

King County Democrats 2023 Endorsement Questionnaire

Name

Dan Strauss

Email address

ballard206@gmail.com

Phone number

(206) 569-8775

Candidate name

Dan Strauss

Candidate pronouns

he/him

Campaign Filer_Name

Dan Strauss

Campaign email

ballard206@gmail.com

Campaign phone

(206) 569-8775

Campaign website

<https://d6danstrauss.org/>

Campaign Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/seattleforstrauss/>

Campaign manager name

Ryan O'Connor

Campaign manager email

hello@d6danstrauss.org

Campaign manager phone

(503) 894-1285

Treasurer name

Andy Lo

Treasurer phone

(206) 335-8815

Consultant name

Breann Pugnetti

Consultant email

breann@cerillionn4.com

What type of position are you running for?

City - Seattle

What position are you running for?

Seattle City Council

Are you a Democrat?

Yes

Have you ever been a member of another political party?

No

Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?

Qualified

Do you have a code of conduct for campaign staff and volunteers?

Yes

If you have campaign staff, do you support them joining a labor union?

Yes

Do you support employees of your jurisdiction (e.g. your city's employees, the Port's employees, etc.) exercising their collective bargaining rights without fear of retaliation, including the right to bargain and strike for better working conditions and pay?

Yes

Are you willing to have yourself, your staff, and your peers undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism, implicit bias, and sexual harassment?

Yes

Will your campaign accept contributions from corporate fossil fuel PACs?

No

Will your campaign accept contributions from corporate pharmaceutical PACs or corporate health insurance PACs?

No

Will your campaign accept contributions from corporate building industry PACs, including the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and the National Association of Home Builders?

No

Will your campaign accept contributions from law enforcement or sheriffs' organizations?

No

Will you return contributions from companies or PACs who are aligned with the organizations listed above and others that conflict with Democratic Party values?

Qualified

Have you made any donations to Republican candidates or Republican Party organizations in the last 5 years?

No

Have you previously participated, or will you be participating, in a candidate training program like Institute for a Democratic Future or Emerge?

Yes

For any Yes/No questions you answered "qualified", please explain:

Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?(Required)

I filed an amended report to accurately account for the in-kind donations provided at a fundraiser which my opponent's supporters used to file a complaint with Seattle Ethics and Elections which resulted in a fine. I paid the fine quickly and the issue was resolved.

Will you return contributions from companies or PACs who are aligned with the organizations listed above and others that conflict with Democratic Party values?(Required)

As a city councilmember, I interact with a wide variety of industries and constituencies from shippers to the tech industry that don't necessarily have stated political agendas or are not aligned with any party. It is important for me to keep an open door to all constituents.

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

I majored in Political Science during my undergrad and focused on State Government when receiving my Master of Public Administration. The only time I have been able to join a union I did, the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation – American Federation of Teachers Local 3544. I have worked or interned in four legislative bodies (U.S. Senate, Oregon State House of Representatives, Washington State Senate, and Seattle City Council). I have also been a longtime

member of the 36th Democrats, have served as PCO for two precincts, have recruited PCOs, and was the Area Coordinator for the 2016 Caucus at Salmon Bay school in addition to leading my precinct's caucusing.

This is my community service history:

- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), 2009-2010
 - o Epicenter; Green River, Utah
 - o Commonweal; Bolinas, California
 - o Bureau of Land Management; Folsom, California
 - o Camp Marshall; Polson, Montana
 - o Tahoe National Forest, US Forest Service; Nevada City, California — St. Matthias Soup Kitchen; Whittier, California, 2005-2009
- Hurricane Katrina Response Service Trips; New Orleans, Louisiana, April & December 2006
- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), 2005-2006
 - o City of Toledo Parks Department; Toledo, Ohio
 - o Nature Conservancy, Edge of Appalachia preserve; Union Gap, Ohio
 - o Hawk Mountain Sanctuary; Kempton, Pennsylvania
 - o Southeast Ohio Disaster Relief Network; Athens, Ohio

What motivated you to run for this position and how would you evaluate your success?

