

SEATTLE PRIDE®

VOTERS GUIDE

2022



Ballots
&
Bricks

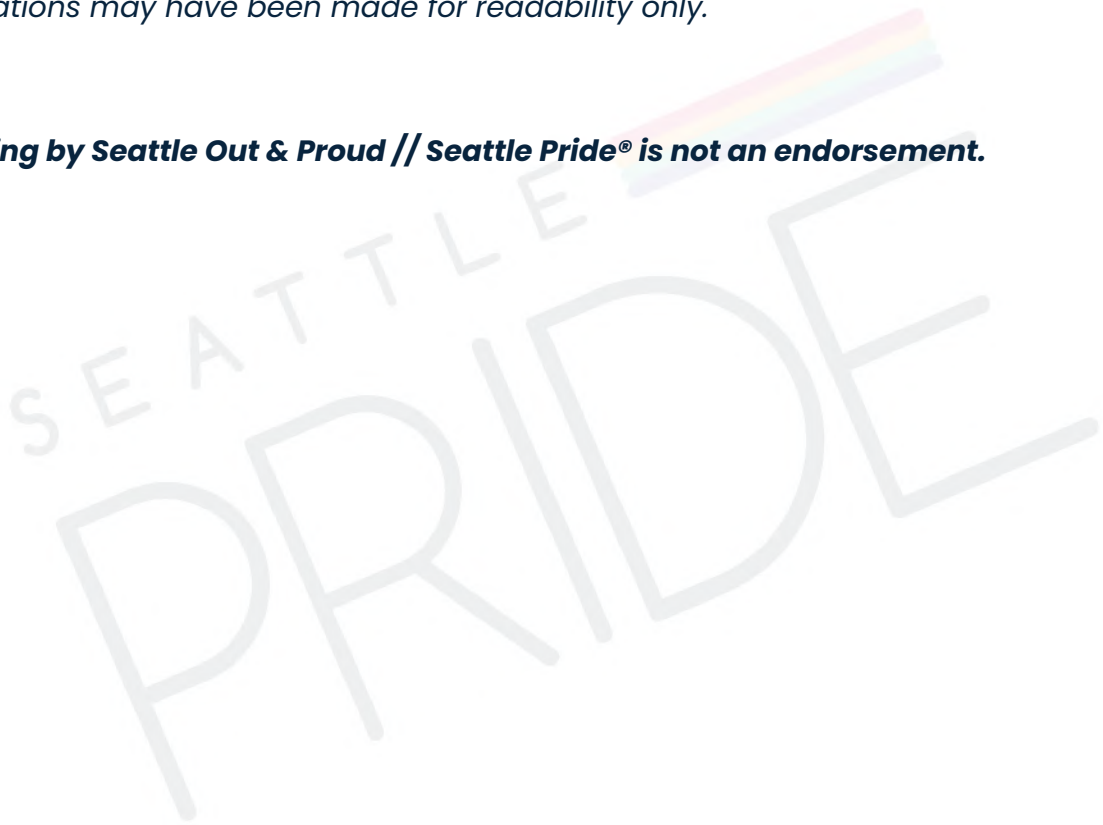
Seattle Pride Voter's Guide

Seattle Pride invited candidates in various races throughout Washington state to fill out our short questionnaire, so we could evaluate where candidates stand on issues important to the LGBTQIA+ community. The answers were then rated by Seattle Pride Staff, Board Members, and/or Volunteers according to an established rubric.

All answers submitted by candidates have been included, regardless of political affiliation/party.

Note: Candidate answers are provided in the way they were submitted. Formatting modifications may have been made for readability only.

Any rating by Seattle Out & Proud // Seattle Pride® is not an endorsement.



Scoring Rubric



4 Flags (Accomplice)

- Has already been working on projects and programs to achieve equitable outcomes for LGBTQIA+ community members, prioritizing QTBIPOC community members (as an elected official, activist, community member, professionally, etc.)
- Gives extensive details on policy tools needed to achieve goals
- Policy tools prioritize the well-being of marginalized communities (i.e. enacting progressive taxation, community investments along with commercial development, etc.)

3 Flags (Advocate)

- Demonstrates commitment to equity in practice for LGBTQIA+ community members, prioritizing QTBIPOC community members
- Gives details of policy tools needed to achieve goals

2 Flags (Ally)

- Demonstrates commitment to supporting legal equality for LGBTQIA+ community members
- Demonstrates openness to providing supports for QTBIPOC community members
- Gives few concrete example of policy tools, few details

1 Flag (Apprentice)

- Has admitted explicit anti-LGBTQIA+ or racial bias in past roles, but has stated commitment to evolving
- Uses outdated and/or inadvertently offensive language in questionnaire responses
- Gives no concrete examples of policy tools

0 Flags (Antagonist)

- Demonstrated explicit anti-LGBTQIA+ or racial bias in questionnaire

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FEDERAL CANDIDATES

Suzan DelBene (She/Her)

Position Sought: United States Congress, WA-01

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.5



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Every Congress, I introduce a resolution to recognize June 26 as “LGBTQIA+ Equality Day” across the United States. The resolution honors the anniversary of three landmark Supreme Court victories that moved our country towards equality for LGBTQIA+ Americans including *Lawrence v. Texas* (June 26, 2003), *United States v. Windsor* (June 26, 2013), and *Obergefell v. Hodges* (June 26, 2015). I will continue fighting for LGBTQIA+ equality.

I believe every couple should enjoy all of the benefits and protections provided by marriage under law. I am an original cosponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act. On July 19, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404), with my support, by a vote of 267–157.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Ensuring LGBTQIA+ individuals are afforded equal rights under the law has always been a top priority of mine. In the 116th Congress, I earned a perfect score on the Congressional Scorecard from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for supporting the following legislation:

- The Equality Act (H.R. 5), which would establish a uniform federal standard that protects LGBTQIA+ people from discrimination in every aspect of their lives
- The Do No Harm Act (H.R. 1450), which would clarify that no one can seek religious exemption from laws guaranteeing fundamental civil and legal rights
- The International Human Rights Defense Act of 2019 (H.R. 1957), which would make the response to discrimination and violence against the LGBTQIA+ community a foreign policy priority

Additionally, I am a cosponsor of the following bills this Congress:

- Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2021 (H.R. 4402) which would require states to direct their local educational agencies (LEAs) to establish policies that prevent and prohibit bullying and harassment of elementary and secondary school students based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or religion.

- PrEP Access and Coverage Act (H.R. 6117) which would require private health insurance plans to cover prescription drugs that prevent HIV, including related screenings, diagnostic procedures, administrative fees, and clinical follow-ups, without any cost-sharing obligation for the plan holder.
- Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act (H.R. 4146) which would prohibit commercial conversion therapy.
- John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act (H.R. 3488) which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or religion in the provision of child welfare programs and services by entities receiving federal funding.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

In the 116th Congress, I voted for the Every Child Deserves a Family Act (H.R. 3114), which would prohibit discrimination based on religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the child welfare system, and would also work to ensure that LGBTQIA+ youth are protected while in the foster care and adoption systems. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of this legislation this Congress which was renamed the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act (H.R. 3488).

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

On February 25, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Equality Act (H.R. 5), with my support, by a vote of 224–206. This bill, which I am a cosponsor of, would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual identity. This bill would establish a uniform federal standard that protects LGBTQIA+ people from discrimination in every aspect of their lives, including housing. I believe that all Americans have the right to be treated equally, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and I strongly support extending these basic protections to LGBTQIA+ workers.

Adam Smith (He/Him)

Position Sought: United States Congress, WA-09

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: [ElectAdamSmith.com](https://electadamsmith.com)

Social Media:

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.4



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I am a co-sponsor of the Equality Act, which would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation as prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation. I strongly supported H.Res.405, which supported making June 26th LGBT Equality Day. I co-sponsored H.Res.332, which supports the ideals and goals of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. As the Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee during the Trump years, I was an outspoken leader in the fight to stop President Trump from banning transgender service members and recruits from serving in the military. I was a longtime supporter of the original Respect for Marriage Act in the fight to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. I am a co-sponsor of this session's Respect for Marriage Act. In addition to my votes, I continue to be vocal about advocacy for LGBTQIA+ rights and participate in Seattle's Pride Parade annually.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

The first priority is the passage of the Equality Act, which I am an original co-sponsor of. I voted for it when it passed the House and will continue to advocate for its passage in the Senate. I am calling for a survey of military personnel regarding the state of LGBTQ+ inclusion. This survey would be an instrumental step in identifying and combatting existing discrimination against LGBTQ+ servicemembers. I recently held a roundtable this January with representatives from the Pride Foundation, LGBTQ Allyship, the Lavender Rights Project, and UTOPIA Washington to discuss how we can increase the safety of trans people of color. The discussion centered around expanding gender justice education, providing housing protections for trans individuals, and decriminalizing sex work. I will continue to fight for LGBTQIA+ rights in any way I can.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

We must advance legislation that prevents discrimination in housing on the basis of gender or sexuality, which is why I have voted for the Equality Act. I will support programs that expand and improve access to counseling for LGBTQIA+ youth, as well as legislation that prohibits discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals in healthcare and education.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I strongly support Opening Doors, which provides nearly \$6 billion for federal agencies and grant programs to combat homelessness and help people facing housing insecurity. I support many programs that help people experiencing homelessness, including: the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, the Health Care for the Homeless Program, the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program, the Grants for the Benefit of Homeless individuals (GBHI) Program, and Services in Supportive Housing (SSH) Grants, among several other programs. Importantly for LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness, who experience sexual assault at a higher rate than the non-LGBTQIA+ homeless population, I support Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Program. Additionally, I support passage of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Trafficking Prevention Act, to help protect homeless youth.



STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

Steve Hobbs (He/Him)

Position Sought: WA Secretary of State

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: ElectHobbs.com

Social Media:

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

In the state Senate, I proudly championed the protection and expansion of rights to our friends in the LGBTQIA+ community. These efforts include my support for the Gender Affirming Care Act (SB 5313), support for ending transgender student discrimination (SB 5689), establishing the Washington State LGBTQIA+ Commission (SB 5356), and promoting access to earned benefits and services for LGBTQIA+ veterans (SB 5900). Public agency executives, not limited to the Secretary of State, have an obligation as leaders to recognize the contributions of our LGBTQIA+ friends and neighbors. As a state executive, I will continue fighting and advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community – and we must retain allies at all levels of government who share these values.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

As a state executive, I am committed to using my office as a center for dialog to advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals across Washington. Some of the best work our office produces is through our Washington State Legacy program, which captures the stories of Washingtonians through recorded interviews and traveling exhibits. Right now, our team is working on a project called “Love, Equally: The Journey to Marriage Equality” to celebrate Washington’s marriage equality anniversary. For this celebration, my office conducted interviews for stories and a book, transcribed the stories of prominent LGBTQIA+ leaders, and will soon have an exhibit to display in our executive office in Olympia.

