

38TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT REQUESTS

January 12, 2016

Dear Candidate:

Whenever a candidate asks for our endorsement, we ask the campaign to fill out our short questionnaire. It's not intended to be a comprehensive assessment of all issues. Rather, our aim is to focus on a handful of issues of key importance to the 38th Legislative District Democrats. This helps us as we evaluate those that are seeking our endorsement.

Consequently, there are many important issues that don't appear on our questionnaire. This does not mean they are not important to us. To be clear: we evaluate candidates based on all available information and not just the responses to this questionnaire. Additional sources of information may include (but are not limited to), news reports, public statements, voting records, personal endorsements and contributions history, labor relations, and other endorsements received. Additionally, at the discretion of the chair of the endorsement committee, you may be invited to a meeting of the endorsement committee to answer questions from committee members.

The endorsement committee will evaluate endorsement requests and then make recommendations to the membership of the 38th Legislative District Democrats. The final decision will be voted on by the membership of the 38th Legislative District Democrats.

Please consider time constraints when planning to return your questionnaire. We must have sufficient time in advance of the regular membership meeting to deliberate your endorsement request and then publish the proposed action on our regular membership meeting agenda. We will not be able to accomplish that without having at least two weeks' notice before a regular membership meeting.

Endorsement requests will not necessarily be considered at the next general membership meeting. The endorsement committee chair may "hold" endorsement requests if that is deemed appropriate to allow other requests to be considered. On the other hand, the chair may also move to consider requests well in advance of the filing date if that is considered appropriate based on the nature and circumstances of a race.

When your request for an endorsement is published on our meeting agenda, you will be invited to attend the general membership meeting and you may speak to the membership regarding your request at that time. The general membership will have the opportunity to ask you any questions they might have about your candidacy.

One final note: Your answers to this questionnaire will be made available to members of the endorsement committee and to the general membership of the 38th Legislative District. You should consider this a public document open to be viewed by anyone.

Thank you for your request for an endorsement from the 38th Legislative District Democrats. We appreciate your interest and your participation.

Mary Rollins, Endorsement Committee Chairwoman
38th Legislative District Democrats; 425-487-2284

Return completed questionnaire to chair at: mfrl58@gmail.com

Please also attach a high-resolution photo (a head shot) along with your questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: **Raymond Miller**

Office Sought: **Snohomish County Council District 1**

1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for the Snohomish County Council because we need a p a proven veteran leader on the Snohomish County Council for District One. A leader who has the skills and experience to plan of North and East Snohomish County and beyond.

Snohomish County is one of the fastest growing areas in Washington State and the Country. We need someone who understand the balance between and growing economy and maintaining the environment.

I am also running for our children, our grandchildren and their grandchildren, we need to be focused on education, climate change and livable wages now and into the future.

I am committed to increasing the access to county programs and services for the residents of north and east Snohomish County.

2. What is your work/volunteer history in regards to public and community service?

I have served 14 years in the United States Air Force and I am a founding member of the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc (NABVETS), and I am the Founder and past State Commander of the Washington State Command Council of NABVETS. I am personally helped more than 1000 veterans and their families go from being homeless to either owning their own homes and maintaining stable long term housing. As a Veterans Service Officer, I have helped veterans and their families receive more than 1.5 billion dollars in compensation, and services through the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

2017 – Pres: Commissioner, Snohomish County Human Rights Commission

2016 Henry M. Jackson National Service Award – Snohomish County Democrats

2015 – 2016: Vice President Snohomish County Charter Review Commission

2015 Elected Snohomish County Charter Review Commissioner, District 1

2015 – 2017: Vice-President Marysville Diversity Council

2014 Lincoln Honors Award Nominee: Veteran of the Year

2014 – Pres: Member of the Washington State Salaries Commission

2014- 2016: Chairman 38th Legislative District Democrats

2013- Pres: Chairman Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, AOWSAC NAACP

2013: Snohomish County Branch NAACP Veteran of the year.

