

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

45<sup>TH</sup> LD MEETING

May 6, 2020

**Governor of the State of Washington:** The Endorsement Committee recommends the incumbent Jay Inslee for this position. Governor Inslee has served as governor since 2013. Before that he served as a U.S Representative in Congress for 14 years. Under his leadership, Washington has accomplished the following:

- Aggressive implementation of measures to prevent spread of Corona Virus.
- Ranks as the best place to work and the best place to do business.
- Highest minimum wages, and paid sick leave for all Washington
- Best in the nation paid family leave program.
- Some of the nation's most rigorous clean air and water standards.
- One of the highest union membership rates in the U.S.
- Expansion of voter rights.
- Provided affordable health care to 800,000 more Washingtonians.
- Passed the Reproductive Parity Act.
- Bipartisan passage of a 16 year, \$16B transportation and transit package.
- Stood up to the president's Muslim ban.
- Protected LGBTQI Americans from discrimination.
- protecting net neutrality through passage of first-in-the-nation net neutrality legislation.
- Raised the minimum wage.
- Passed historic investments in public schools and infrastructure
- Experienced a 30 year low in unemployment rates and record exports.
- Prioritized growing Washington's innovative industries such as clean energy, information technology and life sciences and strengthening existing industries such as aerospace, agriculture, maritime and the military.

**Attorney General for State of Washington:** The Endorsement Committee recommends the incumbent Bob Ferguson for this position. As Attorney General, Bob Ferguson has been committed to protecting people of Washington against powerful interests that don't play by the rules. Examples of his accomplishments include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Successfully blocked President Trump's first executive order barring travel from seven Muslim-majority nations.
- Won an important case for the rights of same-sex couples in Washington when he filed a consumer protection lawsuit against a Richland florist for refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding. Bob personally argued this case in front of the Washington State Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously in favor of the state.
- Won a major lawsuit against the Grocery Manufacturer's Association, an association of large corporations that attempted to shield the identity of the true source of contributions to an initiative campaign, and thereby intentionally violated Washington campaign finance laws. A Thurston County Superior Court Judge ordered the organization to pay \$18 million in punitive damages and \$1.1 million in attorney costs and fees – the largest campaign finance judgment in United States history, ever.
- Formed the Wing Luke Civil Rights Division, the first office within the Attorney General's Office dedicated to protecting the civil rights of everyone in Washington.
- Filed multiple legal actions against the U.S. Department of Energy regarding the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, first for delaying cleanup of nuclear waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and then for putting hundreds of Hanford workers at risk of exposure to harmful toxic waste. Both lawsuits led to successful outcomes.
- Created the Counsel for Environmental Protection within the Attorney General's Office to protect our environment and the safety and health of all Washingtonians.

- Created the Office of Military and Veteran Legal Assistance within the Attorney General's Office to help current and former service members find pro bono legal assistance.

*In Bob's spare time he has summited the highest point of 45 of the 50 states, is an internationally rated chess master and took a trip with a college buddy to see a baseball game in every major league stadium.*

**Lt. Governor for the State of Washington:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Marko Liias for this position. He graduated from Georgetown University and worked as a journalist, communications advisor and a small business owner. He served two years on the Mukilteo City Council and then served 6 years in the State House of Representatives, representing the 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District. He has been in the Senate since 2014 and has been the Majority Floor Leader of the Senate for the last three years. He also is the first openly LBFGT member of the State Executive.

Marko had a great interview with us and came across as a very transparent, passionate progressive leader who is currently one of our State Senators. Marko has the following accomplishments:

- Principal negotiator of bipartisan agreements on the largest transportation investment in state history.
- Instrumental in enacting the most progressive paid family and medical leave program in the nation.
- Sponsored legislation that has improved pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Sponsored legislation that has introduced digital citizenship in our schools, directing schools to include curricula that helps students better understand and navigate the many pitfalls of the digital age.
- Expanded access to education and opportunity for all Washingtonians
- He has a 96% rating form the labor council,
- Continues to champion his Student Loan Bill of Rights, which would protect college students from predatory and fraudulent loan practices.

- Continues to promote legislation to prohibit physically and mentally abusive so-called conversion therapy.

Marko is endorsed by the Cyrus Habib who stated: “Marko understands the role of Lt. Governor better than any other legislator. As majority Floor Leader, he has worked very closely with me in my capacity as Senate President to ensure that key progressive legislation makes it to the Governor’s desk.”

**Secretary of State:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Gael Tarleton for this position. Her background includes leading the effort to establish the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies; she wrote the proposal to establish the Institute for National Security Education and Research. For 10 years she was the Director, of Global Technology, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). For 9 years she was a Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst, for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. Georgetown University: M.A., Government and National Security Studies, B.S., Foreign Service.