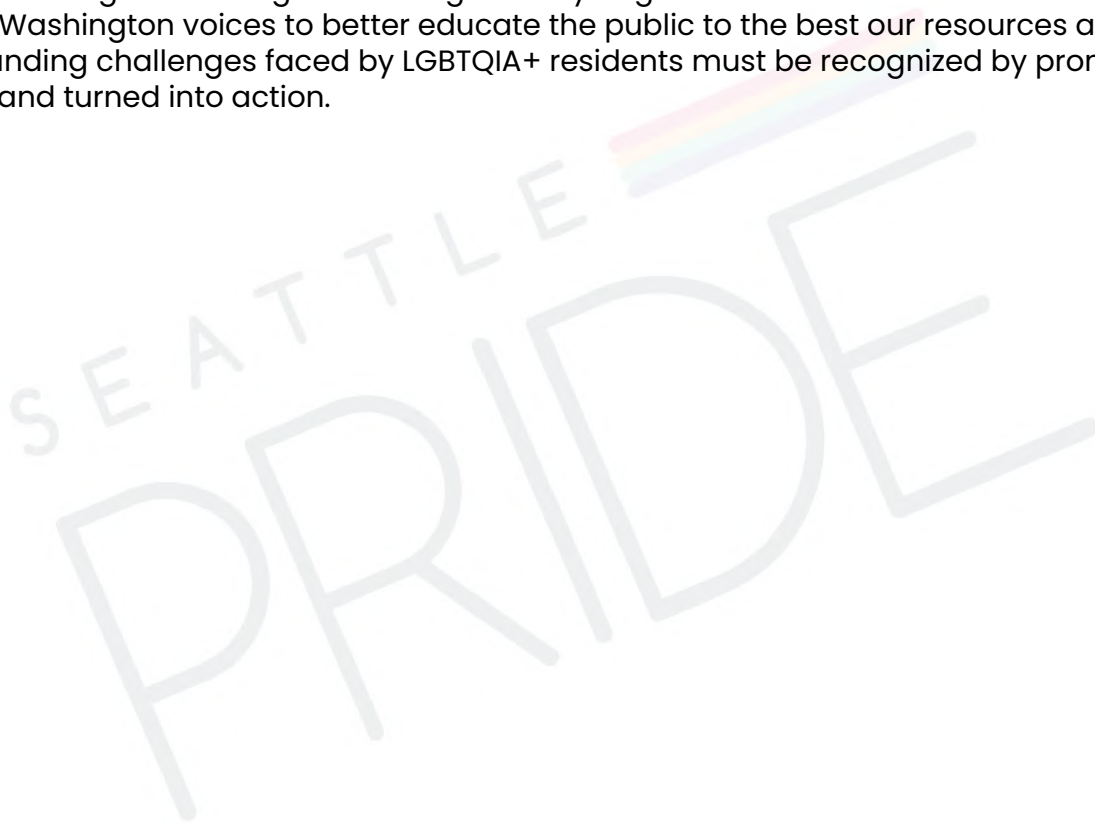
3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

LGBTQIA+ youth have an ally in the Secretary of State’s office. Bullying of LGBTQIA+ youth has no place in Washington or anywhere else, ever, period. We must elect and retain leaders who are committed to addressing this important issue. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us know someone – perhaps a friend or close relative – living the challenges of housing insecurity. LGBTQIA+ youth facing this challenge need advocates

on their team, and I am committed to using my voice to address the disproportionate number of homeless LGBTQIA+ youth in our communities. Specifically, my past work with colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives and close collaboration with community housing advocates uniquely offer Washingtonians an ally to address this critical issue.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

The Office of the Secretary of State oversees elections, cybersecurity and information response, corporations and charities, state archives, and state libraries, but also serves as an executive advocate for disproportionately affected communities. Helping our LGBTQIA+ friends and neighbors navigate housing security begins with a commitment from the leading Washington voices to better educate the public to the best our resources allow. The compounding challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ residents must be recognized by prominent leaders and turned into action.



Julie Anderson (She/Her)

Position Sought: WA Secretary of State

Party Affiliation: Nonpartisan

Website: JulieAnderson.org

Social Media:

Facebook: @ElectJulieAnderson

Instagram: @ElectJulieAnderson

Twitter: @NonpartisanSOS



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.6



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Professional Positions with: Planned Parenthood Votes Washington ; YWCA of Tacoma-Pierce County ; Tacoma United for Fairness (GLBTQ Civil Rights campaign)

Volunteer Work like: Field work and community convening to support Washington Won't Discriminate (No on I-1515 and No on I-1552). Door-to-door canvassing and educational forums in response to anti transgender legislation and initiative campaigns. ; Financial contributor to OASIS Youth and Rainbow Center. Sporadic donations to Pierce County AIDS Foundation. ; Volunteer and advocate for Washington's 2012 marriage equality law.

Mindful Engagement: At work (Pierce County Auditor's Office), ensuring that applicants for passport and marriage licensing are treated with . . . ; Ensuring inclusive, equitable count and survey practices for the decennial Census and for Point in Time homeless count. ; Seeking out LGBTQ businesses and artists for my personal purchases. ; Conducting voter outreach and leadership development with LGBTQ youth. ; Publicly signing an annual LGBTQ Statement of Support at our annual Pride Festival.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

To the extent that I have a voice in labor contract negotiations, I will advocate for: Safe, confidential, affordable reproductive health care, free from discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression. This includes gender affirming health care.

To the extent that I can influence construction and maintenance in state buildings, I will advocate for: Respectful all-gender restrooms and accommodations in OSOS workplaces.

Through training and published values, I will ensure that the workplace is welcoming for LGBTQ employees, interns, and visitors and, that LGBTQ employees are encouraged / supported in career advancement.

Through the State Library and State Archives, I will ensure that LGBTQ history is not only preserved but made visible and celebrated.

I would reach out to the LGBTQ communities to ensure that advocacy organizations and courts understand that the Address Confidentiality Program is available to LGBTQ crime victims and domestic violence survivors.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

The Secretary has limited influence.

However, I can help replicate what I've done in Pierce County. I conduct voter education and outreach at organizations like Oasis. Promoting youth leadership in these supportive settings can go a long way toward building self-esteem and creating a sense of agency. As Secretary, I'll ensure that voter outreach programs reach into organizations serve LGBTQ youth and that we involve LGBTQ youth in the design of outreach strategies and materials.

The Office of the Secretary of State oversees the Combined Federal Fund Drive. I would work with the nonprofit and LGBTQ communities to ensure that every eligible nonprofit is aware of this large workplace payroll program (the equivalent of United Way for federal and state employees).

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

The Secretary of State would have no influence over housing policy. However, I can ensure that unhoused and transitory LGBTQ citizens don't sacrifice their right to register and vote. In Pierce County, every public library becomes a point of assistance on Election Day, offering in-person Same Day Registration, ballot issuance, and secure ballot drop boxes. For voters with unstable housing, receiving, and voting a ballot is a challenge. But in Pierce County, anyone can simply walk into a library for assistance. That's 27 locations in Pierce County. If the program is expanded in Washington State, it could mean services in up to 300 locations that are safe and accessible. The Office of the Secretary of State oversees the Combined Federal Fund Drive. I would work with the nonprofit and LGBTQ communities to ensure that every eligible nonprofit is aware of this large workplace payroll program (the equivalent of United Way for federal and state employees).

STATE JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Mary Yu (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Supreme Court, Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Nonpartisan

Website: JusticeMaryYu.com

Social Media:

Facebook: -

Instagram: -

Twitter: -



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.0



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I was the first member of the LGBTQIA+ community to serve on the Supreme Court because I believe we must be visible and at the table where decisions about our lives are made. I was also the first judge to preside over a same sex marriage in the State of WA as soon as the law allowed us to marry.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will continue to make sure that our life experiences are given all due consideration in Court decisions and that everyone from our community is treated with respect when they access our courts. We have a right to access our courts in order to protect our rights and we must be treated with dignity as we seek the same protections under the law.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I have been very active in judicial education and in speaking out on behalf of our youth. I will continue to lend my voice on behalf of our youth who often have no power to change the institutions that feed the bias and intolerance that they face.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Our Court has led the nation in our advocacy for legal representation for those facing eviction and displacement due to the lack of resources. I will continue to join our court in supporting these efforts.

KING COUNTY CANDIDATES

Leesa Manion (She/Her)

Position Sought: King County Prosecuting Attorney

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: [LeesaManion.com](https://leesamanion.com)

Social Media:

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Twitter: -



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.8



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Earlier this year, I successfully secured resources to form a new Hate Crimes Unit in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO). Hate crimes are historically under reported and without skilled police investigations, it can be difficult to gather the evidence necessary to prove that the criminal behavior/attack was motivated by his or her perception of the victim's race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, or identity.

Hate crimes against a person's sexual orientation is the second most common type of hate crime charged by the PAO. Of the 223 hate crimes filed by the PAO between 2018-2021, 39 involved hate against a person's sexual orientation.

Hate crimes against a person's gender or gender expression is the third most common type of hate crime charged by the PAO. Of the 223, 21 involved hate against a person's gender or gender expression.

Also, I have worked to advance diversity and inclusion within the PAO. My personal leadership team (composed of directors, deputy directors, and the individuals who work for them) totals 28. Of the 28, 23 are women, BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+. I also worked in collaboration with HR to adopt a PAO policy on Gender Identity in the Workplace and openly supported a PAO employee's recent gender transition and gender affirmation.

Finally, of my two paid campaign staff, both are BIPOC and one is also LGBTQIA+.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will continue to advance diversity and inclusion within the PAO. I will also invite the participation of the LGBTQIA+ community in the work of the office – both to improve regular and continued engagement with the LGBTQIA+ community and to learn how best to share PAO outcomes on work that directly impacts our LGBTQIA+ community. This includes sharing outcomes on how the PAO's Civil Division is advancing LGBTQIA+ issues and

perspectives in its work advising the King County Executive, King County Council, and other King County Clients. This includes sharing outcomes on how the PAO's Family Support Division is advancing LGBTQIA+ issues and perspectives in negotiating child support and other issues related to maintaining strong family-child(ren) relationships.

As an elected leader, I will also lend my voice to speak out on issues important to our LGBTQIA+ community by speaking out against hate and speaking in favor of legislation to support and advance LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusion.

I also believe that everyone should have the right, regardless of income or age, to access safe, legal, confidential and affordable abortion and reproductive health care. In addition to the existing legislation that protects a women's right to choose, I support the right of people of all genders to terminate a pregnancy to protect their lives, health, or wellbeing, including the rights of trans men, nonbinary, and two-spirit people.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

LGBTQIA+ youth have the same right to be safe and protected as their cisgender peers, but we know that LGBTQIA+ youth disproportionately experience discrimination, harassment, and violence. LGBTQIA+ youth also run the risk of becoming disproportionately involved in the juvenile justice system. Some LGBTQIA+ youth become involved in the criminal justice system because of reasons related to family rejection and subsequent homelessness. Some LGBTQIA+ youth run away from home or are forced to leave home because of family rejection and later engage in theft or prostitution to meet basic needs while homeless. Research also shows that LGBTQIA+ youth in juvenile justice settings may experience disproportionate and/or high levels of verbal, physical, or sexual abuse and humiliation from peers and adults.

I would adopt policies and practices to ensure that all PAO employees are trained to prevent discrimination, bias, and harassment of LGBTQIA+ youth. I will advocate that other juvenile justice leaders adopt similar policies and practices. All juvenile justice employees should receive training on concepts such as sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and implicit and explicit bias. I will always advocate for the creation and operation of safe environments for LGBTQIA+ youth – both in and outside the juvenile justice realm.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Housing is a basic need, and LGBTQIA+ residents have the same right to housing as cisgender peers. As a leader and as Prosecuting Attorney, I will do my part to address homelessness. When leaders work together to reduce homelessness, we have the automatic impact of improving public safety and community well-being. Individuals, including LGBTQIA+, who are struggling with homelessness and poverty are deserving of housing, services, and opportunities that address. For many, these types of services work to address the root cause(s) of criminal behavior, thereby lifting the person out of homelessness and poverty. Services should be low barrier, widespread and easy to access, and culturally sensitive and responsive. And, as leaders, we must ensure that we are honest

about the size of the needs in our communities and find sustainable funding and resources to adequately meet those needs.