2013 – 2014: Vice Chairman 38th Legislative District Democrats

2012 – 2016: National Delegate Democratic National Convention

2011 – 2013 Chairman 10th Legislative District Democrats

2011- 2013 Chairman Political Action Committee AOW State Conference NAACP

2010 – 2017: Vice-President Snohomish County Branch, NAACP

2010 – 2015: Chairman Political Action Committee, Snohomish County Branch NAACP

2009 – 2015: Chairman Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee Snohomish County Branch NAACP

2007 –2012. Member Snohomish County Veterans Affairs Advisory Council

2006 - 2009 Member, King County Veterans Advisory Council

2006 - 2009 Commissioner King County Children and Families Commission

2002 – 2004 Veterans Outreach Coordinator John Kerry for President

2002 - 2003 Washington State Democrat of the Year

2000 – 2004: National Delegate Democratic National Convention

1997 - 2004 Member Washington State Governors Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

3. What qualifications/experience do you bring to this office?

I have dedicated my life in working to make our community better. I have a BA in Social and Political Science, I have served as the Chair of the 10th Legislative District Democrats, the Chair of the 38th Legislative District Democrats, Chair of the King County Platform Committee and as a member of the National Democrats Platform Committee and I am a former Washington State Democrat of the year. I am the former Vice President of the Snohomish County Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and presently I am Chair of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Alaska, Oregon, and Washington State Area Conference (AOWSAC) NAACP and have served as the Political Action Chair of the AOWSAC.

Presently I am a member of the Snohomish County Human Rights Commission , a member of the Washington State Salaries Commission and former Vice President of the Marysville Diversity Committee, The Washington State Governor’s Veterans Affairs Committee, The Snohomish County Veterans Affairs Committee, The King County Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, Washington State Democrat of the year, elected in 2015 as a member of the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission, District 1, Vice Chair, Snohomish County Charter Review Commission and the 2016 Henry M. Jackson National Service Award winner

4. Please list any Democratic clubs and/or organizations that you are a member of, including the length of time you have been a member and any leadership positions you have held in those clubs/organizations.

I am a member of the Washington State Democrats, (30 years) The Snohomish County (10 years) Democrats and the 38th Legislative District Democrats (5 years). I have also been a member of the King County Democrats (20 years), the 37th legislative District Democrats (10 years), the 11th Legislative District Democrats (10 years) and the Stanwood Democrats (4 years).

I have held leadership positions as a National Delegate with the Washington State Democrats in 2000 and 2012 and as a member of the National Platform Committee in 2000.

I have held the following leadership positions in the following organizations Chair of the 10th and 38th Legislative District Democrats and Platform Committee Chair of the King County Democrats and 11th Legislative District Democrats and The Vice Chair and Endorsement Chair of the 38th Legislative Democrats and Washington State Democrat of the year.

5. Who do you believe will be your main opponent(s) in the election? **Nate Nehring, Dave Sutherland**

6. Please list your five most significant organizational endorsements to date and your five most significant personal endorsements to date.

I have not accepted any organizational endorsements yet, as I know how much the 38th Legislative District Democrats value diversity and as the former Chair, Vice Chair and Endorsement Committee Chair. I want the 38th Legislative District Democrats to be the first organization in Snohomish County to

endorsement the first known African American candidate to announce and run for a position on the Snohomish County Council.

I have been endorsed by Snohomish County Councilman President Brian Sullivan, Washington State Senator Marilyn Chase, State Representatives John Lovick, and Tina Orwell, Snohomish County NAACP Branch President Dr. Janice Greene, Bishop James E, Hicks, Senior of the Washington Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ and Deborah Parker former Vice Chairwoman of the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors.

7. How much money has your campaign raised so far? Of that, how much of that is your own money (dollars, not percentage).

\$4000.00 and \$2000.00 is my contribution and I will be donating \$1000.00 per month until election day.

8. How much money do you expect your campaign will spend? How do you plan to raise the amount above and beyond what you have raised so far?

\$60,000.00. I will be doing fundraisers, (coffee's, phone banking, dinners etc.) talking to PAC's and asking for individual donations.

9. Do you plan to have any paid campaign staff or use paid consultants, and have you included paid staff and consultants in your overall costs?

I have a paid consultant and I will have no paid staff. Yes, I have included all consultant fees in my budget

10. Crime and drug use/violence is a significant issue in our district. Describe how you view the current crime/drug problem and what steps, if any, you will take in the next two years to address those problems. If this requires additional funding, from where should that funding come?

