



King County Democrats

Draft 2022 Candidate Questionnaire: Legislature

Candidate Name	Dr. Lelach Rave
Position Sought	State Representative, 46th LD
Are you a Democrat?	Yes
Campaign Contact Information	See example of campaign contact information collected at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCDemsQuestionnaire2022

The following are the questions proposed to be asked in the 2022 Legislative Questionnaire.
 Questions in gray are common to questionnaires for all offices.

Please answer the following ques		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Have you ever been a member of another political party?		X	
2	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes, court-ordered judgments, or former campaign staff salaries?		X	
3	Have you or your staff ever been found in violation of a Federal Election Commission, Public Disclosure Commission, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, or Judicial Conduct Commission regulation?		X	
4	Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? If not, are you willing to implement one?	X		
5	If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?	X		
6	Are you willing to have yourself, your staff, or your peers participate in cultural competency, implicit bias, and anti-racism training?	X		
7	Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers participate in training to understand and combat sexual harassment?	X		
8	Do you support the rights of all workers to organize, collectively bargain, and strike without fear of retaliation?	X		
9	Do you support the right of public workers – excluding military personnel – to bargain and strike?	X		
10	Do you support raising the statewide minimum wage?	X		
11	Do you support increased state funding for Sound Transit and other	X		

	regional transit authorities?			
12	Do you support protecting school curriculum and school library collections from censorship?	X		

1 3	Do you accept that there is systemic racial bias in our criminal justice system that urgently needs to be addressed?	X		
1 4	Do you support abolition of the death penalty in WA state?	X		
	Would you support additional funds and resources being allocated to resettled immigrant and refugee populations to provide equitable access to healthcare and social services?	X		
1 6	Do you support robust access to broadband Internet for all?	X		

17 Do you support reinstating the right to vote to those who are currently incarcerated for a felony, as is done in Vermont? X

18 Do you support charter schools or vouchers for private school education? X

Part I – Candidate Background (maximum of 200 words per question please)

Please briefly describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.)

A child of immigrants, like many first generation Americans, I grew up in a family that valued education and service. After graduating from Northwestern University, I completed medical school at Washington University in St Louis. Between undergrad and medical school, I served in the founding cohort of Americorps. We were deployed as an emergency response team in Oklahoma City after the bombing of the federal Murrah building.

After completing my education, I became a Critical Care Transport physician, caring for the sickest kids in helicopters and ambulances for UCLA Medical Center.

I moved to Seattle and the 46th district 17 years ago. I have cared for children as a hospitalist for the Seattle Children’s hospital, in the ER and urgent care clinics, and as a primary care pediatrician at the Everett Clinic for the past 13 years. I have also worked extensively with the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Today, I am a PCO and member of my 46th District Democrats. I also serve on the UW Camp Kesem Advisory Board, and until recently on the Board of Directors of Within Reach and on the Provider Advisory Committee of Apple Health Foster Care Program.

Please describe your history of involvement (if any), in local, regional, and/or state politics, with particular emphasis on the last five years.

In addition to serving as a PCO and member of the 46th District Democrats, the majority of my involvement in state politics has been as a citizen physician and Chair of the WA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Legislative Committee. In that capacity, it has been my honor to set legislative priorities and do the work needed to pass legislation that prioritizes health, equity and opportunity for every child and family in our state.

I have testified in Olympia, met with Legislators and successfully helped to create the Children's Mental Health Work Group, established Medicaid payment for developmental and autism screens for children, and established a single phone line referral resource for children on Apple Health with behavioral health needs. I have also advocated for Paid Family Leave, to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco and nicotine products to 21, and promote gun safety through safe storage, child access prevention, universal background checks, and extreme risk protection orders. I fought for payment for interpreter services, distracted driving laws and elimination of toxic chemicals from consumer products

There is more information available about my record of accomplishment in Washington State policy on [my campaign website](#).

King County Democrats – 2022 WA State Legislative Questionnaire 2

Part II – Free Response Questions (maximum of 200 words per question please)

Many individuals in WA have limited access to healthcare. What steps should the legislature take to ensure that all WA residents have meaningful and equitable access to the care and prescriptions they need for their health?