I was born and raised in Ballard and my neighbors were school teachers, welders, plumbers, electricians, and fishermen. I am running for re-election to ensure as we grow, we maintain a place for the people who build and operate our city. With the changes that have occurred in Ballard, the family I grew up in would not afford to live in Ballard today.

We are at a time of change in our city. Over the last decade we have grown into a large city, and now we have a moment to truly remake our downtown AND make our neighborhoods even more vibrant. And this work is already underway, prototypes are currently being used and now we are scaling these plans city and District 6 wide. Born and raised in this city I know where we have come from, and I see the horizon of the next growth spurt that our city will make- while taking care of our own backyards.

I will continue to work to build a Seattle we can be proud of by increasing public safety, addressing homelessness, ensuring that all Seattleites have an affordable place to call home, connecting our bus and bike lanes, supporting our small businesses, and expanding affordable childcare programs.

What are the top three issues of urgency that you will address if elected?

Public Safety – Focussing police time on crime while continuing to expand public safety responses that do not require an armed officer to resolve. I stood up Public Safety Task Forces in my District connecting small businesses, service providers, police, and my team with actionable steps to address public safety. "High Needs Case Conferencing" a care plan that gets them off our streets and into the stability that increases public safety.

Homelessness – We need to address homelessness without sweeps, get people inside and straight into permanent housing. My work at Ballard Commons and Woodland Parks resolved encampments without sweeps and helped restructure the way Seattle addresses homelessness. I have been the most outspoken supporter about expanding this model to be neighborhood based teams so that each neighborhood has a team they work with and rely on.

Housing and affordability – It is a priority of mine to continue to increase the total stock of housing, especially affordable rental and ownership. I will continue to ensure our city is investing at or above the \$200 million/year benchmark in affordable housing. Our city needs more affordable family size units and I have exempted 60% AMI affordable housing projects from design review. The City Auditor is currently auditing every review desk involved in our permitting process per my request. Our design review process is broken by not incorporating community feedback and allowing the process to be weaponized to slow projects down. This program needs reform, and I am currently working to these ends.

How will you involve all residents and engage all communities in the decision-making process?

I will continue to host weekly office hour meetings to meet with constituents, community groups and stakeholders at times and places that are convenient for them. I spend over half my work week working from my D6 District Office because you shouldn't have to go out of your way to have your voice heard at City Hall.

With the redistricting of Magnolia, I also have the opportunity to engage with a new community of constituents. This will be a great opportunity for me to reconnect more closely with Magnolia following my work with Sally Bagshaw when she was on City Council. I launched my campaign with a Magnolia listening tour and am making it a priority to hear directly from the people I represent.

How have you promoted an enduring environment of inclusivity, diversity, and equity?

I have fully supported the Legislative Departments work on Race and Social Justice Initiative and am working to collaborate with the RSJI team to address institutional barriers and reduce race based disparities in our city.

If elected, how will you address inequalities experienced among BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, or other marginalized communities and advance an agenda of equality?

I will continue to work directly with community members from the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities by listening and following through with achieving their asks. Three examples are: working with Donald King to fix the religious housing bonus bill to meet the needs of the Black community, working with UIAT to design and fund the rebuilding of the Labeteyah House youth home, and working with NOVA High School to get them a health center in their school so that they did not need to go to Garfield or the Seattle World School to receive healthcare designed for them.

Will you commit to change zoning, permitting, and other obstacles in your city to increase housing availability for mid and lower income levels?

Yes

Will you commit to an increased percent of funding towards community and behavioral health services?

Yes

Will you actively support increased non-auto dependent transportation?

Yes

Do you support alternatives to the forced removal of unhoused people?

Yes

Do you support regulations to restrict police practices historically applied unfairly or abusively?

Yes

Do you support offering broadband internet access as a public utility?

Yes

Will you support allocating public safety budget dollars to the LEAD and CoLEAD programs of community-based intervention and diversion?

Yes

All municipalities are facing housing issues in their region. What changes will you make and how will you fund those changes?