North and East Snohomish is one of the fastest growing communities in Washington State and we have a growing opium crisis which leads to increased crime. I am a certified substance abuse counselor and clinical therapist. I have worked with many individuals who have been self-medicating with drugs. We need to get at the core problem and stop treating the symptoms. I plan on working with the substance abuse providers and law enforcement within Snohomish County to treat these issues of substance abuse, which leads to criminal activity. We must treat everyone separately we can't use the cookie cutter approach and we need to get to the root cause of each human being and help them understand themselves better. I do not believe that we need additional funding, we just need to take a new look at the problem and not treat the symptoms. I have worked with over 1000 clients who have could turn their lives around with sound mental health and substance abuse treatment and we can make this happen in Snohomish County.

11. We live in a very diverse community. Our minority citizens are not fairly represented in employment and are far behind in prosperity. What are your accomplishments regarding diversity and economic equity and what are your goals regarding diversity, economic equity, and civil rights? How will you achieve those goals?

I am the past Vice President of the Snohomish County Branch of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and I am the Chair of the Armed Services and Veterans

Affairs Committee of the Alaska, Oregon and Washington State Area Conference (AOWSAC) and as far as I can tell I am the first African American to run for a position on the Snohomish County Council. In November 2015, I was elected as a member of the Snohomish Charter Review Commission, District 1 and records indicate that I am the first African American to win any election within District 1! I am founding member of the National Association of Black Veterans, Inc. and the Founder of the Washington State Command Council NABVETS. I have dedicated my entire life to making sure African American, other minorities and low income individuals have a voice within Government and have taken this message to the highest levels with employers and community involvement. I was the only African American on the Snohomish Charter Review Commission and I am the only African American on the Snohomish County Human Rights Commission. Search of all data shows that I am the first African American to Chair a public hearing with Snohmish County when I chaired a hearing of the Snohomish Charter Review Commission last year. These positions mention above were and are volunteer positions. I know that my leadership and mentorship has helped many African American, other minorities and low income individuals reach their full potential and I will continue to be a drum major for all Americans. The 38th Legislative District can be the first organization to endorse an African American and its former Chair for the Snohomish County Council.

I must add that the more than 1000 veterans and their families that I have helped to move from poverty to homeownership is about 75% African American and 10% other minorities and 100% low income. I have helped these individuals and families receive more than 1.5 billion dollars in compensation, pensions and other services through the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The Social Security Administration and employment with many employers within the community. That is full time economic development.

12. What steps, if any, do you think need to be taken to improve voter turnout in the district, increase public involvement, and to reduce voter apathy?

Scientific data reveals that voters today have a mistrust in our government. This mistrust is fueled by many of our elected officials not keeping their promises and saying anything to get elected. We must educate the public on the value of their vote and that elections have consequences. As a young boy, I sit and watched as my grandparents, parents and neighbors gathered in our house for the opportunity to vote. The reason they gathered together was because of strength in numbers. You see there were people in the community who didn't think African Americans were full citizens and should not vote. So, they went in mass to vote and to make sure that their voice would be heard. I have never forgotten that day and my Grandfather telling to vote Democrat because they take care of the people. I have personally register over 500 citizens to vote and I am only getting started.

13. What is your position on Charter Schools in Washington State? What changes would you advocate for in the public education system? How have you demonstrated leadership in public education policy and how will you do so if elected?

I have previously been opposed to Charter Schools, I didn't understand how you could take money out of broken system and suppose to make it better. The State of Washington needs to fully fund education as it is the number 1 issue per the State Constitution. I have always advocated for equal access to education and equal treatment for all students and I will continue to have my focus on Science, Math, Engineering and Technology (STEM) programs. I have and will continue to advocate for Civic Educational programs in our middle and high schools and the introduction of life skills training programs in our high schools.

Now that the State has endorsed Charter Schools, we need to ensure that every child receives a quality education. While as a member of the Snohomish County Council, I will not have direct oversight or budgetary responsibilities for our schools, but as a father and grandfather I will remain actively involved to ensure that every child has the opportunity and the tools available to reach their full potential.

14. What environmental initiatives have you undertaken, what have you accomplished, and what are your immediate environmental goals if elected?