STATE SENATE CANDIDATES

Lindsey Keesling (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 15

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: LindseyForTheFifteenth.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @LindseyForTheFifteenth

Instagram: -

Twitter: @LindseyForThe15



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

The greatest way I have done this is by making my classroom a safe place for my students to express their identities. It's a hard job, especially since it is politically so contentious, but it is work I greatly value. All students deserve and need a safe place to be themselves in order to learn, and I hope that builds a foundation of confidence for self expression and self possession throughout their lifetimes.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I think we need to strengthen protections for LGBTQ+ students and children. Beyond that, so many of the issues affecting my district disproportionately impact people of diverse identities and backgrounds, like domestic violence, homelessness, and lack of access to services. We need to make sure that all our people are protected and have the access they need in order to fully contribute and live their lives.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Access to social services and care is the first step. We need to increase the availability of key services, especially in rural areas like my district. Then there needs to be oversight and accountability so that marginalized people don't fall through the cracks.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Housing insecurity is a huge issue throughout my district. We need transitional housing for people reentering from rehab and other facilities. We also need mandatory zoning for low income housing, and accountability that the housing created actually be affordable. Also oversight to make sure that housing practices aren't discriminatory.



Claire Wilson (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 30

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: ClaireForSenate.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @ClaireforSenate

Instagram: -

Twitter: -



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.4



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

First and foremost, I identify as a lesbian woman, coming out when I was 19 years old. I bring this perspective to every aspect of my work in the Washington State Senate. My district has a history of anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment and a strong religious, conservative faction still exists. Many public officials in my district are conservative politicians who are interested in “keeping things the way they were” and not addressing the challenges that are evident in our communities, such as housing insecurity, food insecurity, mental and behavioral health needs, and the institutional oppression and systems put in place to “keep people in their place.” They are also interested in “sweeping” and “jailing” their way out of our current challenges which cannot and will not address the public health crisis in my district. As a lesbian woman and mother, and one of four LGBTQIA+ lawmakers in the Washington State Senate, I will continue to press on local and statewide social justice issues related to our LGBTQIA+ community as well as issues related to police accountability, the delivery of services and supports, and other legislation that is inclusive of all protected classes.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

In the 2020 legislative session, I sponsored a bill that required a comprehensive, medically accurate sexual health education to be offered to students in public schools across Washington. I believe implementing a LGBTQIA+-inclusive sexual health education in schools can promote the health and safety of LGBTQIA+ students, as well as healthy relationships for the youth. It will also reduce stereotypes and stigmas about LGBTQIA+ students that may lead to a hostile environment and eventually contribute to anti-LGBTQIA+ bullying, harassment, and discrimination. I also passed legislation establishing the LGBTQ Commission, which seeks to advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community at all levels of state government, and I sit as a Senate Advisory member on the Commission. Finally, as the Chair of the Senate Human Services, Rehabilitation and Reentry Committee, I deal with all systems related to juvenile justice, adult rehab and reentry, and supports and services for behavioral/mental health and substance use disorder. Given that LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC community members are overrepresented in these systems, I believe that this role puts me in a unique position to advocate on behalf of these communities.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

We must create workplaces that are safe, healthy, and supportive for queer, trans, and BIPOC workers. In the legislature, I will support workers in their efforts to combat workplace discrimination, guarantee fair pay, and promote a multifaceted understanding of safety that incorporates the ways that power functions in the workplace. Additionally, as a career educator and education advocate, I know how important education is to accessing family wage jobs. My central focus in the legislature is fully funding our education system, supporting early learning programs, and expanding apprenticeships and opportunities that work for everyone, regardless of income, zipcode, immigration status, life-path, race, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Over the last few years, I have seen the way that crisis and recession have exacerbated inequalities in our communities, especially for BIPOC queer and trans people. Housing is a human right, and when I am reelected I will legislate as such. This means first and foremost providing funding and support to the organizations that are already on the ground doing the work to combat homelessness, promote accessible and affordable housing, and build safe and healthy communities for all of us. It also means ensuring that those who are often left behind, including seniors, low income families, communities of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and rural communities are centered when we have these conversations – and when we allocate resources. Finally, it means addressing all of the other issues that contribute to homelessness; a lack of jobs that pay a family wage, the disproportionate impacts of our criminal justice system on low income individuals and communities of color, underinvestment in behavioral health care and treatment for substance use disorder, and disparities in educational outcomes based on identity or zip code. In my four years in the Senate, I have fought hard to prevent and end homelessness by pursuing all of these paths, but there is still so much to do. That is why I am running for reelection – to help build safe, healthy and supportive communities in which missing one paycheck cannot lead to living unhoused.

Chris Vance (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 31

Party Affiliation: Prefer Not To Say/No Preference

Website: ChrisVanceForSenate.org

Social Media:

Facebook: @ChrisVanceWA

Instagram: -

Twitter: @ChrisVance123



Seattle Pride® Rating: 1.2



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

By publicly supporting inclusion and equality.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

By protecting and expanding laws that protect equality

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

By opposing efforts to stigmatize these communities, and support efforts to promote equality and inclusion

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We need more housing of all types. We need to protect renters. We need to reject discrimination in housing.

Jesse Salomon (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 32

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: VoteSalomon.com

Social Media:

Facebook: -

Instagram: -

Twitter: -



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.4



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Serving in the Senate I introduced and passed legislation on hate crimes and swatting/bullying.

My hate crimes bill explicitly added criminal penalties for assault and harassment based on one's gender identity and expression. It also increased civil penalties and allowed victims to sue for a variety of damages after suffering a hate crime. The GBSA was very supportive and pleased with my work on the bill.

Swatting is a practice of calling in a fake hostage situation to someone else's residence in the attempt to get police to scare or shoot the subject of the call. This has been done by prejudiced people trying to cause bias-based violence. I introduced and passed a bill to make this a felony.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I previously introduced, and am working with members of color in the House of Representatives to re-introduce, additional legislation to fight domestic terror and bias crimes with more severe civil consequences including defunding hate groups and their assets.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

The cost of housing is out of control. Without intergenerational wealth it is hard to secure property ownership opportunities. Because of bias, I believe many LGBTQIA+ community members are cut off from, or never had a chance at, benefitting from generational wealth or assistance. I serve on the Housing Committee so I am focusing on housing equity by introducing bills that will lead to the creation of more affordable condos, smaller starter homes and apartments. I introduced and passed a bill to roll back red tape and increase production of starter homes and apartments. I also voted for increased tenant protections. I have plans to introduce more housing bills next term that I will discuss in the question on housing below.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We have a housing cost problem that is significantly caused by a lack of supply. Worse I have seen, growing up in Seattle, many modest homes being torn down and converted into huge and unaffordable McMansions. I am working on / thinking about introducing bills to add affordable density including lot splitting by right to add duplexes, working to change the state building code to be more flexible so that we can fit types of housing into urban areas etc.



Jamie Pedersen (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 43

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: PeopleForPedersen.org

Social Media:

Facebook: @PeopleForPedersen

Instagram: @PeopleForPedersen

Twitter: @People4Pedersen



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.9



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have led efforts on marriage equality, parentage, hate crimes, and transgender equality in the legislature since 2006. Outside of the legislature, I chair Lambda Legal's National Leadership Council and have sung in the Seattle Men's Chorus since 1996.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I am working with QLaw, Gender Justice League, and other stakeholders on legislation that will allow trans folks to seal records of their name changes.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I will continue to advocate for safe housing and other spaces for queer youth. I am working on a capital budget request for Lambert House.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I will continue to advocate for significant investments in housing, including projects such as Pride Place.

Manka Dhingra (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 45

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: ElectManka.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @ElectManka

Instagram: @SenatorMankaDhingra

Twitter: @ElectManka



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have been a big supporter of bills that mandate insurance coverage for gender affirming care, access to HIV drugs for individuals on Medicaid, and anti-bullying statutes to name a few. I have a series called the "Firsts" where I highlight women who have broken glass ceilings and my 2nd interview was with Colorado Representative Brianna Titone, the first transgender legislator in CO. I have always had multiple LGBTQIA+ individuals on my staff as well as volunteers.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I am always happy to be an ally in any which way I can. Access to comprehensive health care continues to be a priority for me.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Access to behavioral health care has been a priority for me as a legislator and as a leader in setting up the 988 BH number (suicide prevention number), WA has mandated the hiring of MH professionals to answer our new number as well as provide follow up care. There is a focus on training related to youth and transgender issues as well as being culturally competent in other areas as well. While there is a lot more to do in this arena, there is tremendous progress being made in developing more access to services.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Housing is the first step in ensuring people can be stable and have a plan for recovery and wellness. The state has made unprecedented investment in housing in the last few years however, housing needs to be culturally competent and a place where people can feel safe accessing. Dedicated funding for queer and trans BIPOC residents would be a way to ensure there are appropriate resources.

Javier Valdez (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 46

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: JavierValdez.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @JavierValdezForStateSenate

Instagram: -

Twitter: -



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.4



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

While I still have a lot to learn and there is a lot of work to do I am proud to have sponsored legislation strengthening our hate crime laws and championed legislation establishing the Washington state LGBTQ commission, promoting access to earned benefits and services for LGBTQIA+ veterans, and eliminating gender-based barriers from elections for state and county political party positions.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I think that the biggest issues that we will see in the next few legislative sessions will be protecting and expanding access to gender affirming and reproductive healthcare. Our previous legislation on LGBTQIA+ homelessness and access to healthcare will also need to be updated.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

While we know that programs like LGBTQIA+ inclusive sex education in schools reduces risk of suicide, depression, and bullying we still have a lot of work to do. Right now the state only funds a tiny fraction of the counselors, nurses, and social workers that are needed across the state, by ensuring that every student's needs are met we should be able to significantly reduce suicide, depression, and bullying.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

While we have made some attempts to address homelessness and housing insecurity for LGBTQIA+ folks there is clearly still a major gap in the safety net. I am committed to expanding access to existing services and working with the LGBTQIA+ community to find new ways to meet the needs that we have failed to in the past.

Claudia Kauffman (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Senate, LD 47

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: VoteClaudiaKauffman.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @VoteClaudiaKauffman

Instagram: -

Twitter: @KauffmanVote



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.3



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Equity matters and I have always been an advocate for equality. While in the Senate 2007–2010 I voted for the Domestic Partnership bill and support marriage equality. As a person of color and a Native American I live by my values of taking care of community and providing support. My brother was Gay and he died of AIDS, I have first hand knowledge of the struggles that he faced. I have been advocating for support and resources for the Native American AIDS project for years.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I would advance the rights with the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ in policies and resources

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Increased resources and services to address the issues. And to create a welcoming and open space and tone in the policies and practices and remove barriers.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Housing affordability is one of my top issues, and I would increase housing opportunities by increasing the Housing Trust Fund to build affordable housing, address the barriers in the Housing Finance Commission, and work to create open and welcoming housing for all.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

Davina Duerr (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 01 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: [ElectDavina.com](https://electdavina.com)

Social Media:

Facebook: –

Instagram: –

Twitter: @davinaduerr



Seattle Pride® Rating: 1.8



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I've been an ally with my voting record and supporting those in the community that have run for office both with endorsements and other types of support.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will continue to lift up LGBTQIA+ voices and give them a platform to speak and continue to vote with their interests in mind.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I will vote to provide more mental and emotional support in schools and community health facilities to meet their needs. I will continue to support the education of community members to better understand their challenges and needs. Far too many of our youth face these very real challenges and I know several facing severe mental health challenges due to the stress they live with.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Housing insecurity is something which the legislature is aware of needing more funding and as we make these investments I will advocate for more resources to be directed to queer and trans BIPOC people. Housing first is a philosophy that I believe in and we must address the inequities suffered by the most vulnerable.