Representative, D-36, 2013-present. Democratic leader, House of Representatives: Finance Chair (2019-present), Majority Floor Leader (2016-18), Vice Chair, Technology and Economic Development (2014-18).

Gael came across in the following manner:

**As a Winner:** She took on a two-term incumbent and ran King County-wide for Port of Seattle Commissioner. She won the 6-way race, beating the incumbent by 3 points. She won the general election by 4.5 points. She won for re-election in 2011, challenged by a candidate who had been on the ballot nearly a dozen times and beat by nearly 60% of the vote. In 2012, she ran for 36th District state representative against seven candidates, winning the August election by 5 points and the general election by 12 points. She has won re-election by wide margins in 2014, 2016, and 2018.

**As a Democrat:** She is a proud member of the 36th District Democrats, King County Democrats, and WA State Democrats. She served 10 years as a NW Progressive Institute Board member and served 5 years as a board member

of Seattle's Metropolitan Democratic Club. She has doorbelled in every election season since 2014 for State House and Senate Democratic candidates in the 30th, 1st, and 5th Districts. She is one of the top fundraisers for the House Democratic Campaign Committee.

**As Someone Who Gets the Job Done and As a Leader:** Signature legislation: HB 1251 (2020), describing WA plan to respond to potential security breaches by foreign or domestic entities and protecting voting systems by requiring vulnerability testing; HB 2421 (2020), requiring state to reimburse county elections officials for state and federal election expenses; HB 2803 (2020), establishing first-ever revenue-sharing compact between the state, sovereign tribes, and counties. 2019: Led coalition to create WA's 100% clean grid mandate; Led tax fairness package to adopt progressive tax rates on big banks, global tech giants, and mega-developers while reducing tax burdens on residential property sales, seniors and disabled veterans.

Endorsements include: U.S. Representatives Suzan DelBene, Adam Smith, and Derek Kilmer; WA Attorney General Bob Ferguson, WA Public Lands Commissioner Hillary Franz; House Speaker Laurie Jenkins, Speaker Emeritus Frank Chopp.

**As a Change Agent, Gael will Make a Difference by doing the Following:**

- Take the lead on creating a national strategy for helping states conduct elections through crises where emergency declarations are issues.
- Develop a plan to establish a national test facility where all elections equipment, software, and mobile technologies must be tested before being used in any election.
- Define national standards for election systems performance on ballot counts, curing, and voter registration files.
- Develop plans to protect our election systems against foreign or domestic interference by establishing emergency response plans to train local elections officials and their staff to respond to and recover from a potential disruption or failure in election systems during an election.

- Advocate for a national program to develop the next generation of mobile technologies, software, and voter data files.
- Deal with the lack of media attention to recurring patterns of voter suppression and outright disenfranchisement around the country ever since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down portions of the U.S. Voting Rights Act.
- Deal with the lack of any public debate about how private firms control the manufacturing and testing of voting systems and technologies
- Implement federal and state standards for system testing or performance.

**Superintendent of Public Instruction:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Chris Reykdal for this position. Chris' background growing up in the projects with alcoholic parents made him realize that the schools saved him. He told us that what he does for public education is because of what public education did for him. Toward this end, Chris constantly fights for educational equity and making sure that underprivileged children get a fair shake in the State of Washington. He comes across as very dedicated and personable. Some of his accomplishments have been:

- Achieved record high graduation rates
- Exceeded targets with students of color, poverty, disability
- Increased teacher compensation to be at market rates
- Delinked standardized testing to graduation requirement
- Improved / improving capital structures statewide
- Increased WA education ranking to number 15 nationally in math and language arts
- He supported support personnel to the school district (e.g., nurses, mechanics) by making sure they received significant increases in pay.

Chris spoke articulately and passionately about the importance of equity in educational opportunities for all students, and described approaches to address inequities in facilities, access to technology, moving the education budget to statutory control (harder to cut), etc.

**Learnings from the COVID crisis:** The "more work" concept has equity implications for kids with parents who work more, who have less access to devices, and less access to bandwidth. The crisis has shone a bright light on

this. Moving forward, Chris believes that we should focus on less volume of work as a way to demonstrate learning. The recent budget due to COVID has been reduced:

- Recent cuts to counselors, mental health supports hurt so he's looking forward to bringing that back and making it better in terms of support for students. He wants to build educational support for mental health and safety.
- Prior work done to move more of education budget to statutory make it harder to cut.
- In other states, some leaders responded to the COVID crisis by asserting local control. Right to work states wanted to justify layoffs of teachers and staff. WA did not do that. Some states were not dedicated to continuous learning. WA is.