I am very concerned about the growth in Snohomish County and at what pace we are growing and cutting down trees. I also have worked on clean water and carbon emission within our environment. My environmental initiative is my grandchildren and my grandchildren's grandchildren, is to make sure that we leave them a health, clean and safe planet. One that is better than the one we inherited.

15. Do you believe you lean more toward labor or more toward management? Do you have a history of union membership/union service? Describe your relations with labor and past labor related accomplishments.

I strongly support labor more than management, (employees make employers possible and should share fairly in the profits that they make for the employer) but understand that we need both to work effectively together.

Former union member with, International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Boeing, Service Employees International Union(SEIU) (Community Psychiatric Clinic of Seattle), and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) (U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

I was a Shop Steward with SEIU and was a member of the local Executive Board of AFGE and regional representative.

16. List the milestones in your public service career that demonstrate Democratic ideals. List any actions or issues supported by Democrats that you did not support and explain your position on those issues that caused you to oppose.

As a Founding member of the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc(NABVETS) and a nationally certified veteran service officer and veteran advocate authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to represent veterans for filing claims for benefits and discharge upgrade services. I have helped more than 1000 veterans and their families go from homelessness to either owning their own homes or have secured long term stable housing. As a National Veteran Service Officer, I have helped veterans and their families receive more than 1.5 billion dollars in benefits and services from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. This number grows each month as more than 1000 veterans receive approximately \$3,500,000.00 monthly from the VA because of the help and support I have provided.

I believe in the idea of giving back to the community and one of the reasons we started NABVETS, was the fact that African American veterans were being treated differently than their counterparts. They were more likely to have dishonorable or administrative discharges, which meant they didn't qualify for services through the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, they were more likely to be homeless, suffer with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse problems.

The focus of NABVETS, was to bring veterans together to unite and work on these issues collectively. Which I see as the leading Democratic idea. People working together for the good of all.

17. List three of your most significant accomplishments that you made in your most recent term as an elected official or, if never elected, your three most significant accomplishments in public service.

As a member of the Snohomish Charter Review Commission I advocated for the Commission on Human Rights to go before the citizens of Snohomish County and become a permanent part of the Snohomish County Charter. Which the voters approved. Prior to this the Commission could have been abolished at any time by a majority vote of the County Council.

As a member of the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission I advocated for establishing an office of public advocate. Which the voters approved. This amendment to County Charter directs the County Council to establish an office of public advocate to investigate complaints and respond to inquiries from the public concerning the operation of county government and to monitor and report to the County Council on certain whistleblower, ethics, and human rights proceedings; and repeal inconsistent transition provisions.

As a member of the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission I advocated for amendments to the Snohomish County Charter concerning County Council meetings and hearings. Which the voters approved. This amendment requires the Council to hold an evening meeting in each County Council district at least once each calendar year; require evening public hearings on proposed budgets presented by the County Executive and on any proposed ordinance to adopt, amend, or repeal a county comprehensive plan; and repeal inconsistent transition provisions.

These were 3 key issues that I felt would benefit the citizens of Snohomish County and provide a more open public access to government. I also note that the Snohomish Charter Review Commission submitted 7 proposals to the citizens to amend the County Charter and 5 were approved by the voters.

As a member of the County Council, my priorities will be economic development, environmental, land usage, substance abuse and affordable housing.

18. Describe the three “stretch goal” accomplishments you intend to achieve in your next term if elected.

1. Eliminate racial hatred and discrimination.

2. Every human being has a clean, safe and affordable place to live. End homelessness.

3. Bring county programs to rural and small city Snohomish County which is too often underserved by our county.

19. The district has a large homeless population. The City of Everett has the third lowest rate of home ownership in the state at 55.5% renter occupied (state average is 37.2%). Per capita income is one of the lowest in Snohomish County, and slightly above the state median (Everett \$25,102, state median \$22,632). Everett has the highest percentage of low-income residents in Snohomish County. With these facts in mind, what measures do you propose to balance the scales and bring greater opportunity for housing, home ownership and economic equity to Everett residents, particularly to minority citizens?