Bill Ramos (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 05 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: VoteRamos.org

Social Media:

Facebook: @VoteRamos

Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.3



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Supporting LGBTQIA+ Washingtonians has always been important to me. As a leader in the Members of Color Caucus, I am using my office to advance policies on behalf of minoritized Washingtonians and ensure our communities that have historically been marginalized in legislation, have strong advocates. I was proud to be a sponsor for HB 2057, which aimed to diversify the state patrol workforce, and was a bill supported by the Washington state LGBTQ Commission. I was proud to see this legislation signed into law to ensure state patrol was recruiting officers that helped their communities feel safe and protected, not intimidated or living in fear by authorities that didn't respect their diverse identities. I was also happy to sponsor HB 1202 which assisted in expanding civil remedies for those who may have been harmed by police conduct, especially for those who identify as LGBTQIA+ and lacked the support they needed through declaratory relief. This is the kind of legislation I stand by and I look forward to expanding my advocacy for LGBTQIA+ Washingtonians once I am re-elected to the legislature.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Washington state is home to many diverse communities, and while it is considered an inclusive safe for those that identify as LGBTQIA+, there is so much more we must accomplish to protect and preserve the right to love and identify how you choose. From the availability and accessibility of healthcare, and workplace discrimination, to encounters with law enforcement, our LGBTQIA+ neighbors need legislators who listen to their perspectives on key bills. I am proud to support bills from the LGBTQ commission, alongside meeting with citizen lobbying groups every session. I will always support legislation that protects these identities and will continue to advance this legislation every session I serve.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Our LGBTQIA+ youth have experienced so much in their young lives already, from recovering from the pandemic in their education to bullying in and out of school, and housing insecurity. These are all areas I am very cognizant of and will work hard to ensure our LGBTQIA+ youth opportunities are available to any other student. I was a strong sponsor of HB 1601 which would have established a students experiencing homelessness and foster

youth pilot programs. Although this bill did not make it into law, I would be happy to see its reintroduction in the House and be a champion for it throughout the session. In addition, during my first term in office, I was a sponsor of HB 1783 which created our state's Office of Equity, which prioritizes LGBTQIA+ individuals in areas related to education and college readiness, disability resource access, and a safe environment, especially for our LGBTQIA+ youth. Every session it warms my heart to meet with young people lobbying on bills they hope to see become law, and especially hearing directly from LGBTQIA+. These are conversations I will continue as a legislator, and the kinds of bills I will always support to fight for our youth.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Ever since my first campaign, expanding accessible housing has always been one of my top priorities in office. Washington state is an amazing place to grow up and attend school, but this opportunity has become limited to very few families who can afford it and especially impacts LGBTQIA+ youth who are experiencing homelessness and lack adequate access and support through their education. It is my top priority to work with youth advocacy groups, such as the Mockingbird Society, and other housing advocates to create affordable housing for any of our LGBTQIA+ youth, and ensure we have supported strong programs in place to keep our LGBTQIA+ youth healthy, safe, and motivated to pursue any opportunity they choose in Washington state.

Michaela Kelso (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 06 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: Kelso4WA.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @MichaelaKelso4ThePeople

Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.0



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I am outspoken both in person and online about the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. I do my best to educate others about their misconceptions (not always successfully), and push back against hateful rhetoric. I know this is somewhat performative, but I express my support online by updating my profile pic during pride month (on my personal profile, my campaign profile wasn't active in time for this year).

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will introduce or support legislation expanding on the rights and protections that have already been enacted by our legislature. Specifically as it pertains to gender identity issues, as trans rights are still lagging behind what has been achieved for the 'LGB part' of the LGBTQIA+ community.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

The best treatment is prevention. We need expanded mental health services, but also better education around mental health issues in general. Youth who find themselves unhoused by family due to their sexual orientation or gender identity should receive special services to support both their mental health, but also help in living independently or in some form of 'foster care' style or group home situation. I am aware that the foster care system in WA is already lacking normal garden variety fosters, let alone fosters who are supportive and knowledgeable of potential issues surrounding youth from the LGBTQIA+ community, so this might not be easily achievable (or even desired by the community). I don't consider myself an expert in a lot of subjects, therefore I will reach out to appropriate groups for advice and best practices before considering/sponsoring any legislative solutions.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and

trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Obviously the laws meant to protect people from discrimination are not working as intended. We need to determine if it is an enforcement issue, or if the laws as they currently exist do not provide sufficient protections for everyone, and the LGBTQIA+ community in general.



Bryan Sandlin (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 15 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Republican

Website: VoteBSandlin.com

Social Media:

Facebook: –

Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 0.8



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

By remaining open minded to all constituents

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

The same way I'd hope to advance rights for everyone-without prejudice.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I honestly don't know, but am open for suggestions.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Of course, in the same manner I would approach for all homeless people.

Jeff Strickler (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 16 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: ElectJeffStrickler.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @ElectJeffStrickler

Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.2



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

My campaign manager is a gay man. I have provided transportation for gay teens to the local support center and we have participated in Seattle Pride as a family.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will gladly work with the LGBTQIA+ community to understand their needs and areas in need of progress. As an ally, I am supportive, I'm here to work with you, but I am not in a position to know personally all of the areas where there might be continued inequality.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Groups in my district like Triple Point that are working in these areas need expanded support to help with this mission, in terms of staffing and programs. Throughout Eastern Washington we lack mental health centers and providers. I will seek incentive programs to encourage more providers to come to our region. I'll work to find funding for remote / traveling providers to expand coverage for our region.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Housing is one of the primary issues in my district, and it stems from a lack of economic opportunity, IE: good paying jobs. We need to do more to bolster our vocation programs, apprenticeship programs, and create incentives for area employers to grow their operations. We need business incubators and similar support resources to increase employment and the skills in our labor market. LGBTQIA+ residents deserve to be equal partners in the opportunities created.

John Zingale (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 18 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: [ElectJohnZingale.com](https://electjohnzingale.com)

Social Media:

Facebook: @ElectJohnZingale

Instagram: @HipstoryWithMrZ

Twitter: @Hipstory_With_MrZ



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have always worked to be inclusive throughout my life, my uncle and cousin are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community and I've supported them. As a Social Studies teacher, I have worked hard not only to be a safe space for my students to share about themselves, but also worked hard to include LGBTQIA+ history in my class. I've taken tours of the Castro District to learn more and bring that knowledge into the classroom, and I even give out rose quartz from Pink Triangle Park to students when they come out to me.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

While the voters of Washington made same sex marriage legal in the state, I would like to see it protected even more in our state constitution. This way if the Supreme Court overrides their past decision the people of Washington will be protected more than they are today.

We also need to ensure that LGBTQIA+ people have all of their healthcare needs met and that they are not discriminated/refused service because of a hospital policy.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

This one is very important to me because I have seen the effects both positive and negative with our youth. We must continue to protect our LGBTQIA+ youth from bullying by continuing to make sure they are included in the lessons. We have suicide hotline stickers given to every student in our school with both resources listed for LGBTQIA+ youth as well, and we must make sure that they and their families have access to the mental health services that they need.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

COVID-19 really showed us the hole in our societal safety programs. We need to build them up for everyone, but especially our LGBTQIA+ and queer and trans BIPOC citizens. They faced even harder situations and we should work to create safe communities specifically

for them so that they can not only feel safe while working to get back on their feet, but receive the targeted services that they need. We must work to help our most vulnerable communities.



Cara Cusack (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 19 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: CaraCusack.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @PeopleForCaraCusack

Instagram: –

Twitter: @CaraCusack10



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.0



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have 9 children, some were adopted later in life because they were rejected by their families for being LGBTQIA+. I have always supported this community and raised all of my children to respect who a person is and who they love. I also have always been outspoken about their legal right to do so.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I would ensure that their rights are protected in all areas of life, including employment, housing, marriage, health, and access to services and to be treated with dignity at businesses and in public. I would also push for strict enforcement of hate crimes.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I will push for more mental health care resources, both in schools and in rural areas. I will also ensure that their rights are respected in school and that there are consequences for those who would trample on those rights.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I will ensure that their nequal rights to housing are protected and that they understand their rights and what to do if their rights are being violated. I would also help create programs and incentives to help them access down payment resources to put them on a path to home ownership.

Beth Doglio (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 22 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: BethDoglio.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @BethDoglio

Instagram: @ElectBethDoglio

Twitter: @BethDoglio



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.6



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I was part of the LGBTQIA+ State Legislative Caucus (2017 – 2021) supporting our caucus agenda and leading on Gender X on Driver's Licenses and access to a wider array of drug options to treat HIV. Medicaid does not cover a more preferred option. I have been on the organizing committee of the Fighting for the Majority event for many years, raising money for the house and senate dem campaign committees.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Steadfastly supporting housing, employment, full access to healthcare for our LGBTQIA+ community. A desire to speak out for LGBTQ rights at rallies, in committee, on the house floor, everywhere...

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I worked hard to secure capital and operating dollars for Arlington Drive Youth Shelter in Tacoma that has beds specifically for LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness and will work toward funding additional opportunities to provide services for our youth. I will continue to speak out and provide a safe haven in my legislative office for LGBTQIA+ youth. Also will defend against any attempts to limit access to full healthcare options including abortion and gender affirming medication and surgery.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

More funding, more beds...

Cameron Severns (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 25 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: CameronSeverns.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @CommonSense4Severns

Instagram: @CameronSeverns

Twitter: @CommonSenseCam



Seattle Pride® Rating: 1.9



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I am trying to guide my church into being an LGBTQ+ friendly place to worship. My wife and I were ostracized for being pro LGBTQ+ and the church almost kicked us out. We had some difficult conversations and many people came to realize that hate has no place in our faith. So we stayed and we are continuing the path towards being an LGBTQ+ friendly church community. Its a long road but we wont give up.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Im not exactly sure, but I want to help make sure that LGBTQ+ people are protected from discrimination in the workplace in housing and lending practices.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Im particularly concerned with LGBTQ+ youth homelessness. I think we need to pass a law that says religious organizations cannot exclude LGBTQ+ youth from housing help and other services as many do now.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

This is a major concern of mine. It seems that many organizations that offer homeless services will not offer services to LGBTQ+ people. We need a law that guarantees services for anyone who needs help. I also hope to pass legislation that will remove large hedge funds and corporate buyers from our housing market, I believe they are responsible for the housing crisis and out of control rents we see today.

Matt Macklin (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 26 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: MattMacklin.com

Social Media:

Facebook: @Washington4Macklin

Instagram: @MacklinVote

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.8



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

"Be Kind" has been a family and professional slogan for decades.

This means first seeing people as people and treating them accordingly. As a person of color, it has been important to lock arms with our LGBTQ+ siblings to set the new standard for our communities as a whole. Supporting equal rights to marriage, self-expression, and eliminating subtle gender-limiting language and policies in our society are just the start. I want to be more than a friendly vote to LGBTQ+ priorities, but an active advocate.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

My profession is in health care administration, and I've seen the ways health care systems fail to meet the needs of many historically marginalized and ignored communities.

Across the country there are local legislatures passing anti-transgender laws, and we have legislators here aligning with far right extremists wanting to curtail rights and safety for trans Washingtonians, including my opponent Michelle Caldier. She has attempted to pass anti-trans legislation in the past, and waffles on lgbtq+ issues in general.

