
- **Marianne Williamson**, former Democratic presidential candidate in 2020.

8.) List the milestones (up to 3) in your public service career that you feel represent Democratic ideals.

1. In my 18 years of service as a math teacher in public high schools, I had first-hand experience preparing my students to complete a high school education and prepare for adult life. I was active in my union to advocate for student success and support for school faculty. I'm proud to have been elected by my colleagues to represent them on the Marysville Education Association Board three times, and to the WEA Representative Assembly four times, to advocate for their needs.
2. In the absence of a federal single-payer healthcare system, I am committed to achieving universal coverage at the state-level through ballot initiative or legislation. That is why I currently serve on the Board of Whole Washington, an advocacy organization seeking to pass single-payer healthcare in our state.
3. I have been a lifelong advocate for drug policy reform, particularly cannabis. I'm proud to have been involved at the grassroots level to get Initiative 502 on the ballot in 2012 for the legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes.

9.) List three of your most significant accomplishments that you made in your most recent term as an elected official or, if never elected, your three most significant accomplishments in public service.

While I served on the Washington Democratic Central Committee, I was involved in the formation of the Economic Justice Caucus and the Separation of Church and State Caucus, serving as chair of the latter in 2018. Additionally I wrote, advocated for, and ultimately passed important measures such as the Reasonable Firearms Controls Resolution, a resolution that elected Democrats should not take for-profit health industry money, and a resolution to reject the DCCC's blackballing of campaign vendors who work with progressive challengers to sitting Democratic incumbents. All of these passed virtually unanimously. In 2018, as Chair of the Snohomish County Platform Committee, we worked tirelessly to develop the most progressive platform in our history, including creating the Housing Justice Platform which I then championed at the State Platform Committee. These planks on housing justice were included in the Washington State Democratic Party Platform marking the first time housing had been fully addressed as an official party position at the state-level.

10.) What steps do you think need to be taken to improve voter turnout, increase public involvement, and reduce voter apathy? How will you better engage all residents of the district particularly those that have traditionally low engagement?

1. Representation matters, and that is why I strongly believe that it is important to have a government *of* the people rather than of representatives more concerned with business interests. Governments that repeatedly fail to deliver on basic needs like wages, healthcare, housing and education don't earn the respect of their constituents. We must have loud and proud advocates in government of working class values to help rebuild trust with the electorate.
2. I am committed to never losing touch with the grassroots activists and everyday people that I have long centered in my political life. Instead of meeting with only local stakeholders like business owners, political officials, and special interests, I would also make it a top priority to make myself accessible to the general public.

Please answer the following questions.		Yes/No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?	No
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission or Federal Election Commission?	No

If you answered “Yes” to any of the questions above, please explain your answer:

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Please respond to the following acknowledgement(s).		Agree/Disagree
1	I agree to run an ethical and honest campaign. Failure to do so could result in the rescission of my endorsement.	AGREE

If you disagree with any of the items above, please explain your answer:

<p>I have no disagreement with the above, however, I would like to know whether the committee would consider political contributions from PACs affiliated with Big Oil to be a virtue of running an ethical and honest campaign.</p>
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# The Democratic Party Platform

“1” = strongly agree  
 “2” = somewhat agree

“3” = neutral

“4” = somewhat disagree  
 “5” = strongly disagree

#	Statement	Your response ( 1 to 5)
	I support the platform of the local, state, and national Democratic Party Organizations.	1

Feel free to expound upon any of the planks to the platform:

I’m intimately familiar with the platform of the Washington State Democrats from my time on the Central Committee and can say with confidence that I am the best aligned with those positions out of any candidate in the race. I authored a resolution that stated Democrats should not take money from for-profit healthcare entities, which was passed by the State Committee unanimously. Unfortunately, many Democrats continue to accept political contributions from the for-profit healthcare industry, and I believe we should strive as a party to support Democrats who honor that resolution. Not just with this one issue, we should support Democrats who also back other resolutions and platform planks like single-payer healthcare and a Green New Deal, for which I remain the only candidate in the race to support both.