We need stable, clean and safe affordable housing in Snohomish County. This is an issue that I have been working on my entire career. The big question for me is how do we intervene and prevent homelessness? Washington State has just passed a minimum wage law and incomes will be going up, hopefully this will help. While I have helped thousands of individuals and families break the cycle of homelessness as with anything we need a good plan and I will rely on my experiences in working with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) and the Congressional Black Caucus, Veterans Brain Trust as I know they have been very effective in reducing the numbers of homeless veterans and their families.

The NCHV has developed been helping homeless developed 4 Keys to Building a Lasting System which I would advocate for in Snohomish County and I believe will dovetail nicely with existing programs in the community. These are just the highlights of areas that I have been working with for 30 years and bringing communities together. It isn't an inclusive approach and all actions should be driven my community goals and available resources.

- 1. Core Leadership Team**
- 2. Annual Demand and Resource Analysis**
- 3. Community Plan**
- 4. System-Wide Strategies**

1. CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Why does Core Leadership Team matter?

- Assures accountability to the community**
- Brings diverse stakeholders together in single oversight body**
- Provides ongoing oversight of effort to achieve and sustain goals**
- Facilitates information sharing and ensures communication and understanding of common goals**

2. ANNUAL DEMAND AND RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Why does annual demand and resource analysis matter?

Provides clear, documented analysis of...

- Estimate how many individuals and families will need assistance in the coming year (# who will be imminently at-risk of literal homelessness) (# who will become literally homelessness.)**
- Estimate specific types and amounts of assistance individuals and families will need to successfully and quickly avoid or resolve their homelessness**
- Current or expected resources/funding & assistance available to address projected demand**
- Targeted prevention (SSVF/other)**

- Street outreach
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing (GPD/other, including bridge capacity)
- Rapid re-housing (SSVF, CoC, ESG)
- Permanent supportive housing (HUD-VASH/CoC/other)
- HCV or other public vouchers/rental assistance
- Resource gaps to address projected demand – helps inform community plan

3. COMMUNITY PLAN

Why does a Community Plan matter?

- Articulates what the system aspires to achieve, including measurable goals, strategies, and actions
- Creates a written agreement among key system partners
- Guides resource allocation, resource development, policy advocacy, and operational decisions
- Supports partnership development and promotes service integration across systems
- Helps communicate to partners and the broader community what an optimized system that effectively and continually prevents and ends homelessness looks like
- Creates accountability and shared expectations

4. SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGIES

What system-wide strategies are key to ending homelessness?

- Coordinated entry implementation – **Comprehensive geographic coverage/access and ongoing coordinated outreach, assertive/persistent engagement – Standardized screening, triage, assistance offers**
- Immediate access to shelter if can't be diverted, **offer of PH intervention(s), Veteran choice of ES or TH while being re-housed**
- Master list and case conferencing implementation – **Comprehensive, routinely updated (at least every 2 weeks) – Routine use for case assignment, resource matching, monitoring, and case conferencing more difficult to engage or house – Data sharing, privacy and security policies and procedures**

- Scaling up rapid re-housing and other housing interventions and options – Full utilization of SSVF/RRH assuring no turn-a ways of eligible Veterans not otherwise able to exit quickly on their own or with other assistance – Other RRH funding to close gaps – Creative housing and resource partnerships

What system-wide strategies are key to ending homelessness?

- Housing First implementation (system and program-level) – Lowering barriers to assistance, client-driven services, rapid resolution of homelessness
- Targeting homelessness prevention assistance – At system/shelter front door for individuals diverted from shelter – At VA, community touch-points (rapid screening, referral protocols, prioritized access for more urgent/imminently at-risk)

This isn't the end all but how I would be working this important issue. Building close and effective public/private partnerships will bring in stakeholders and others to build a lasting sustainable economy.

20. What do you consider the major issue facing our community today, and how do you intend to address it?

There are so many issues that are important but I believe that building a sustainable economy, where all citizens can maintain livable wages, while protecting our environment is the key issue for me today.

I will be addressing these issues by building community. Public and private partnership that has a community focus. We don't have the luxury of excluding anyone. Only together can we continue to make Snohomish county the best place to live work and play.

Finally, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US THAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER IN EVALUATION YOUR CANDIDACY?

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts and ideas with you and Snohomish county needs proven veteran leadership. I am that veteran leader!

I hope you find me worthy of your endorsement.

Thank you

Raymond Miller