As an elected officials, it will never be uncertain where I stand: I aim to increase access to holistic, queer-friendly health services which will include mental health, as this is one of the disparate needs for queer communities across the state. I will also work to increase housing support for at risk populations, which includes the queer community.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

As mentioned above, we must increase mental health resources and access to housing. The success of one informs the other, as people need to resolve or have better ways of treating their mental health so that they can access the components needed to get housing (job, education, etc), but also, lack of secure housing exacerbates mental health issues and makes it difficult to complete schooling or get a job.

A large portion of children's time is spent in school. I want schools across the state to have mental health counselors on site so that we can meet children where they are. These

counselors must practice cultural competence and humility and come from diverse gender and racial backgrounds. This will make mental health care accessible to many children who may not afford to have a therapist outside of school.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We need to desperately increase our affordable housing supply, not luxurious apartments for wealthy people. This may require allowing more areas in our state to open up mixed and multi family zoning. I support instituting progressive revenue streams to fund affordable housing projects, incentivize developers to create such housing, and to increase the availability of shelters.



Laurie Jenkins (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 27 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

Facebook: @FriendsOfLaurieJenkins

Instagram: –

Twitter: @LauriJenkins2



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.0



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

As the first lesbian elected to the legislature and Speaker of the House, I consider myself a leader in advancing rights for the LGBTQ IA+ community. My work for the community began in 1990 when I served as Chair of Tacoma's Hate Crimes Task Force and I've been part of the campaigns to add us to hate crimes, anti-discrimination and marriage equality laws. I am also a former Chair of Hands Off Washington, the first statewide grassroots queer organization in WA. As a legislator, I've led on protecting us against harmful legislation (anti-trans bathroom bills) and advancing our protection and inclusion (marriage equality, access to HIV drugs, gender affirming care, police accountability, etc.). As Speaker, I no longer sponsor legislation but am responsible for making sure good bills affecting us move off the floor.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Primarily, I'll continue to work with the bi-cameral LGBTQIA+ caucus to prioritize important legislation and budget priorities, focusing on addressing challenges and moving them off the House floor.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

On an individual level, my wife and I both contribute to and volunteer with Oasis, Tacoma's queer youth center. On a policy level, I've been very active in securing housing dollars for unhoused youth, with a focus on queer youth and have worked with Sen. Lioas on his anti-bullying legislation, among other things.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We must build more affordable housing across the board. Beyond that, we should be working on some of our housing funding being devoted to communities that are at highest risk of being unhoused, particularly trans women of color. We must make sure our elders are welcomed in to senior living facilities. I'm also a big fan of more housing testing to

assess whether queer community members are experiencing housing discrimination in the rental and house sales markets. I'm a former Boare Member of Fair Housing WA and have seen testing result in industry changes. Finally, I'm very open to other suggestions.



Melanie Morgan (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 29 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

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Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 1.6



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have voted in favor of every piece of pro LGBTQIA+ legislation that has come up during my time as a legislator

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

We are seeing a rise in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation across the country, as such it is incumbent upon legislators to take bold stances against hate and denounce any attempts to restrict the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Standing up for children is the reason why I first got into politics, and I have used my office to ensure that every child has access to the resources they need in order to live safe and healthy lives.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

By supporting policies that specifically focus on these particular groups in order to get people into stable and secure housing.

Emily Alvarado (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 34 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: EmilyForWA.com

Social Media:

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Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.4



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Personally, I have been an ally to the LGBTQIA+ community through personal advocacy on marriage equality, comprehensive sex ed, and other campaigns/issues. Professionally, as a housing justice leader, I have supported efforts to create housing that serves the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community--leading a City study and analysis on LGBTQIA+ senior housing needs, funding and supporting Seattle's first LGBTQIA+ senior housing project, advocating for more housing resources, like rental assistance, to flow to the LGBTQIA community facing homelessness and housing instability, and creating partnerships between Seattle's Housing Office and LGBTQIA+ community organizations.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will support and advance the priorities identified by the LGBTQIA+ community by sponsoring legislation, voting and being a vocal supporter. I will be a champion for more policies and investments that address youth homelessness and the disproportionate impacts on LGBTQIA+ youth! I will advocate to ensure that progress on reproductive justice includes and expands rights and access for the LGBTQIA+ community, including by ensuring provision of gender affirming care. I will support LGBTQIA+ colleagues in the legislature and seek to have a diverse and inclusive staff.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

First, I will listen to LGBTQIA+ youth with authentic engagement and take steps to visibly support youth. I believe we must integrate services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth across ALL state child and youth serving systems, including health care, education, housing. I will ensure that nondiscrimination laws and policies are not only in place but are enforced and hold violators accountable. In particular, we must ensure that mental and behavioral health services and education are accessible and provided in spaces that affirm youth sexual orientation and gender identity.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and

trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

This issue is a priority for me. I will support increased funding for tailored strategies to prevent LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness through community-wide diversion supports and I will support data and evaluation to ensure that state funding for housing services are equitably providing access for LGBTQIA+ youth.



Nicole Macri (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 34 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: VoteNicole.org

Social Media:

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Instagram: –

Twitter: @VoteNicoleMacri



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.5



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have introduced and sponsored legislation and budget investments that support LGBTQ civil rights, safety and access to health care (ex. prohibiting conversion therapy, Reproductive Health Access for All Act, HIV Modernization Act, LGBTQ Commission, Gender Affirming Care Act). I am a legislative adviser to the statewide LGBTQ Commission. I co-chair the legislative LGBTQ caucus to promote policies and budget investments that support our community. Outside the legislature I have worked to create housing, shelter and behavioral health service supports for LGBTQ people living with disabilities who have experienced homelessness.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I'll continue to be a legislative leader on policies and investments that support LGBTQIA+ civil rights, safety, and access to health care. I will help convene advocates from around the state to inform the policy priorities of the LGBTQ caucus in the 2023 legislative session.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

As a legislative leader on housing justice issues and equitable access to health care, I will continue to advocate for policies and budget investments that support LGBTQIA+ young people. I've been successful in securing investments in permanent and emergency housing and securing access to life saving gender affirming, reproductive and mental health care, and substance use services.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

This is an area of emphasis for me. I've led on getting state investments for the first LGBTQ affirming low-income housing in the state (located in my district in Capitol Hill). I led on securing historic investments in homelessness response, eviction prevention and affordable housing creation and operations (over \$2 billion last biennium). I will continue to

lead on renter protections, knowing that LGBTQIA+ people are more likely to face discrimination in housing.



Joe Fitzgibbon (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 34 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: JoeFitzgibbon.com

Social Media:

Facebook: –

Instagram: –

Twitter: @JoeFitzgibbon



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have proudly supported many community priorities during my legislative service including marriage equality, expanding reproductive health care coverage to include services necessary for LGBTQIA+ people, and decriminalization of HIV.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will continue to defend the rights of LGBTQIA+ people from right-wing attacks and will support housing solutions to help remedy the disproportionate incidence of homelessness on LGBTQIA+ people, especially youth.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I support investments in behavioral health organizations that specifically provide outreach to LGBTQIA+ youth.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I will continue my fight to diversify the housing types available in our region even when city councils are intransigent and will fight to remove cost drivers that make affordable housing out of reach, like onerous parking requirements and design review processes.

James DeHart (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 35 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

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Twitter: @DeHartForLegisl



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

As a member of the LGBTQIA community, I have attended rally's, protests, and pride celebrations. As one of the first members of the WA State RAIN employee group, I helped usher in the Safe Spaces initiative.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will always work to advance the rights of the LGBTQIA community and work to defeat any bill that would aim to harm the community.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I will work to secure state funding for mental health and community programs so that there are resources for the community. It is imperative that these resources be available to save lives and improve the world around us to make a safe an equitable society.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I will work to ensure that the resources that are available are widely known by working with the groups that offer them to ensure that those in the 35th LD are taken care of and have access to programs they need.

Jeff Manson (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 36 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: VoteJeffManson.com

Social Media:

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Twitter: @VoteJeffManson



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.1



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have a close family member who is part of the LGBTQIA+ community. I grew up in a conservative community and spent much of my teen years and early adulthood vocally encouraging tolerance in my community. Since moving to Seattle 17 years ago, I have given time and money to pro-equality candidates and ballot measures, and encouraged others to do the same, including during my time as Chair of the 36th District Democrats. This year I marched in the Pride Parade with the King County Democrats.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

We must ensure equal rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals, prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (including prohibiting private companies from discriminating against LGBTQIA+ customers), and ensure equal access to public services (including restrooms and athletic programs) based on gender identity. Health insurance plans must cover, and health care providers must provide, gender-affirming care. Our schools should be welcoming of LGBTQIA+ children and teach tolerance to both employees and students.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

WA's mental health spending is near the bottom of 50 states; we need to invest far more in mental health, and prioritize funding for providers skilled in treating transgender and other LGBTQIA+ patients.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Our laws against housing discrimination must be enforced, which requires more funding for enforcement. The state must provide more funding to the Housing Trust Fund and other low-income housing investments. Funds should be made available to non-profits that specialize in LGBTQIA+, transgender, and BIPOC homelessness.

Emijah Smith (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 37 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: [ElectEmijah.com](https://electemijah.com)

Social Media:

Facebook: @ElectEmijah

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Twitter: @ElectEmijah



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.0



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

As a straight, cis-gender woman I've had my own learning journey throughout my life that has brought me to a place of deep and full support for LGBTQIA+ freedom and civil rights, including health and safety. For me the best way to start supporting is to listen and learn. I want to make connections with what we have in common, I want to honor the ways that we are different, and I take time to do that.

At an early age I witnessed the way my grandparents opened their home to be a community hub for all people, including LGBTQIA+ friends and family. Being surrounded by their embrace of community members was foundational to my values, and my commitment to reduce harm to those who are just trying to walk through the world in their own skin, in their own way.

More specifically, as President of Mercer Middle School PTSA I'm very proud of the workshops we held for students and families around identity safety, to help others grow in their journey of understanding the discrimination and bullying LGBTQIA+ kids at the school face.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

My commitment to civil and human rights for all people is deep in my values and evidenced in my work. In particular I am aware of the intersectional injustices my Black, Indigenous and POC LGBTQIA+ siblings face in the criminal legal system, in housing, and in health care and will continue to hold their needs and rights, and listen to those who experience this compounded marginalization as I continue my work as an advocate and hopefully, as the 37th district Representative.

I'm especially interested in working towards justice for Black transgendered women, who are are killed, assaulted, face homelessness, unemployment and lack of healthcare at disproportionate rates because of the intersections of racism, transphobia, and sexism. I will welcome, listen and take the lead from organizations and advocates who come to the state legislature looking for policies that protect and lift up the humanity of Black trans women, as well as the broader LGBTQIA+ community.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

There is a shortage of mental health supports for all kids in schools, youth-based community organizations and in our wider healthcare system—but this deficit can especially impact LGBTQIA+ and transgender youth who often face additional discrimination and bias, and can go without personal support from their families and larger institutions. As PTSA President at Dearborn Park International School, and now as PTSA President at Mercer Middle School, I have fought for funding and programmatic support for all those who are “othered” and would prioritize this fight if elected.

Schools must support prevention of the types of bullying and abuse LGBTQIA+ and transgender kids face—through increased and specific professional development for teachers and staff, and through social emotional learning at an early age that embraces each child in their individuality.