Housing is a priority of mine to continue to increase the total stock of housing, especially affordable rental and ownership. There is plenty of room in Seattle for development, and we need greater density in and around our light rail systems. By increasing density we will increase our funding for building affordable housing (MHA). I will continue to ensure our city is investing at or above the \$200 million/year benchmark in affordable housing, and that this housing is built near jobs and transit.

All municipalities are facing behavioral health issues in their region. How is your community specifically affected, what changes will you make, and how will you fund them?

Our city and District 6 face a homelessness crisis. My work resolving the encampments at Ballard Commons Park and Woodland Park without sweeps was accomplished by creating a census, needs assessment, and taking the time to move people inside. This led to restructuring the way our city addresses homelessness. I funded mental health crisis teams which boost behavioral health programs to establish a 24/7 citywide mental health crisis first response system in the city. I will continue to work with the first response system to ensure crisis responders have the services and training needed to intervene. The Seattle King County Regional Homelessness Authority needs to be able to raise its own revenue.

Ongoing inequity is an issue in King County. Other than housing, what are your immediate plans for addressing this injustice?

I will continue to prioritize and listen to communities experiencing inequity and follow through with requests from these communities to address barriers. I work closely with the constituents in my community and utilize my district office to work as closely as possible to the community groups in my district.

Many cities have claimed a commitment to reducing carbon emissions. What specific actions will you take to ensure that your city drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

I helped pass the most environmentally friendly energy code in the nation and am currently working full time on the tree bill that has accumulated from years of stakeholder collaboration to preserve, protect, and expand our tree canopy in the city while also making space for the housing we desperately need.

Will you support allocating ongoing operational and future capital funding, as well as prioritizing public lands to ensure the Seattle Social Housing Developer (as enacted by I-135) is successful?

Qualified

Will you support re-funding JustCARE or a similar program to provide community-based public safety resources?

Yes

Do you support safe consumption sites in every city council district?

Qualified

Will you introduce or support legislation to fund affordable childcare facilities, with workers paid a living wage?

Yes

Will you support moving Seattle elections to even years to increase voter turnout?

Qualified

For any Yes/No questions you answered "qualified", please explain:

Will you support allocating ongoing operational and future capital funding, as well as prioritizing public lands to ensure the Seattle Social Housing Developer (as enacted by I-135) is successful?(Required) With the city's looming budget shortfall, we do not have a funding source dedicated to this initiative. I will continue reviewing our options for funding.

Do you support safe consumption sites in every city council district?(Required)

Seattle and King County have moved away from brick and mortar safe consumption sites, rather focusing mobile options to meet people where they are.

Will you support moving Seattle elections to even years to increase voter turnout?(Required)

I haven't made a decision on this and I'm happy to learn more.

What specific legislation would you introduce to reform the Seattle Police Department?

During 2020 I voted to ban the use of tear gas, blast balls, rubber bullets, and other so-called "crowd control" weapons during the protests of 2020. Community safety is a top priority of mine, and I also believe legislation is not the only solution. I will continue to focus on solutions to recruit officers from our community instead of outsourcing jobs to people who are unfamiliar with our city and our streets. I have supported programs such as before the badge which ensure we hire officers that demonstrate a foundation of community values, understanding, and wellness.

What are your policy priorities to ensure that Seattle residents are able to earn living wages?

I will continue to support union CWAs and PLAs, priority hire, measures to ensure living wages, and job training programs to help prepare and strengthen our workforce.

Do you support the taxes recommended in the 2018 Report of the Progressive Revenue Task Force? Please share your thoughts.

I was one of the original four sponsors of the Jumpstart Tax and I also support capital gains tax. I am currently waiting to review the recommendations from the Revenue Stabilization Task Force that is currently meeting on this topic to inform my perspective.

Will you support a Comprehensive Plan that includes upzones that allow for multifamily housing, light industrial, and commercial uses in all residential areas, as well as allowing for high rises near all light rail stations, as described in the proposed Alternative 6 plan?

As the Land Use Chair I continue to work with OPCD to select the alternative that best meets the needs of our growing city. Our past Major Updates to the Comprehensive plan have fallen woefully short of our Seattle's growing needs, and we cannot afford to choose another plan that fails to address this crisis head on.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the provided information is true and accurate.

Yes

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