We need affordable quality health care for ALL Washingtonians. Care that is patient centered, not profit centered. We have made important progress in ensuring health care access in our state, but there is much more to be done, especially for lower income, immigrant, refugee and other vulnerable populations. It is essential that individuals are able to use their insurance in a meaningful way - which is often a challenge if no one takes your insurance or if the deductible is so high that you feel you cannot afford to use it. A key component of ensuring meaningful access to care is compensating those who provide the care adequately which the state recently did - pediatricians are no longer losing money every time they see a patient with state health insurance. Our state has failed to adequately make investments in mental health— worsening the crisis on our streets, but also in our schools and in our homes. We must work to fortify our mental health workforce. The state can play a role by reducing the administrative burden on these professionals, allowing them to have more time for the work they love and that we, as a society, desperately need.

Even with recent policies like the Clean Fuels Standard, we know that WA state is significantly behind on hitting its carbon pollution goals for 2035. What climate action and environmental justice policies must the WA legislature adopt in order to actually make progress against these goals and address the climate crisis with the urgency needed?

The climate crisis require that we reorganize our society. The legislation passed – while some of the nation's strongest—will only succeed if we fundamentally rethink how we heat our homes, travel, consume, and live. I'll be a tireless voice for getting fossil fuels out of our homes and offices, supporting use of heat pumps and other sustainable cooling systems, conversion to cleaner buildings and retrofits of existing homes and commercial spaces, adoption of cleaner cars and EVs as well as transit expansion and access, and further development of clean energy sources and jobs. We need to pass legislation that allows local municipalities to be stricter than the state building codes. Why would we hamper progress in parts of the state that are willing to go farther and faster toward making the changes we need? We must understand our interconnectedness – to each other and all life on our planet – and act accordingly. The environmental crisis requires no less than prioritizing the common good in everything we do.

What steps would you take to rebalance our tax code? Please explain the current system vs.

your proposal as you would to an average voter.

Our regressive tax code hits working and lower incomes households in our community the hardest, with those who earn the least paying a disproportionate share of taxes in our state. Just as problematic, this inequitable structure fails to generate the revenue needed to invest in priorities of education, health, safety and affordability. I am running to represent one of the wealthiest districts in our state, but also a district that views our budget as a reflection of our values. In Olympia, I want to champion the values of equity, opportunity, and shared prosperity and the revenue reforms required to bring us closer to those values. I support the capital gains tax. I will focus on closing tax loopholes and expanding the working family rebate, which allows families who qualify for the earned income tax credit to be rebated a portion of the regressive sales tax they pay each year. I will work to promote tax reforms that make sure our businesses and wealthiest individuals are contributing their fair share.

As Democrats, we strive to create a more just and equitable world for all, especially including those communities that have been historically marginalized. How will you center equity in the process of developing legislation, particularly that which impacts individuals unlike yourself?

Long before the acronyms DEI or BIPOC were adopted, I spent several summers as a counselor and facilitator at Camp Anytown which helps young people understand prejudice, discrimination, and bias on an interpersonal and systemic level. I worked as a facilitator, helping diverse groups of young people understand each other's perspectives and work collaboratively through respect, understanding, and inclusivity to achieve real change. That is the same view I will bring to the role of legislator.

I want to use this position to amplify the stories of the diverse families I have served and known over the years and make sure we adopt policies that give every young person a fair chance at the future they deserve. Addressing and centering equity starts with recognition of one's own privilege and a commitment to allyship. With privilege comes responsibility for dismantling systems which perpetuate that privilege. Centering equity requires bringing individuals unlike myself, with all kinds of lived experiences, around the table to listen and learn and collaborate. Government must represent the communities it serves.

In your view, what legislative change(s) would be the MOST impactful at reducing housing instability and improving affordability while avoiding gentrification in both your legislative district and across the state?

We need housing policies that reflect our economic and cultural diversity. We need housing that is built to house, not to make profits. Instead of being a commodity, we need to consider housing a basic right. That means accelerating development of quality, affordable, family-friendly housing options throughout Seattle by putting policies and dollars to work to insist we end up with the desired outcome instead of relying on the markets. We need more density, but not high end units concentrated near light rail that pushes lower income families further away from the transportation and shops that they need. We need more middle income housing for young people— providing an entry point into the housing market— and we must ensure that we assist fixed income seniors and low income households to prevent displacement and housing instability. We need programs to keep families from losing their homes in the first place— like first and last month rent and security deposit assistance for renters. Often it is a temporary issue — just starting a new job, waiting for health insurance coverage to kick in, an illness for someone without adequate paid sick leave and high medical bills— that pushes a family over the edge and into homelessness.



King County Democrats – 2022 WA State Legislative Questionnaire 3