Mental healthcare parity has a long way to go, and it should not be so hard to get acute and longer-term care and robust insurance coverage to meet the needs of anyone with depression, anxiety, and suicidality, let alone those who are more likely to suffer because of systemic failures in supporting LGBTQIA+ and transgender kids. I will be in the forefront of any battle for increased healthcare funding, insurance reform and system-wide housing supports.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I know, based on my life experience, the experiences of my family and community, and my policy expertise, that unless our public policies explicitly create equity, they will recreate inequities. One of my top priorities for all people in the 37th district, and especially marginalized communities including queer and trans BIPOC people is ensuring stable, safe and affordable housing. We know that housing provides a foundational level of stability for seeking employment, establishing social networks, and basic safety. We are far from this reality in Seattle, and I will continue to work on efforts to legalize rent stabilization, increase housing options, and make it easier to apply for subsidized housing. I've worked for affordable housing and community development funds serving the 37th LD by putting pressure on the Washington State Housing Finance Commission resulting in funding for multiple projects such as Africatown Plaza, Ethiopian Village, Petah Village, Elizabeth Thomas Homes. In my role at King County Equity Now, I advocated for affordable housing opportunities and work in coalition with statewide housing equity organizations to reduce barriers to housing for our marginalized neighbors. We can, and must, craft public policies and investments that improve health, safety and freedom in communities while promoting housing stability and community-rooted development. The path to that good outcome is ensuring that EVERY investment in housing and community development includes anti-displacement strategies, protections for marginalized communities, and strategic community development that places relevant goods and services in those communities.

Julio Cortes (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 38 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

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Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.7



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Early in my career, I worked as an Advocate for Cocoon House, a local non-profit that serves at-risk and homeless youth and families. During that time, I had about 30 or so youth as clients and a good percentage of them were LGBTQ+. The fact that they were LGBTQ+, a lot of times, was the reason they were kicked out of the home. I worked with those youth to get support services, find a community and at times, reconnect with family. A large percentage of young people experiencing homelessness do so because of how they identify and we must do a better job in supporting them.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I believe it is my duty to provide, protect, and uplift all communities in which I serve. I look forward to advancing the rights of the LGBTQ+ community from the legislature. I support increasing access to affordable and nondiscriminatory healthcare and mental health services, addressing the increasing violence against transgender people, increasing access and security to safe and stable housing and employment, fostering LGBT-inclusive nondiscriminatory policies in the workforce and in schools, and implementing LGBT-inclusive HR and government services, benefits, and programs. I look forward to working with LGBTQ+ groups and constituents to implement protections effectively.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

My career began over a decade ago working with homeless LGBTQIA+ youth and their families. It opened my eyes to the realities of poverty that many people in this community face every day and inspired me to make public service the focus of my career. Every person has a right to safety and housing. We know that LGBTQ+ youth disproportionately face housing insecurity and I support funding for organizations that are already providing vital support to LGBTQ+ youth.

I also understand that LGBTQ+ student's experience in school shapes their understanding of their identities and experiences of belonging. I support funding to educate teachers on how to treat LGBTQ+ students with sensitivity and to ensure that student's pronouns are respected and understood. I also support expanding curriculums to ensure that there are

complex and positive representations of LGBTQ+ people in the classroom where LGBTQ+ people are too often presented as other, vulgar, and deviant. Many LGBTQ+ students have trouble imagining their future when they don't see positive representations of adults like them.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I have worked directly with homeless youth and their families for a number of years. During that time I was charged with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the youth who used our services. That experience really opened my eyes to the realities of the homelessness crisis we are facing in Washington, and how easy it is for so many people to fall victim to circumstance, especially LGBTQ+, disabled, and BIPOC people. I understand that there are so many barriers that LGBTQIA+ residents face in securing housing and employment due to the outright anti-LGBT discrimination in the workforce. I am excited to bring my connection to community and regional groups to the legislature to generate new ideas to address the challenges Washington families face. I also look forward to developing connections with our LGBTQIA+ residents in order to continue to bridge the gap between LGBTQ+ rights and politics, as well as to help queer residents fight against homelessness. I recognize that there are topics that I am not well versed in, but I will leverage the knowledge and experience subject matter experts have to serve Washington communities.

SEATTLE
PRIDE

Mary Fosse (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 38 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: MaryFosse.com

Social Media:

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Instagram: –

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.6



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I am an ally to the LGBTQIA+ community and publicly stand in solidarity with marriage equality, freedom from discrimination, and equal access to participate in all social and economic spaces. I currently serve on Everett City Council and work to make the civic process more accessible for those with diverse lived experiences to participate and shape policy. I continue to follow legislation and policies that support equitable democratic practices.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I am committed to promoting opportunities for people of all races, national origins, abilities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. This starts by listening, by valuing other perspectives, by being transparent, by inviting people to the table, and by realizing growth and the ability to change are greater qualities than always being right and having all the answers.

I support education and guidance programs in schools that teach science-based, age-appropriate non-judgmental information on sexuality, consent, tolerance, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexually transmitted diseases, and contraception. With reproductive rights under attack across the nation, we need leaders willing to fight for quality, accessible, and equitable healthcare and reproductive freedom now more than ever. I support access to affordable and quality healthcare, including gender-affirming care, for all Washingtonians, regardless of income, sex, immigration status, or other circumstance.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

I understand there are complex and compounding challenges that LGBTQIA+ youth experience. I am thrilled to witness the implementation of 988, but there is much more work to be done in this arena, especially with the lack of mental health providers.

I support fully funding K-12 basic education including professional, competitive compensation and benefits for educators, as well as additional mental health staff. The

pandemic has accelerated a growing mental and behavioral health crisis in our communities, with a particularly high impact on students. It's our paramount duty to fund education, and we need to be thinking of the whole child. Our schools and educators are wanting greater resources to hire counselors, nurses, and social workers and I support them.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I was born into low-income housing to a single mother, and have been homeless as a child. I know some of the barriers families face and what life is like for so many others in my community in similar circumstances. Poverty and homelessness aren't just problems, they're symptoms of something greater that we must address. Our solutions must be varied and comprehensive in scope because safe and affordable housing is a human right. I believe the role of government is to help people. The market isn't working to fix our housing and homelessness crisis, and it was never designed to, so we need to make that investment. More resources should be devoted to helping youth who experience homelessness, 40% of whom identify as LGBTQ+ and are disproportionately BIPOC. We need to work on the systemic causes of homelessness, and I have the lived experience to tackle this issue compassionately and directly. I support Housing First policies, tenant protections, public and workforce housing, a state public bank with low-income mortgage options, and increased resources for local governments for shelter, hygiene facilities, and wrap around services. I also support better access and funding for mental health and substance abuse programs, as well as incentivizing the mental health provider workforce pipeline. We need to be partnering with our local leaders on addressing their specific regional needs, and all of us must work together and increase this state's housing stock across all levels.

Jessica Wadhams (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 39 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: JessicaWadhams.com

Social Media:

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Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.2



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

For two years running I have organized a local pride car parade in my hometown of Lake Stevens. Currently it is the only pride celebration in my city and was in direct response to my city council's open hatred to the LGBTQIA+ community. I myself identify as Bisexual and have used my candidate platform to share my experiences growing up in a household that is not welcoming of the LGBTQIA+ community. I have also volunteered at Cocoon House. I am the co-founder for the Lake Stevens BIPOC and Allies group. We have highlighted such organizations as The Lavender Project to help raise awareness of intersectionality and the disparity of violence that Black and Brown Trans individuals face

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

First and foremost we need to be on guard of protection of marriage equality as we know federally it has become "fair game". If elected I would work on policies that give better legal protections for the LGBTQIA+ community as well as harsher penalties for individuals committing hate crimes related to racism and homophobia. Lastly, I would like to help make it easier for our LGBTQIA+ community when it comes to adoption and fostering.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

If elected and as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community myself, I would do everything in my power to help advance opportunity for my community and work to make policies that reflect the future we need to move towards. Those experiencing homelessness is a high priority for me and needs immediate addressing so we can start moving the needle on solving this issue.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I would like to create stricter regulations for landlords so that rent prices stay in touch with cost of living and inflation. Incentivizing local municipalities to develop more densely and affordable pricing. I also want to be in close partnership with our amazing on the ground

organizations doing this work. It's important to bring this perspective to the table so we can start making decisions that are sustainable for people. Lastly, I would like to work with our education caucus on how we can create learning opportunities for families. Early support and clearer understanding gives way to better acceptance so having support for families navigating this issue needs to be better available.



Tana Senn (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 41 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

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Twitter: @TanaSenn



Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.3



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

In the early 2000's just a couple of years after moving to Seattle, I volunteered to provide event planning and communications for the Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality march and rally. I also did consulting work for the Pride Foundation. As a state representative, I was thrilled to vote to outlaw conversion therapy. As Chair of the Children, Youth and Families Committee, I work on policy to support foster youth and homeless youth, who are disproportionately LGBTQ+.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Ensuring LGBTQIA+ youth have access to books of all kinds, safe spaces to go to if home is not, mental health services, and welcoming schools, health care and education. All people should be able to marry the people they love, adopt and foster children like everyone else and be safe in their communities. I will work to ensure this in Washington State.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Improving foster care, reducing youth homelessness, increasing access to behavioral health services and social emotional learning have been major focuses of mine in the legislature and this will continue. I helped start a program that trains all personnel in a school district about mental health and look forward to expanding it beyond the pilot school district of Renton. I serve on the board of the UW's Applied Master in Child and Adolescent Psychology Program and will be seeking funds to double the number of graduates so we can ensure youth have the mental health access they need.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Our entire region is experiencing a housing shortage. We need more, varied and affordable housing. In addition, we must work to keep people housed in the first place. As queer, trans and BIPOC residents disproportionately struggle with housing insecurity and homelessness, we must ensure they have safe places to land and targeted services to help them get

rehoused safely and quickly. This past year, we passed my legislation specifically focusing on preventing homeless youth and providing new tools for communities to serve youth leaving foster care, in-patient behavioral health services and juvenile justice.



Leah Griffin *(She/Her)*

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 43 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.4



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Supported student led action against banning LGBTQ material in schools, advised school gender and sexuality alliance, organized every LD in the state for R-90 to provide inclusive sexual health education, led efforts for more inclusive and comprehensive sexual violence prevention. Worked on coalition for the keep our care act to prevent hospital mergers that limit gender affirming care.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGTBQIA+ individuals in your purview?

Continue to push for more sexual health education, abortion access, and gender affirming care at hospitals.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Access to mental and behavioral healthcare is a top priority for my campaign, and I will fight for access to this care for all young people. We need more affirming counselors in all our schools.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We need more housing, permanent supportive housing, social housing, and increased density in all neighborhoods to meet our housing crisis.

Frank Chopp (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 43 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Website: FrankChopp.com

Social Media:

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Twitter: @ChoppRep



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.7



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

As a State Representative and for many years as Speaker of the House, I have strongly supported the agenda of the LGBTQIA+ community. There are many accomplishments that we achieved by working together, including repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and enacting Marriage Equality. The list is quite extensive.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will continue to work with leaders of the LGBTQIA+ community including my legislative seatmates, Senator Jamie Pedersen and Representative Nicole Macri. I will pro-actively advocate for the community's rights in legislation and in budget allocations.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

As I have for many years, I will propose, support, and advocate for investments in the LGBTQIA+ community. This includes funding for targeted health care including mental health care, community outreach, and public education. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have focused the last 3 years, on initiating and achieving major state funding for housing and services for LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

I provided leadership to allocate over \$40 million in state capital funds for over 20 local homeless youth agencies, enabling them to build and renovate homeless youth shelters, transitional housing, and space for community services focused on LGBTQIA+ youth across the state, including Spokane, Okanogan, Tacoma, Vancouver, Skagit County, Bellingham and more. I am particularly proud of my successfully acquiring a major site at the southeast corner of Broadway and Pine on Capital Hill in Seattle, that will soon start construction of 90 housing units for homeless youth and a Homeless Youth Center

sponsored by Youthcare. This is just one example of my tangible work for the LGBTQIA+ community. Let me know if you want further examples of my work.



