

King County Democrats 2023 Endorsement Questionnaire

Name

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Pete Hanning

Candidate pronouns

He/Him

Campaign Filer_Name

Vote for Pete D6 [PDC: Pete Hanning]

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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?

No

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

No

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?

Yes

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?

Yes

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

Yes

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?

Qualified

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

No

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

We will evaluate all contributions, including those from PACs.

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

As a lifelong Seattle resident, this city has helped shape who I am. I am a graduate of Seattle Public Schools (Franklin High).

I have been a prominent figure in the nightlife and hospitality industry for over three decades, with a 20-year ownership of the Red Door in Fremont. My extensive experience in the hospitality sector has honed my ability to provide excellent service to the community.

I've been passionate about civic engagement since I was eight years old, when I first participated in a campaign to eliminate sales tax on food. I've been committed to promoting healthy communities and enhancing public safety throughout my career. I'm proud to have served on various boards, including the Fremont Neighborhood Council, the North Precinct Advisory Council, the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, the Seattle Restaurant Alliance, and the Washington Restaurant/Hospitality Association. Through my involvement with these organizations, I've made significant contributions to our community, including founding the Seattle Restaurant Alliance and the Seattle Nightlife & Music Association. My wife and I are also active members of our local P-Patch, HazelHeights. Currently, I'm honored to serve as the Executive Director for the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.

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

My decision to run for this position stems from my desire to positively impact my community through elected office. With my prior experiences, I am confident that I can be a council member who helps navigate the difficult decisions we face. I strongly believe in the values of civility, teamwork, and collaboration, which are crucial in moving our city forward. As a long-time resident and business owner of D6, I am dedicated to bringing the necessary services to my community. Personally, I didn't want to end up regretting not trying. In my home office reads, a sign that reads, "Hard, not Scary." And there are parts of this that are hard but gratifying as well. Already during this campaign, I have formed new relationships and gained a deeper understanding of our district and city. So I am already being successful. I am fully committed to working tirelessly to make a difference, and I am optimistic that I can make a meaningful contribution to this position.

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

Community Safety: We must work with law enforcement, drug treatment experts, mental health professionals, and residents to ensure community safety. Our city should guarantee a timely and reliable response to ensure vibrant neighborhoods where we can all live, work, and play. Uniformed officers play an essential role, but not every situation requires their response.

Housing & Homelessness: Seattle must place the utmost importance on providing affordable housing to help working families, seniors and alleviate homelessness. To accomplish this, the city must direct its efforts toward expanding the current housing supply and expediting the permitting process while maintaining affordability and the character of our neighborhoods. For those experiencing homelessness, we must increase the availability of shelters, implement programs like tiny home villages, and enhance mental health and drug treatment services. Our ultimate focus should be prioritizing support for those requiring it the most.

Upgrading Aging Infrastructure: Like many other places in America, our city has an increasingly aging infrastructure. District 6 is a district of bridges. Too often, this kind of policy only interests people once it's too late, but I am committed to ensuring our city budget doesn't continue to backlog these critical projects. After witnessing the negative impacts on neighbors in West Seattle, this area needs our attention.

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

One way to involve all residents and engage all communities in decision-making is to hold community meetings where everyone can voice their opinions and concerns. It's important to listen to everyone's input and take it into consideration when making decisions that affect the community as a whole. Additionally, utilizing social media and other online platforms can help to reach a wider audience and provide opportunities for virtual participation. Ultimately, the key is to create an inclusive and transparent process that ensures everyone has a say in the decisions that impact their lives.

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

I've always believed that inclusivity, diversity, and equity are essential to any healthy community. To promote these values, I strive to create an open and supportive environment where everyone feels heard and valued. We must make more room at the table. I will ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute and be recognized for their contributions. I will also work to ensure that our policies and practices are fair and equitable and that we are actively seeking out diverse perspectives and experiences. By fostering an enduring environment of inclusivity, diversity, and equity, we can build a stronger and more resiliency that is better equipped to meet future challenges.

