

# King County Democrats

## 2020 Candidate Questionnaire: Legislature

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Kirsten Harris-Talley	
<b>Position Sought</b>	37th LD State Representative, Position 2	
Home Legislative District	37th LD	
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b>	Yes! Proudly dues-paying	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address: POBox 23026, Seattle WA 98102	Phone: 206.486.2214 Fax: n/a
	Website: <a href="http://www.electkht.org">www.electkht.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:kirsten@electkht.org">kirsten@electkht.org</a> Twitter: @ElectKHT TikTok: @ElectKHT Instagram: @ElectKHT Facebook: @ElectKHT	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Vanna Orecchio (she/her) <a href="mailto:manager@electkht.org">manager@electkht.org</a> 206.403.0448	
Consultant(s)	Mauricio Ayon, Indelible Media	

<b>Please answer the following questions.</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	Have you ever been a member of another political party?		<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? If not, are you willing to implement one?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Please briefly describe your education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

I am a mother, educator, and activist working shoulder to shoulder with community in Seattle and throughout Washington State for over 20 years for racial, gender, and economic justice. I currently serve as the Executive Director of NARAL Pro-choice Washington. With over 35,000 members statewide, I lead NARAL's team to take decisive political action on defending abortion, birth control,

and reproductive healthcare access. Previously, I served as the Program and Political Director of the Progress Alliance of Washington where I managed their granting portfolio which funded a variety of political organizations dedicated to the advancement of diverse political candidates including women, LGBTQIA, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. In 2017, I was appointed to Seattle City Council as the interim At-large Councilmember.

### **Additional Community Involvement**

- Friends of Hawthorne PTA | *Parent Member & Equity Committee Co-Chair*
- 37th LD District Democrats | *Member*
- Seattle Foundation, Community Programs Committee | *Committee Member*
- Seattle Progressive Revenue Task Force | *Committee Member*
- State Innovation Exchange | *National Board Member*
- Upstream Washington | *Advisory Committee Member*
- All In for Washington | *Coalition Member*
- Black & Tan Hall | *Founding Circle Co-Owner*
- BRAVE: Building Reproductive Autonomy and Voices for Equity | *Facilitator*
- Surge: Reproductive Justice | *Founding Board Member*
- Healthy Youth Alliance | *Steering Committee Member*

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What campaigns, if any, have you run or worked on?

I have been active in Washington State politics and the politics of the 37th District for over 20 years. After caucusing for Barack Obama in the 2008 Presidential Caucus, I remained involved in local electoral politics in addition to my advocacy and community organizing. In my professional work at the Progress Alliance and NARAL Pro-Choice Washington, I have supported and funded progressive political causes and candidates across the state for over a decade. Locally, I supported and campaigned for Pramila Jayapal when she ran for the State Senate, and Rebecca Saldaña in her re-election campaigns. From doorknocking to fundraising and volunteering, it's been an honor to contribute to the election of incredible strong progressive champions from our neighborhoods. Most recently, I was proud to support Tammy Morales in her run for Seattle City Council in 2019.

In addition to elected officials I've campaigned with, the organizations I've worked with in their political and civic engagement programs are:

- OneAmerica Votes
- Got Green
- Front & Centered
- SURGE Reproductive Justice
- Latino Community Fund
- Census Alliance of Washington
- WA Voting Justice Coalition
- APICHaya
- WashingtonCAN
- Amplify
- Win | Win Action Network
- Washington Conservation Voters

- Asian Counseling and Referral Services
- Climate Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy

Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. What is your plan to win? If you have received endorsements, please list them here.

Our campaign is fundamentally a campaign of, by, and for the 37th District. In response to the physical distancing requirements, we were the first state legislative campaign in Washington State to start hosting online events. Our goals are to connect and empower our communities and activate a new base of civically active residents.

In lieu of traditional voter contact methods like doorknocking and in-person campaign events we will send more direct communication to voters. We have a robust and fully budgeted communications plan with direct voter communications. We also have ambitious internal fundraising goals we've met every month. Our campaign is ready to meet this moment in our collective history with an ambitious plan to reach as many people across our district as possible.

**As of May 8, 2020 our campaign has been endorsed by:**

Seattle Transit Riders Union  
 Tammy Morales, Seattle City Councilmember, D2  
 Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember (*former*)  
 Kristin Ang, Tacoma Port Commissioner Position 5  
 Dulce Guterrez, Yakima City Council (*former*)  
 State Senator Mona Das, 47th LD  
 State Representative Noel Frame, 36th LD  
 State Senator Jesse Salomon, 32nd LD

**As well as public support from:**

Nikkita Oliver; lawyer, activist, organizer, community leader  
 Ijeoma Oluo; anti-racism activist & author

**Part II – Yes/No Questions**

#	Question	Yes	No	Additional Comments
1	Do you support the right of public workers – excluding military personnel – to bargain and strike?	✓		
2	Do you support raising the statewide minimum wage?	✓		
3	Do you support increased state funding for Sound Transit and other regional transit authorities?	✓		

4	Do you support repealing the 1% limit on property tax revenues?	✓		
5	Will you allow your campaign staff to unionize?	✓		
6	Do you support ending Washington State funding for privately run prisons and detention centers?	✓		
7	Do you support statewide mandatory age-appropriate sex education in public schools?	✓		
8	Would you be willing to have yourself, your staff, or your peers participate in cultural competency, anti-racism, and/or anti-sexual harassment training?	✓		

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

What issues do you think aren't getting enough attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

As our communities grapple with the economic devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be looking toward economic policies that actually invest in our communities first and most. While some elected officials and established media sources are focusing on convincing us to accept deep budget cuts and austerity measures, we must be instead looking to progressive solutions. Those solutions are things like progressive revenue reform that ameliorates income inequality, rights historical wrongs, and gives working people a break.

