

**Skagit County Democrats
Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate (name as it will appear on the ballot): **Jenifer Howson**

Position sought: Skagit County District Court Judge

Precinct, Legislative District, & Congressional District of residence:

Precinct: Skyridge 144

Legislative District: Legislative District 10

Congressional District: 1st Congressional District

Have you sought an endorsement from any other political party? NO

Please answer the following specific questions:

1. Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court-ordered judgments? NO
2. Have you ever been found in violation of any requirements of the Public Disclosure Commission or Federal Election Commission? NO
3. Have you ever been convicted of an ethics violation, a felony, or a crime of moral turpitude (such as fraud, bribery, false statements, etc.)? NO
4. Have you ever been convicted of a drug or alcohol related offense? A domestic violence offense? Or an offense involving racial or sexual harassment? NO
5. Have you ever been disciplined by a state bar association, whether it be Washington or elsewhere? NO
6. Has anyone filed a complaint against you with a state bar association, whether in Washington or elsewhere? NO
7. Have you ever been fired from a job? NO

Campaign Information

Campaign name: Committee to Retain Judge Howson

Campaign Email address and phone number: JudgeHowson@gmail.com

Campaign website: None active yet.

Campaign mailing address: PO BOX 27113, Seattle WA 98165

Campaign manager and/or other key contacts: Mary Ann Ottinger

Treasurer name and contact information: Andy Lo – 206-335-8815 – treasurer@andy-lo.com

Candidate's Statement

At a minimum, please explain

1. Why you are qualified for the position for which you are running,

I am the incumbent. I am experienced. I have been serving as a District Court Judge for over a year. Prior to that, I was acting in a judicial capacity as a District and Municipal

Court Commissioner for four years. Last year, I served as Assistant Presiding Judge helping manage the business of the courts. This year I am the Presiding Judge over the District Court and the 3 municipal courts.

2. your prior experience relevant to the position,

I was an attorney for 20 years in Skagit County practicing law in all the courts. Prior to that, I was a Public Defender for 7 years. I began my career as a Public Defender for the NW tribal Courts.

3. why you decided to run,

Initially, I sought a judicial appointment because I truly felt called to serve the court and the community. I felt that I was the most qualified candidate for the job. I am transforming the legal system in the courts by creating therapeutic courts which are really making a difference in our county. I have more work to do for equality, diversity and access to justice.

4. your involvement, if any, in promoting diversity in workplace, in organizations in which you are a member, etc.,

I sit on court hiring committees throughout the court system, and I look for candidates that reflect the diversity of our county. I am a member of organizations like Skagit Women In Business and Skagit Women's Alliance & Network who proactively support diversity in their missions to mentor diverse women.

5. some of your most important values

Integrity, hard work, empathy, perseverance and fairness.

6. any other information that would be of assistance to the Committee.

One of the programs I have developed in Skagit County is a highly successful Community Court which seeks to address the socio-economic factors leading some criminal defendants to repeatedly engage in non-violent criminal behavior – addiction and dependency, untreated mental health issues, unstable housing, incomplete education, etc. We have implemented this program in multiple locations throughout the county, and I look forward to seeing it flourish through my next term in office.

I would be honored to earn the endorsement of the Skagit County Democrats.