Brandy Donaghy (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 44 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

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Instagram: @ElectBrandyDonaghy

Twitter: –



Seattle Pride® Rating: 1.8



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

Through donations, support of issues, amplification and knowing when to step back and follow.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

By considering everything with an equity lens and championing issues the community is supporting.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

Continued support of age appropriate sex education, including recognition of LGBTQ+ individuals as valid and relevant. Working to increase behavioral health care in schools. Fighting for support of homeless and endangered youth, and championing the issues that the community identifies as priorities. It's not my place to make decisions for a community I'm not a part of, rather it's my responsibility to lift up those issues they're telling me are necessary.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We need more housing stock. We need more access to resources for those who are unhoused, from healthcare to job training. We need to provide these resources in safe spaces for those who need them.

Gerry Pollet (He/Him)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 46 – Pos. 1

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.9



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

In my communications with constituents and in my campaign, I discuss the need to address how the social determinants of health determine health outcomes, quality of life, and economic opportunity. The key social determinants are race, gender identity, sexual preference, access to reproductive health care, and poverty – all of which are interrelated. This reflects the connection between my teaching (Community Oriented Public Health Practice Program in the UW School of Public Health) and my legislative priorities.

I often discuss how work with my public health students has explored lack of access to culturally appropriate healthcare for transgender and LGBTQIA+ constituents and for persons of color. As part of this commitment, I have successfully brought attention to the efforts of religiously affiliated hospital networks to limit the health care choices of patients and training of medical residents and staff. I will continue to work with my legislative colleagues to ensure that Washington state residents, no matter their location, can access the appropriate reproductive health and gender-affirming care that they need and can afford. Additionally, through my work on the Appropriations Committee, I have advocated that recipients of benefits such as Medicaid are not barred from receiving high-quality care that acknowledges their gender identity and provides non-stigmatized access to health care such as HIV medication or surgery. Funding is just the first step. I've supervised students to document the lack of physicians and facilities that will provide Medicaid funded care and gender affirming surgery.

I've been a leading advocate for behavioral health parity and inclusion in all health and insurance programs; and for additional funding for behavior health. Based on my work, I'm well positioned to be a voice to ensure that such health care is culturally competent and qualified to support the needs of LGBTQIA+ patients.

In the past, I also doorbelled for the R-74/Marriage Equality campaign including discussing it and sharing literature with constituents at the doors when I doorbelled the suburban cities that were formerly in the 46th District before the most recent redistricting.

Furthering the rights of LGBTQIA+ people includes everyday actions within different settings. I have worked with our LGBTQIA+ nonbinary legislative aides and senior staff in the non-profit organization I have served as Director for many years. In the Legislature, I have

been approached to support other LGBTQ+ staff after working with others to ensure our workplace treated them with dignity and respect including seeking their input on internal workplace reforms, and advocating for protecting staff from retaliation for reporting gender-based discrimination and harassment.

My work to make our tax system more fair by ensuring the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share, instead of the State's poorest residents paying a disproportionate share of their income in taxes, means that Washington state residents can thrive with fully funded health care, benefits, and affordable housing. It is unconscionable that corporations lobby for no-strings-attached tax breaks while failing to pitch in for vital services, while at the same time they bankroll the campaigns of candidates who will vote to erode LGBTQIA+ rights. I have sponsored legislation (such as our first capital gains tax bill) to expand new revenue and will continue to introduce legislation that funds vital support systems in our state.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

I will continue to lead advocacy that hospitals that receive state funding may not restrict either medical practice or public medical student training based on religious directives (WA's Constitution is stronger than the federal Constitution). I have led efforts to ensure that our public medical schools' students are trained in the full range of medical practice, including abortion, EC, all reproductive health, and end of life care as part of their training - regardless of religious directives at hospitals they intern at. I have been a leader for Medicaid funding of gender affirming care and surgery services as part of managed care (not pay as you go) and expanded training to meet the extreme shortage of medical providers; and for HCA ensuring culturally appropriate care givers are available for LGBTQIA+ insurance enrollees.

I anticipate that in the upcoming session, there will be legislation to strengthen civil rights and workplace protections so that Washington state can continue to set an example for the rest of the country for how we can best further the rights of LGBTQIA+ constituents.

The most recent redistricting map has added over 38,000 new constituents to the 46th District, many of them in the University District and surrounding neighborhoods. I am excited to work with community organizations that serve LGBTQIA+ communities, especially youth, within these parts of the district (and beyond) and partner with them to increase funding for social and health services they may provide and/or additional capacity for shelters for young people.

As an elected representative, it is my duty to use my platform to stand up against discrimination against LGBTQIA+ constituents. I, and I hope more legislators, will draw attention to the rise of efforts to erase and silence the needs of LGBTQIA+ people at schools and at work, which is part of an intentional effort by the far-right at a national and local level. I will also continue to look for creative ways to use my platform to further equal rights in partnership with you and with other organizations.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

For years before becoming a legislator, I also advocated to dramatically increase state funding for school nurses, social workers and psychologists. This year, research and materials I oversaw creation for the session helped us make a tremendous step forward to increase by eight-fold state funding in the prototypical school funding formula for nurses, social workers and psychologists. For example, until this year, the State only funded an unconscionable .007 of a school nurse per elementary school.

As part of my work to ensure every child's moral and constitutional right to public education is met, I have advocated for teacher education that ensures teachers are prepared to teach students about the harmful effects of discrimination. I have also, and will continue to, work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to prevent the incursion of efforts to erode the barrier between church and state in our public schools. Otherwise, we will continue to see efforts to silence and erase LGBTQIA+ youth's right to be themselves in public.

I've also been a champion for comprehensive medically accurate sexual health education in ALL schools. Clear evidence supports that comprehensive sexual health education improves mental health outcomes, reduces sexual assault and discrimination. Last year, I introduced legislation to expand to have public health education in all high schools. I will continue this effort to further these goals.

Part of the work to ensure the safety of our youth is a comprehensive and well-funded social safety net and affordable housing, which I have led efforts to fund through progressive revenue since I was first elected. I will continue to fight to close unfair tax loopholes that give billion dollar corporations record profits while our health system is under-funded. As mentioned earlier, I am also interested in increasing the capacity of youth shelters and other programs within our district and the region that serve LGBTQIA+ youth.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

To reduce homelessness and housing insecurity, we must stop losing thousands of affordable housing units every year, stop people from being evicted over inability to pay small amounts, prevent further displacement of low income residents, LGBTQIA+ residents and communities of color; and build far more units of permanent supportive housing than we have been able to open to date. I have championed adding more funds to crucial programs that build affordable housing such as the Housing Trust Fund and providing tens of millions for rapid rehousing with support services. I have advocated for and requested funding for youth housing that provides social worker and health support for homeless youth, of whom a very large percent are LGBTQIA+ youth. Those support services need to be tailored to the unique needs of LGBTQIA+ persons. Part of my work addressing gentrification and displacement is working directly with those most impacted.

These impacts fall most heavily on persons of color and our LGBTQIA+ residents. I look forward to working with you to address these disparities. I have also worked with organizations advocating on behalf of tenants such as advocating for portable tenant screening, barring criminal background checks before offering housing rental units, limits on move-in fees and security deposits, and lifting our statewide ban on rent control.

Although we have laws forbidding discrimination against potential tenants based on their gender identity or sexual orientation, it takes resources and vigilant enforcement for those laws to be effective. I will continue to support these efforts. Finally, as mentioned earlier, I have, and will continue to initiate or work in coalitions with community organizations to increase funding and capacity for shelters and other services specifically serving LGBTQIA+ people, especially youth. I helped lead the capital budget funding and community support for adding hundreds of affordable housing units in Magnuson Park, and renovations and supports for the housing for YouthCare in the park.



Dr. Lelach Rave (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 46 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.3



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have always strived to be a friend and ally to the LGBTQIA+ community. In my practice as a primary care pediatrician, I have supported numerous young people through their personal processes of exploring and asserting their identities. At times I have played the "go-between" helping a young person and their parents negotiate the process of coming out. I have worked in partnership with the Gender Clinic at Seattle Children's Hospital since its inception, working with the team to ensure that my patients receive the care they need to live their fullest lives. I also have many same-sex couples in my practice who bring their children to me for care. I have heard more than once that these parents appreciate the LGBTQIA+ friendly environment that my practice has established – we are intentional about our use of language and the images we place on our walls and the books we have in our waiting area.

As a cis-gender, heterosexual woman, I have also made sure that my children have all sorts of families and people in their lives – exposing them to the wide diversity of the human experience so that LGBTQIA+ community is part of the water they swim in.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

As a Representative, my job is to represent my constituents, especially those who have historically been marginalized and disenfranchised. I will work to advance the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community, including the current "frontier" of gender affirming medical care. Policy must be made with the disparate outcomes of our current society in mind – whether that is rates of suicidal ideation and completion, rates of unemployment, rates of homelessness, etc. It is essential to have members of the LGBTQIA+ communities around the table, sharing their needs and experiences, so that policy can reflect the lived experiences of those those impacted.

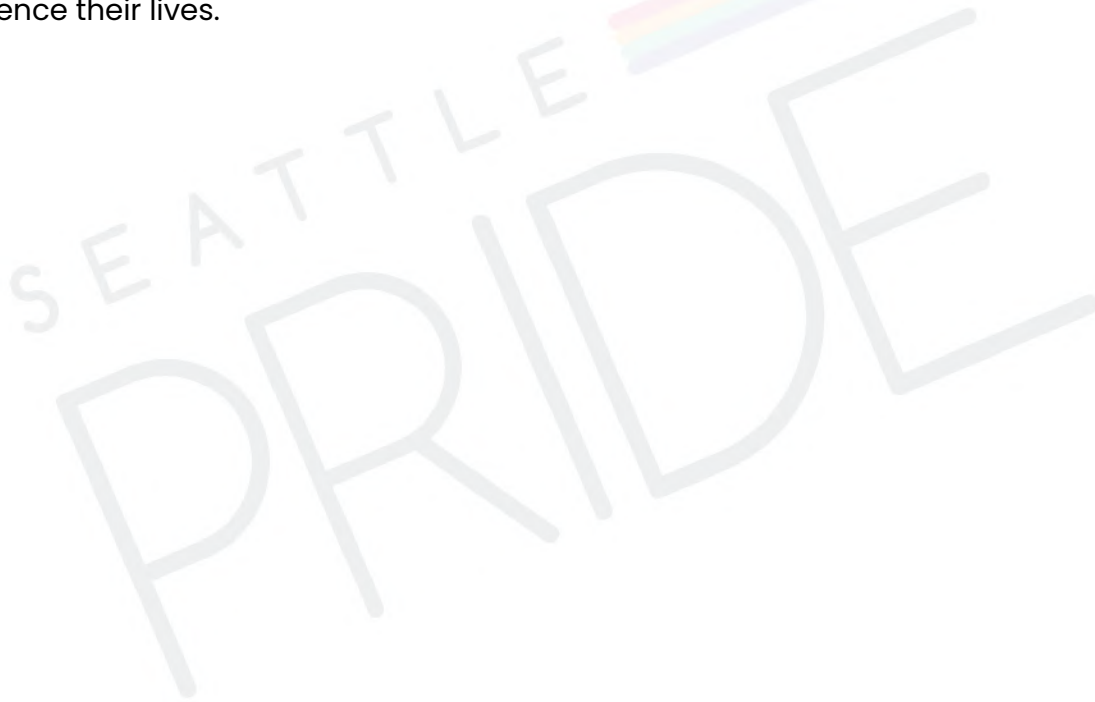
3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

It is essential that these young people have a voice in the policy process and that policy makers understand their unique challenges. As a primary care pediatrician, the increase risks listed above are not theoretical. I see them play out in my office every day. I know and

care for the kids who are struggling with depressing and bullying. I fight for them in their schools and sometimes in their families of origin. I especially want to prioritize strengthening our mental health system, which is failing SO many people in our communities – but especially members of the LGBTQIA+ communities. We must strengthen our mental health work force and ensure that we have adequate facilities to provide people with the care they need.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

We must build more housing. We are decades behind in our investment in housing. And whenever resources are scarce, marginalized communities are impacted the most. We must invest in housing and ensure that there is an adequate proportion that is affordable housing. We also must invest in middle income housing so that working class people can live in the neighborhoods where they work and have community. As with all issues, it is important to have the impacted citizens around the table, helping shape the policies that will influence their lives.



