

King County Democrats 2023 Endorsement Questionnaire

Name

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Candidate name

Sarah Reyneveld

Candidate pronouns

She/her

Candidate name pronunciation

rye-ne-veld

Campaign Filer_Name

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Other paid staff or full-time volunteers

Christian Sinderman, Erin Schultz, Raven Tyler, Katherine Bobman, Paul Charbonneau

What type of position are you running for?

County

What position are you running for?

Metropolitan King County 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?

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 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?

Yes

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

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

I am a managing attorney in the Attorney General's Office, union member, mom, Democratic party leader, and 25-year resident of the 4th Council District. I have dedicated my 15-year career in public service to crafting policy, legal, and budgetary solutions that address equity, opportunity, sustainability, affordability and create lasting change.

An Assistant Attorney General for over 10 years, I have fought to ensure workers get the wages they are entitled to and environmental violators are held accountable. I am a past Chair and KCDCC Representative for the 36th District Dems where I helped to get out the vote to elect Democratic candidates in tough swing districts. In 2019, I helped to organize my union and am now a proud member of WFSE/AFSCME. In 2017, Councilmember Kohl-Welles appointed me to serve on the King County Women's Advisory Board where I helped to secure investments in child care, housing, behavioral health, and services for survivors of gender-based violence. I have been an active board member of Washington Conservation Voters, Washington's Paramount Duty and my local union. I am a graduate of Smith College, the UW School of Law, and the Evans School where I served as a lecturer.

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

I am running for King County Council because we need bold and transformative action to urgently address the scale of the challenges facing our region. In 2016, I became KC Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles's appointment to the KC Women's Advisory Board and since that time have worked with communities to develop progressive solutions to address some of our most urgent challenges. I am stepping up to run because I care deeply about our communities and believe that our County Council must be a leader and more active partner in creating more affordable housing and living wage jobs, meeting behavioral health needs, expanding access to reliable transit, tackling the climate crisis, re-imagining our criminal legal system, and creating opportunities for all in our communities to thrive. I will measure success if I can work collaboratively and in co-governance with community to invest in and scale up progressive community-based solutions that center equity and those with lived experience closest to the issues to address the root causes of our region's challenges. Together we can create healthy, thriving and sustainable communities where everyone has access to affordable housing, quality child care and healthcare, reliable transit, a clean healthy environment and opportunities to thrive.

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

If elected, my top three priorities will be:

1. Investing in the infrastructure of healthy and thriving communities by urgently addressing the behavioral health crisis, increasing access to union jobs, building on Best Starts for Kids and child care investments, partnering to increase equitable service delivery and actively dismantling racism, disrupting gender-based violence, and re-imagining our criminal legal system by rooting our racial disparities and increasing investments in upstream, community-based diversion, and gun violence prevention programs;
2. Creating affordable housing and ending the homelessness crisis by acquiring, constructing, and preserving affordable housing, expanding missing middle housing and transit-oriented development, increasing access to permanent supportive housing, behavioral and physical healthcare for those experiencing homelessness, and preserving homes for renters and fighting against displacement;
3. Protecting our environment and urgent climate action by working to create a world-class public transit system, including improving Metro bus access, frequency, reliability and safety; delivering light rail to West Seattle/Ballard and beyond; advancing climate action and justice by partnering with disproportionately impacted communities to electrify transit and buildings; establishing equitable pathways to green apprenticeships and jobs; and protecting clean water and preventing pollution to enhance health, protect tribal treaty rights, and salmon and orca recovery.

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

I believe, to paraphrase Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, that the best public policy is driven by those who are closest to the pain. To affect systemic and progressive change we must acknowledge that historically governments have perpetuated racist, classist, and sexist power structures. To create system change we must engage all neighbors and communities in the decision-making process, and elevate and center those voices with lived experience that have been historically excluded and marginalized.

As a King County Councilmember, I will involve all residents and communities by moving towards co-governance and participatory budgeting models where residents are not just involved in the decision-making process through public testimony or workgroups, but actively engaged in every step of the process and ultimately in the decisions that impact them. Applying this model, I will work to engage and include all communities, and particularly those frontline communities that are disproportionately impacted, to identify and define the issues. I will listen to and center the voices of these communities to develop community-based solutions. I will empower communities to play a vital role in the decisions that impact them. Engagement through shared power and co-governance will ultimately create a more just and equitable decision-making process and outcomes.

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

To promote an enduring environment of inclusivity, diversity, and equity I start with applying a racial equity lens and recognizing my own white, cis-gendered privilege to better understand how institutionalized racism and systems of oppression drive systems of exclusion and injustice. I have then worked to promote inclusivity, diversity, and equity by listening, applying a racial equity lens, and shared power and governance models that center those with lived experience closest to the issues.

As a Managing Assistant Attorney General, I have worked to promote this environment with my team through listening, learning, and shared power and governance. When deciding how to prioritize cases in the Environmental Protection Division, we have started to apply a racial equity toolkit to ensure that we are reaching out, listening, and centering the voices of BIPOC and disproportionately impacted communities to advance inclusivity and equity. As the Chair and a member of the King County Women's Advisory Board, I have worked to promote this environment by actively reaching out to disproportionately impacted communities, listening to and centering voices of all communities in the policy development process, and holding myself accountable to ensure that all board and community perspectives and voices are included and valued.