The issue of revenue reform is one that is of particular importance to Washington State and the 37th LD. Washington State has the most inequitable, and upside down tax system in the United States. And when we rebuild, we need an economy that puts people and the planet over profit. Working families pay up to 7 times as much taxes proportionately as the wealthiest Washingtonians. If we are truly going to build the district and state we all deserve, then fixing our regressive tax code must be central to our mission as state legislators. It is impossible to fund the services Washingtonians deserve, from healthcare to education and public transit, without structural revenue reform at the state level.

In the post-McCleary era, how do you propose to strengthen the K-12 education system?

Our family is a proud public school family with two young kids in the Seattle Public Schools. I am proud to serve on the PTA of the Friends of Hawthorne association and co-chair our Equity Committee. We see and experience the brilliance of public school teachers, staff, faculty, nurses, paraeducators, custodians, food service workers, and bus drivers every single day. There is no question in my mind it is a moral imperative to fully fund education in our state for every single community and school district. I emphatically support full funding of K-12 basic education that includes robust professional

compensation and benefits for educators and mental health staff. We must also fund pre-school and childcare that prepares children for school and protects workers. And the investment in post-high school programs - for college and most importantly trades - is the lifeline for our growing and transitioning workforce.

**Additionally, I will champion:**

- progressive revenue to fully fund K-12 education
- more nursing staff in rural and urban schools
- increasing pay for paraeducators
- increasing teacher pay and benefits
- supporting teachers and staff when they strike
- decreasing the technology gap in low-income communities
- funding and building free, public wifi so all kids have access

Washington State's carbon emissions have increased in recent years, most recently by 1.6% from 2015-17. What policies would you propose to reduce our statewide emissions by 50% by 2030?

I fully commit myself to supporting policies that move us to a just, equitable low carbon future and ensures a just transition for all workers. I believe in a Green New Deal for Washington State that fully funds a "just transition" in Washington State with robust programs that provide for retraining, transitional pay, and fully transferable benefits for workers who do move from carbon-intensive industries to low-carbon industries and invests in frontline communities that are impacted first and worst by the climate crisis. I am proud to have worked with Climate Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, Puget Sound Sage, and Front and Centered on:

- Creating a progressive revenue stream to sustain a transitioning workforce
- Building policy that puts workers and their health over profits
- Making sure big polluters pay their share for clean-up so we can pay workers a good wage for that work
- Making transportation investments and revenue equitable for low-income and communities of color
- Instituting climate pollution limits that meet GHG targets
- Establishing standards and supports for state procurement of materials that are lower carbon content
- Passing the Clean Fuel Standard
- Investing in forest health and wildfire management while protecting firefighters and workers displaced by fire seasons

How will you use your office to promote universal access to healthcare in Washington?

I support a Medicare for All system, and will advocate and organize for it in Olympia. COVID-19 has shown that we cannot have some people in, and some people out of our healthcare system. That our health depends on the health of our neighbors, and a universal system that covers everyone is the best system for the health of our communities. I firmly believe healthcare is a human right, and the only way to guarantee the best care and most efficient healthcare system for every single American resident is to rapidly move to a fully-funded Medicare for All system.

**In Olympia I will:**

- Work with our federal representatives like Medicare for All co-sponsors Representatives Adam Smith and Pramila Jayapal to successfully implement the system in Washington State
- Ensure the implementation of our first-in-the-nation Public Option is fully invested in
- Sponsor and co-sponsor legislation that expands comprehensive, affordable healthcare coverage to more Washingtonians, including Washingtonians of all documentation statuses
- Institute progressive revenue reform so our state can sustain better, universal health services
- Work with sovereign tribes and Indigenous communities to ensure fully funded health services in communities on and off reserves

**Washington has one of the most regressive tax structures in the country. What steps would you take to make our tax system more fair?**

This is in many ways the critical question of our time. COVID-19 has plunged our economy and our communities into an economic depression potentially worse than the Great Depression. We need significant, structural reforms to our revenue system so our state can raise the revenues necessary to recover from this economic devastation. It is impossible to fund the services Washingtonians deserve, from healthcare to education and public transit, without structural revenue reform.

If we are truly going to build the district and state we all deserve, then fixing our regressive tax code must be central to our mission as state legislators. I led on progressive revenue reform while I was on Seattle City Council, and I am ready to again lead on this critical issue in Olympia.

**My priorities will include:**

- Property tax relief for low, middle, and fixed-income homeowners
- Equitable capital gains tax
- Progressive income taxation on high-incomes
- Sales and B&O tax relief for small businesses
- Expansion of the Working Families Tax Credit for low-income and poor families

**I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete, and correct to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.**

Signature		Date: 5/8/2020
Printed Name	Kirsten Harris-Talley	