Darya Farivar (She/They)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 46 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Social Media:

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Instagram: –

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Seattle Pride® Rating: 3.3



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

I have directly supported the LGBTQIA+ community through volunteering and advocacy work. Several years ago I was a regular volunteer with PFLAG supporting Pride events, as well as tabling for different conferences and events. When the military trans ban was proposed I stood with my friends at Minority Veterans of America representing the Seattle Women's Commission and speaking out against it.

Last legislative session, I am proud to have helped pass ESHB 1956, which was an amendment to the Public Records Act. This bill came about because anti-trans hate groups were seeking sensitive, personal information about folks who are incarcerated, with the possibility of creating an online registry. This legislation protects against nonconsensual disclosure of the sensitive information collected by the Department of Corrections, such as sexual assault history, gender identity, and disability status. Protecting the rights and well-being of LGBTQIA+ communities is something that is very close to my heart and, if elected, it will continue to be a priority of mine to support the LGBTQIA+ community inside and outside of Olympia.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

While the Washington Law Against Discrimination serves to protect individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, there are still many institutional barriers creating disparities in the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQIA+ community. For example, LGBTQIA+ individuals are less likely to have a regular healthcare provider, more likely to receive a poor quality of care, and experience higher rates of certain types of cancers. While in office, a priority of mine will be to work for meaningful, accessible, culturally relevant, and LGBTQIA+-responsive services healthcare services. With the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, we must also recognize the impact this has on the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly transgender and nonbinary folks seeking access to reproductive healthcare. As Representative, I will stand by our neighbors in other states and work to ensure Washington will continue to be a safe space for those seeking care.

Above all, core to my campaign is taking direction from those with lived experience – I am interested in advancing policies that are meaningful to LGBTQIA+ communities. In order to do this, it will be a priority for me to build mutual and resilient partnerships to hear from

those with lived experience directly. Over the last two years, I've drafted legislation called the Nothing About Us Without Us Act. This legislation would require any statutorily created entity to include people with direct lived experience on its membership. If elected, one of my first actions will be to champion this bill into law. Advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ Washingtonians, and improving the lives of marginalized community members, comes back to access to the decision-making process and the ballot, these are our tools for change. Only when we have people with direct lived experience in leadership will we be able to truly improve the lives of marginalized communities. Representation matters and is one of the reasons I'm running.

My goal in entering this race is to leave a lasting impact on the community regardless of the outcome. I have seen through my work in Olympia how oftentimes it is the most vocal and privileged communities that have their needs prioritized over others. I want to amplify the voices of those that are often forgotten and work to ensure they have a seat at the table, whether that be, LGBTQIA+ communities, BIPOC communities, tribal communities, the formerly and currently incarcerated, individuals with disabilities and immigrants, or undocumented people. Everyone deserves to have their needs addressed regardless of their wealth or influence. As a Representative, I will take the time to meet community members where they are at and bring them and their lived experiences with me to the House.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

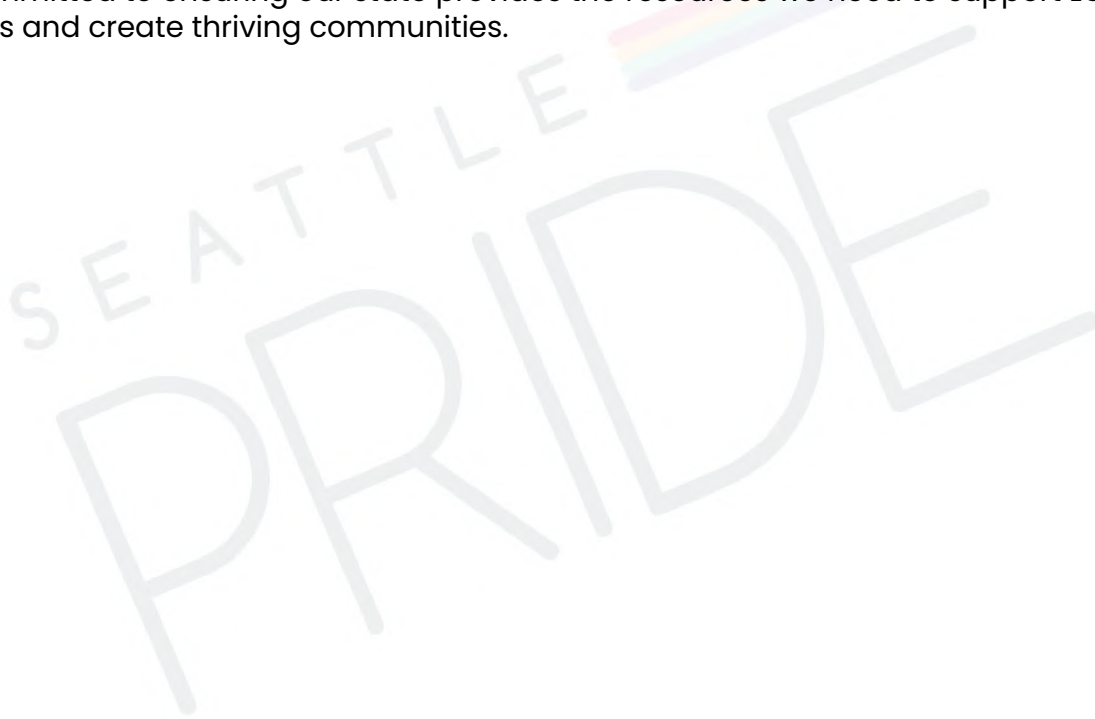
Behavioral health, housing, and addressing homelessness are my top priorities and core to my platform. We can better support our LGBTQIA+ youth by providing low-barrier accessible housing, addressing basic needs, and a full spectrum of care for all Washingtonians. To create meaningful access and treatment options, we need leaders who understand how individuals accessing resources interact with, and rely on, public service systems. I will work for a system that supports individuals with a variety of behavioral health needs, including culturally relevant and LGBTQIA+ responsive services, school-based therapy, outpatient services, disability specific care, and permanent supportive housing with wraparound supports. I will work for a system that provides care as soon as care is needed.

But, to make this vision a reality, we must take care of those who care for us. There is a serious shortage of behavioral health professionals. The schooling required to become a behavioral health professional takes a significant amount of time and money. This results in a less diverse and smaller pool of professionals and fewer individuals pursuing specializations. Once individuals meet the requirements necessary to pursue employment, they are not taken care of as employees. Our healthcare providers are underpaid, undertrained, and as a result, understaffed. The healthcare providers, social workers, certified peer counselors, and caregivers we rely on to take care of some of our most vulnerable are not treated well. If we want to transform our behavioral health system, we must start by taking care of our behavioral health providers. I will work to make sure they are paid a thriving wage, are provided the training they need to successfully provide individualized care, and ensure they are encouraged to pursue specializations through loan forgiveness and compensation for additional skill. By properly supporting our workforce, we encourage others to pursue this career path and increase the number of staffing providers, as well as the diversity of the staffing pool and the types of expertise therein. Only then can

we create the programs and services we need to improve our behavioral health system and truly seek to support LGBTQIA+ youth.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

A huge number of folks experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity are LGBTQ+ youth who are unaccompanied, especially around U-District and in the 46th. This is something that is a priority for me to address in office and I am in conversation with ROOTS Young Adult Shelter to learn more about this. We need specialization to support people who need specialized care. It is crucial that we make sure all services and housing resources are culturally responsive, in a way folks will feel safe reaching out and accessing those resources. Where we invest our money shows what we value. I will push for Washington to demonstrate its commitment to keeping individuals housed. We know that it is much easier to keep folks in their homes rather than put people experiencing homelessness into homes. I am committed to ensuring our state provides the resources we need to support LGBTQIA+ residents and create thriving communities.



Shukri Olow (She/Her)

Position Sought: State Representative, LD 47 – Pos. 2

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Twitter: @ElectShukri



Seattle Pride® Rating: 2.6



1. In what ways have you supported the LGBTQIA+ community?

My work with Best Starts for Kids and our state's public schools has put me in touch with so many LGBTQIA+ youth in the upcoming generation. I am proud of the work I have done to make our schools a safe and welcoming place, and to empower them to make their society better than the one they've grown up in.

More recently, advocated against the erasure of LGBTQIA+ literature in Kent, speaking to the school board against the banning of these books. I spoke to how vital it was for me, as a little immigrant girl in a hijab, to be welcomed, accepted, and supported in my identity by my teachers during the most vulnerable time in my life. All of our students deserve to be seen and appreciated for who they truly are, and our schools have a duty to uphold this commitment to diversity.

2. If (re)elected, how will you advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in your purview?

With our rights under siege by the supreme court and congressional demagogues, it's all the more important to elect local legislatures who will protect these rights at home, and expand them even as our federal freedoms wane. I will stand firm on marriage equality in Washington, and will reach out to my LGBTQIA+ constituents to see how our state is failing them, and what we can do to serve them better.

3. LGBTQIA+ youth, especially transgender youth, are at increased risk for suicide, depression, bullying, and housing insecurity. How will you use your office to fight for these youth?

The pandemic has revealed so many fractures in our society. My hope is that we can use this time to repair the root causes of these problems, rather than allowing a return to the status quo. Mental health is one of the most pressing of these fault lines – we're seeing mental stress run rampant in our youth, particularly LGBTQIA+ youth. I was astounded to see the local government moving to cut funding for counselors and mental health specialists in our schools, and proudly supported the striking teachers in Kent and Seattle who fought to protect their students' wellbeing. I believe we can go even further, investing in after-school and community driven programs that push back against the isolation that the pandemic instilled in so many of us.

4. LGBTQIA+ residents have disproportionately experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, particularly for queer and trans BIPOC residents. How will you use your office to champion housing security for such residents?

Rising rents and housing costs and scarcity of affordable housing in the 47th LD are the number one concern I hear from constituents. Skyrocketing rents are the primary driver of gentrification, displacement, evictions, and homelessness. WA state has not done nearly enough to provide sufficient affordable housing in our communities that is accessible to people at all income levels. This severely impacts BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, who are disproportionately rent-burdened, putting us in the position every month of making choices between paying the rent or buying food, between paying the rent or visiting the doctor, or between paying the rent or making the car payment. I am committed to expanding our stock of affordable housing, ending exclusionary zoning, and improved renter protections to prevent evictions. The severity of our housing crisis demands thorough and immediate action.