I believe that LPOs have a responsibility to enforce some discipline in their endorsements process for Democrats who choose to oppose some of the foundational key issues in platforms and adopted resolutions.

## Short Answer Questions

#	Question	Yes/No	Qualify your response.
1	Do you support steps to build a fairer economy through tax reform and progressive taxes as wealth increases?	YES	Tax the rich. Not because their money is needed to fund programs, but because vast wealth inequality is inherently undemocratic.
2	Do you support achieving a universal, affordable, quality single payer healthcare program?	YES	I am on the Board of Whole Washington, which has been seeking to pass a state single payer bill for over four years. I am the only candidate in the race who supports single-payer healthcare.
3	Do you support criminal justice reforms: defunding police?	YES	Please see the platform that I openly support and have contributed to, called Ten Demands For Justice <a href="http://www.tenforjustice.com">www.tenforjustice.com</a> I am also not afraid to use the term Defund the Police. It is not a slogan, it is a concrete set of policies to achieve justice in the legal system
4	Do you support criminal justice reform: police accountability?	YES	See above.
5	Do you support criminal justice reform: eliminate “money” bail?	YES	See above.
6	Do you support criminal justice reforms: mandatory use of body cameras for police?	YES	See above.
7	Do you support women’s unrestricted access to reproductive healthcare?	YES	Always have, always will. <i>Roe</i> should be codified and we must abolish the filibuster to achieve that goal. We must also expand SCOTUS to help defend abortion rights. My support of Medicare for All includes coverage for abortion services that would <i>de facto</i> overturn the Hyde Amendment.

8	Do you support laws to limit carbon emissions and reverse climate change?	YES	I support the Green New Deal. I support eliminating the fossil fuel industry as soon as possible. See my policy priority statements.
9	Do you support local investment to address climate change, including converting your government district to an electric fleet, where applicable?	YES	Electrification of fleets is of paramount importance to reducing greenhouse gases in our local transportation system. I will do all that I can to steer as many federal dollars as possible to support local electrification efforts.
10	Do you support overturning “Citizens United” and imposing limits on campaign finance contributions?	YES	I support public financing of political campaigns and ending all corporate PAC contributions. I am the only Democratic candidate who has never accepted a political contribution from Big Oil, the Koch Brothers, or Big Tobacco.
11	Do you support the right of workers to unionize and bargain, including public employees?	YES	I am 100% in favor of the PRO Act, eliminating all barriers to unionization, and heavily penalizing any business that engages in union-busting activity. I have been on the picket lines with the Northwest Carpenters Union and with Teamster Local 174 cement truck drivers, who have been striking for fair contracts for over 80 days as of this writing.
12	Do you support laws regulating the purchase, ownership, and carrying of firearms?	YES	I wrote the Reasonable Firearms Controls Resolution that was passed almost unanimously at the State Committee in 2018.
13	Do you support the use of public funds toward charter schools?	NO	Public funds for public schools. I support significantly more investment in schools than currently exists. I say this as a former public school teacher of 18 years.
14	Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?	YES	In 2020, I was identified by FairVoteWA as being an RCV

			Champion. I am a donor to FairVoteWA.
15	Do you support robust investment in publicly owned housing/subsidized housing and zoning changes to support such housing?	YES	I support massive federal investments in green-built public housing to end homelessness.
16	Do you support housing as a human right and public financing for universal housing?	YES	The federal government must declare a housing emergency and make significant investments to achieve the goal of universal housing to eliminate homelessness.
17	Do you support the establishment of a Universal Basic Income?	YES*	*Qualified: For UBI to truly work, there must be cost controls on basic needs like housing, food, utilities, transportation. I don't support UBI as an increased payment to landlords. Otherwise yes, everyone deserves a basic income.
18	Do you support public funding of safe-use and consumption sites for opioids?	YES	They are proven to work to reduce deaths; I also support increased investment in treatment programs and hospital beds to mitigate this public health crisis. I further support decriminalization of all drugs and treating addiction as a health issue, not a criminal issue.
19	If elected, would you oppose any measures that reduce the net amount of public green space, sell public green spaces for development, or limit access to green space within your district?	YES	Land use is one the top contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. If we are to get serious about reducing emissions, we must preserve green spaces wherever possible and permit greater density in developed areas.
20	Developer impact fees are allowed under the Growth Management Act. Should they be increased to help pay for needed improvements to our roads, parks, and schools?	YES	