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

If elected to the King County Council, I will address inequities experienced by BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, or other marginalized communities by engaging, listening, elevating and centering their voices in the decision-making process. I believe that equitable and lasting change is led by those most impacted and we must work towards a shared power and governance model that creates accountability systems to ensure that shared decision-making is driving equitable solutions.

I will work in partnership with communities to dismantle systems of racism and injustice around ability, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity and further equity by investing in upstream and community-based solutions that center community needs first, including, but not limited to investing in early learning, behavioral health, affordable housing, and vital social services. I will work with communities to disrupt, re-imagine and end the systems of injustice in King County that disproportionately harm and oppress BIPOC and other marginalized communities, including our criminal legal system. Advancing an agenda of equity requires the ability to listen and act courageously and collectively towards transformative change that ends systems of injustice. Together we can advance this agenda of equity in a way that builds community power to create a more equitable future.

Do you support the Growth Management Act's goals of focusing development and population growth in existing urban centers to protect rural land use in rural King County? Yes

Do you support increased funding for the King County District Court Regional Mental Health Court?

Yes

Do you support shifting law enforcement budgets in support of social and behavioral health services?

Yes

Will you advocate for the use of harm reduction models in the county's legal system?

Yes

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

Yes

King County's 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) lays out a path to 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2050. How will you use new funding and incentives from the federal 2022 Inflation Reduction Act to improve results, and how will you update the SCAP in 2025?

As a King County Councilmember, I will lead on climate action and justice by leveraging the new incentives and funding in the Inflation Reduction Act to help improve results in meeting the 2020 SCAP's emission reductions and resilient frontline communities goals through leveraging opportunities to reduce emissions in buildings and facilities energy, transportation and land use, forest and agriculture by 1) using new grants, incentives, and rebates from the IRA to help to meet the SCAP's green building code updates and achieve energy efficiencies through building electrification that centers frontline communities; 2) maximizing opportunities in the IRA to accelerate the use of electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure, and securing competitive grants to develop sustainable aviation technology; and 3) leveraging IRA funding available for forest and farmland resiliency to empower frontline communities by promoting carbon storage, and reducing contributions to carbon pollution. I will update the SCAP plan in 2025 to require more ambitious updates to green building codes and energy efficiencies, accelerate the electrification of the transportation sector through expansion of Metro Transit and light rail service, and deepen investments that center frontline and disproportionately impacted communities to establish additional pathways and opportunities for green jobs and food security.

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated and highlighted the economic and mental health disparities across our communities. How will you expand access to services to reduce these disparities and what is your plan for funding?

COVID-19 has exacerbated and laid bare staggering inequities in King County that disproportionately impact BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ women, immigrants, people with disabilities, and other marginalized communities who are more likely to be on the frontlines of keeping our communities cared for, connected, and safe. I will lead by expanding access to these services to reduce disparities: 1) Best Starts for Kids and child care, including expanding childcare subsidies and a wage provider boosts that I helped to secure funding for as Chair of the King County Women's Advisory Board, 2) behavioral health by passing the levy to establish crisis cares centers, restore residential treatment beds, and grow the behavioral health workforce, funding licensed psychiatrists, Advanced Practice nurses, and professional education in the MIDD program, and expanding the RADAR Navigator program and mental health navigators, 3) prevention and community based services to disrupt gender-based and gun violence, 4) affordable housing, services to prevent displacement and

increase food security, 5) substance use disorder treatment, and effective youth and adult diversion services such as the LEAD and CO-LEAD. I will fund these services through levies (e.g. Behavioral health, BSFK, VSHSL renewal), the general fund, and diverting funding from the Sheriff's office towards behavioral health navigators.

King County has committed to pro-equity contracting with minority- and women-owned businesses (MWBs) and reported that 7% of total 2021 contracting dollars went to MWBs. What actions will you take to reduce systemic discrimination against MWBs and expand the participation of MWBs in county contracts of all sizes and across our communities?

As a King County Councilmember, I will provide leadership to better ensure that King County is implementing the Equity and Social Justice strategic plan and reducing systemic discrimination against MWBs by: 1) requiring staff to participate in equity and anti-racism training focused in contracting and procurement, 2) conducting a study to better understand discrimination and forming a workgroup of MWBs, community leaders, and others with lived experience to develop recommendations to address discrimination, and 3) developing specific measurable outcomes and accountability measures to reduce discrimination. I will take the following actions to advance King County's commitment to pro-equity contracting and expand participation of MWBs in County contracts aligned with recommendations by the County Auditor's Office to: 1) build on existing efforts to outreach and partner with community-based women and BIPOC led organizations to raise awareness of contracting opportunities, 2) reduce barriers for MWBs to contract by increasing staff capacity to assist and provide technical support, and 3) reduce challenges that prevent MWBs from seeking contracting opportunities and implement pro-equity contracting practices through streamlining standard contracting procedures, ensuring that the criteria for contracting in RFPs is not overly burdensome, and developing equity focused requirements to reduce liability and insurance costs.

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

Yes

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