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

I would focus on addressing inequalities faced by marginalized communities by creating policies and programs that tackle root causes like poverty, lack of education and healthcare, and discrimination. I'll work with community leaders to identify pressing issues and develop solutions that meet their unique needs. My goal is to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for a fair and just society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

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?

Qualified

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?

Qualified

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

We must put more resources into these issues from many different contact points.

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

The issue of housing seems to be on the minds of everyone in our area. Unfortunately, our inaction has only made the situation worse. To address this, it is important that we collaborate with builders and government agencies to create more affordable housing options for those with low incomes. This can be achieved through a variety of methods, including requiring commercial linkage fees for developers and providing incentives for landlords who offer affordable rates. Additionally, we should look into increasing eviction protection and rent assistance programs to help those who are struggling to keep up with their housing payments.

It's important to secure stable funding for all these ideas, and the key is to collaborate with the county, state, and private sector partners. As a community, we can work together to solve this problem.

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?

I'm grateful that the King County Crisis Care Center Levy was passed, as it's a significant step forward for our region. It's crucial to maintain access to these services, as dealing with mental health challenges requires a comprehensive approach that also addresses the fentanyl and meth addiction crisis.

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

It's important that we make space at the table to address inequity. Everyone deserves a seat and a voice in creating a more just and equitable world. We need to actively seek out and amplify the voices of marginalized communities and work towards dismantling systems of oppression. This includes examining our own biases and privileges and taking action to challenge them. Let's create a space where everyone can feel heard, valued, and included.

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 believe it is essential for our city to take concrete steps toward reducing carbon emissions. We must implement various measures to meet our goals of drastically lowering net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. This includes investing in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower, promoting energy efficiency in buildings and transportation, and incentivizing sustainable practices in our local industries. We must also prioritize public transport and cycling infrastructure to reduce reliance on cars and trucks.

In my personal life, I've made significant changes to reduce my carbon footprint. We're a single-car household, and I rely on public transportation, e-bikes, and walking as my primary modes of transportation. Additionally, we maintain 16 raised vegetable beds and harvest and preserve large quantities of food to sustain us throughout the year. Growing up, my family was one of the pioneers in the state's recycling industry, and I make every effort to repurpose and reuse items whenever feasible.

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?

Yes

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:

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

Fentanyl and meth are poisons. We need to ensure that we are doing everything possible to eradicate these drugs that devastate our community. I sold drugs (alcohol) professionally for decades, and we should regulate all drugs, but some do not belong (much like certain guns don't belong) in our communities. I am open to the conversation.

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

I am concerned that down-ballot races like City Council will get less exposure and be more expensive in a more extensive election cycle. I am open to the conversation.

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

We have spent 11 years in the Consent Decree that requires Seattle to implement reforms "with the goal of ensuring that police services are delivered to the people of Seattle in a manner that fully complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States, effectively ensures public trust and officer safety, and promotes public confidence..." We are on the right path and we should continue the work.

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

It is crucial that Seattle residents are able to earn living wages. To ensure this, I believe we need to prioritize policies that support job growth and opportunities for all workers. This could include investment in training and education programs, as well as initiatives that promote small business development and entrepreneurship. Additionally, we need to ensure that workers have access to fair labor practices and protections, such as minimum wage standards, protections against wage theft and discrimination, and access to affordable healthcare and benefits. Finally, we need to prioritize policies that address the high cost of living in Seattle, such as affordable housing and transportation options. By focusing on these areas, we can help ensure that all residents are able to earn a fair wage and achieve economic security.

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

I'm concerned that the report on our city's finances is outdated, as the regional and global economy has been changing rapidly. While we do need to find new revenue streams, we should exercise caution in acquiring new funds. Our financial situation is unstable, so it's important to carefully consider the report's conclusions before making any decisions.

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?

Yes.

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

Yes

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