## Essay Questions

1.) What can be done to reduce the carbon footprint of your district?

While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has launched many ambitious initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in our transportation system, I believe that we must go much further if we are to hit targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to avoid the worst impacts of global warming. For instance, Representative Larsen's legislation to electrify the nation's ferry fleet is merely a pilot program that commits only enough funds to construct one new vessel over four years. Ferries contribute over 73 percent of Washington State's annual carbon emissions, and WSF will need to build three new vessels and replace 13 over the next 20 years. Considering our rapidly dwindling amount of time to meaningfully respond to the climate crisis, this is too little, too late. We must go farther if we want to meet the goals set in the Paris Accord. Being a representative in the U.S. Congress loudly advocating a maximalist position on reducing emissions is the least I can do to serve the district in our shared goal of combating the climate crisis.

We must also examine the carbon emissions from the U.S. military, which emits more carbon than over 170 countries. If we are serious about responding to the climate emergency, we cannot continue to exempt our military from climate policy. That is why I believe our district should lead in reducing military activities in the spirit of mitigating carbon emissions, like reducing or decommissioning EA-18G Growler flights at NAS Whidbey.

2.) Does the level of diversity among district employees reflect the constituents of your district? If there is a disparity, how do you think it should be addressed, if at all?

I'm not sure how to address this for a federal district. I encourage all diversity or representation mandates, and was supportive of efforts to overturn Initiative 200, which was anti-affirmative action legislation.

3.) If funding of operations within your district depends upon a public vote on a bond or levy, how would you best lobby your constituents to approve its passage?

I don't believe this is applicable to federal districts, however as a public school teacher I have supported and lobbied for passage of such votes.

4.) If prevailing sentiment on a hot button issue in your district goes against your values as a Democrat, how do you reconcile the disparity between doing what you feel to be right versus representing your constituents?

I have immense pride being candid about the issues I support and oppose. A part of rebuilding trust in government and energizing voters is to further embrace transparency and outspokenness. I feel that our district's current representation too often obfuscates their true opinions because the issue may be controversial, and they would rather keep their head down than risk public scrutiny. That does a great disservice to our district and its constituents. By committing to transparency and refusal of corporate PAC money, I want the constituents of our district to have confidence in understanding how they are being fairly represented in Congress.

Having strong opinions also does not mean I am unwilling to listen to other voices. However, at the end of the day, this district will have elected a progressive Democrat to represent them and that is the lens through which issues are going to be viewed. It is up to the voters to decide whether they want to continue to be represented by my set of opinions and stances, or go in a different direction. Our democracy should reflect the evolving opinions and priorities of the people, and elections are an opportunity for those evolved opinions to be measured.

5.) As an elected official, will you endorse and support other qualified Democrats running for other offices, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, disability, or other factors?

I will back qualified Democrats who best reflect the stated positions of our party, like supporting Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, and getting corporate money out of politics — as our platforms and resolutions have endorsed. This is a big tent party, but we need to stay committed to and fight for what we have resolved as our core positions as Democrats.

6.) "DINO" means "Democrat In Name Only" and refers to individuals who declare themselves as Democrats for political reasons, but that do not reflect Democratic values in their actions. Are you a DINO? How have your actions proven you a "real" Democrat?

I am a Democrat because I support the platform and resolutions of the Democratic Party rather than pick and choose as is convenient for me. I seek to practice what I believe instead of saying one thing, then doing another. For instance, I do not believe you can call yourself a Democrat in good faith when you support overturning *Citizens United* but gladly accept hundreds of thousands of dollars from corporate PACs.

7.) What is an issue you think has not been adequately addressed by past and present leadership in your district? What would you try to do to address it?

Over the better part of the last decade, Representative Larsen has failed to meet his oversight obligations of the aviation industry. First as ranking member, then named Chair of the House Aviation Subcommittee in 2019, Rep. Larsen failed to adequately address regulatory concerns over the Organization Design Authority program at the Federal Aviation Administration. In 2012, the Department of Transportation Inspector General found that the program meant to delegate FAA certifications to aviation industry employees experienced undue pressure from company bosses to overlook safety issues. Michael Perrone, president of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, pleaded to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that “the FAA cannot keep delegating out work without an adequate number of inspectors to oversee the designees.”

“Oversight is especially difficult to ensure in the ODA program where an entire corporation performs work on behalf of the FAA,” he explained.

Years later, these problems would lead to the 737 Max crashes that killed over 300 people. “One Boeing engineer would conduct a test of a particular system on the Max 8, while another Boeing engineer would act at the FAA’s representative, signing on behalf of the U.S. government,” reported the *Washington Post*.

Larsen understood this was the problem as far back as 2013, asking a FAA representative in a House Aviation Subcommittee hearing battery fires on board the Boeing 737 Dreamliner, “Can you help us understand why FAA would argue this is not self-certification?” However, he did nothing to address the fundamental problems with FAA inspections at the scale that was necessary. He could have offered amendments to the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act to increase funding for inspections staff to be employed directly by the FAA. He could have offered measures to strengthen the degrees of separation between ODAs and aerospace corporations. He could have been outspoken and fought forcefully against regulatory capture at the FAA. He didn’t, and instead received tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from Boeing’s PAC alone.

According to former acting FAA Administrator Dan Elwell, it would take only \$1.8 billion to hire the additional 10,000 federal aviation inspectors necessary for the FAA to perform certifications on their own. To put that amount into perspective, that is how much the U.S. government is spending on a new FBI headquarters.

“[O]ver the past two months to solve problems with the new 787 Dreamliner's fire-plagued batteries, one player has been strangely silent: Congress,” reported the Associated Press in 2013,

“The unusual bipartisan silence reflects Boeing's political clout, wielded by legions of lobbyists, fueled by hefty political campaign contributions.” Over the last decade the House Aviation Subcommittee under the leadership of Rep. Larsen ignored warnings and failed to strengthen regulatory oversight of aerospace all while cashing in on tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions.

Read more about my call out of Rep. Larsen’s failed leadership in our campaign’s February 21, 2022 press release:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6129603067303f02caa76c74/t/62157843cdf47309b079b57e/1645574212314/2022-02-20-boeing.pdf>

8.) How would you prioritize district services in the event of an economic downturn?

I would work to ensure that basic human needs like food, healthcare, and housing are being addressed to the best of my ability during an economic downturn. Instead of meeting only with public officials or business owners, I would make it a priority to also consult with constituents directly and give them many opportunities to communicate to their representative in Congress how government can better support them.

9.) Describe your progressive vision for your district over the next 25 years. How would you help implement it?

Over the next 25 years the climate crisis will be the number one issue impacting the district, the nation, and our planet. Approaching the year 2050 we will have needed to phase-out most fossil fuels in our energy grid and transportation system, requiring immense and rapid change in our economy and government. By committing to not accepting a dime from corporate PACs, this includes Big Oil, and I am prepared to take a tough stance against rich special interests who are more concerned with short-term profits rather than the long-term health of our planet.

I highly recommend visiting my website, [callforcongress.com](http://callforcongress.com), and checking out the tab “Rick’s Receipts.” There, our campaign has assembled two comprehensive reports on the incumbent’s record and how over the *last* 25 years he has failed to produce any sort of unifying progressive vision for the future.