**Challenges with basic education capital budgeting:** The state has no model to assist poorer districts. The McLeary decision gave underprivileged students more capital per student but it has created its own inequity, namely that communities pass bonds and the state matches it, but other communities even if they can get the bond passed the property taxes that fund schools (facilities, etc.) do not constitute an equitable situation because lower income school districts do not pay high property taxes. Facilities are dangerous and unsafe and the state needs a model to help them. The state should guarantee the basics. Even in urban areas, the inequity is clear.

### **Technology/Distance Learning:**

- Even though we are the tech HQ of the country, school districts were not ready. Only 50% of students have public computers! Half of all public school students have no computer or are using a private device. About 80% are connected. Therefore, education via tech is not equitable. High schoolers have high connectivity, but elementary school students have low connectivity. In rural areas, access to tech is worse due to overall connectivity challenges.
- OSPI is building out broadband. Providers are offering free services. He is going to pay for connectivity out of OSPI emergency funds. Because

it is essential. Legislature needs to see that its urgent and affordable. For \$40 million a month, he can connect 500,000 families to internet in WA. Chris believes we have to think about it as a public utility.

- He believes in providing students with a robust face-to-face experience in the classroom, not just virtual learning. If he had to redesign the system today, he would not do it around online. The online piece needs to enhance the in-person piece. Because education is about more than just the screen. Online education is not healthy for kids. Creates isolation.

**State Treasurer:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Mike Pellicciotti for this position. Mike has an undergrad degree in Bus. Administration with a minor in econ. He was a U.S. Fullbright scholar, with a Masters degree in Rural Development and a Law Degree. Mike was a law clerk to the Chief Justice of the WA Supreme Court, and a prosecutor before joining the Attorney General's office where he prosecuted corporate financial fraud and managed a unit that returned over \$30M to taxpayers.

Mike was elected to the State House of representatives and served on capital budget and transportation committees. He introduced and passed law to increase fraud penalties and modernize corporate laws, get dark money out of WA politics, institute PAC Financial Transparency Act and a bill to ban foreign corporate money in our campaigns.

He's running against an incumbent Republican who consistently has supported Trump, funded by gun lobby, big banks, big tobacco. Mike has been endorsed by Gov. Inslee, Atty General Bob Ferguson, Cyrus Habib, Congresswomen Jayapal, Del Bene, and dozens of others, Statewide labor orgs, WEA

**Washington State Legislature 45 District Representative #2:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Roger Goodman for this position. Roger has been representing our district in the State Legislature for 7 terms. And he says he still has unfinished business. He has introduced more bills than any other legislator and gets them passed. During the past two

sessions he introduced 16 bills per year and the majority became law including the following:

- Reduce deadly force by law enforcement
- Increased training and holding law people accountable.
- Protection orders against violence.
- Re-wrote law so schools help students who have run afoul of the law instead of stigmatizing them.
- Implement early mediation for children traumatized by lengthy divorce cases.
- Banned guns in pre-schools, required background checks for buyers with mental illness, domestic abusers, people under 21.

Roger has devoted his life to representing this District and is a progressive whom all of us want to remain in the State House fighting for causes near and dear to our hearts.

**US House of Representatives Congressional District #1:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Suzan Del Bene for this position. Suzan was appointed to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012 and has been re-elected every time, serving for over seven years. DelBene has a Biology BA from Reed, and an MBA from UW. She was a VP at Microsoft, where she spent 12 years.

Suzan is on the Ways and Means Committee which is at the forefront of debates on taxes, healthcare, trade and retirement security. She also sits on the Medicare and Trade Committees.

What she is doing about COVID to protect us:

- Succeeded in getting the unemployment payments in the first bill. Wants to see House Democrats lead on the next package: access to health care, help to States, robust testing, supply chain leadership and affordable housing.

- Initial funding for state and local to WA will be \$2.9B. We can get money from the federal government but only to be used for COVID related expenses.
- Need child care tax credit package. More than before.

The Committee wants to provide an early endorsement for Del Bene and also wants to encourage her to keep fighting for pandemic aid on all fronts as she moves forward with pandemic aid in the next few months.

**US House of Representatives Congressional District 8:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Kim Schier for this position. She is a doctor and a very warm and friendly person who is trying hard to make a difference in her role as a Congresswoman. She has fought for women's productive rights, preventing putting sweetened milk back in schools, worked to prevent measles outbreaks and called attention to the border and climate change.

Some accomplishments re: COVID:

- Been able to guide discussion re: Covid-19, convinced colleagues that it will be in their district within weeks. Because Washington was first, our state did things that helped the entire country.
- Intermediate package will be coming and there will be more for small businesses.
- House tried to get free COVID medical treatment for everyone, but GOP rejected it. Got free testing.
- Second pandemic bill she was involved in and had a lot of input.
- If people have lost their jobs, they can get Medicaid expansion or Obama Care they might be able to qualify for that.
- Also incentivized small businesses with PPE loans
- Some companies furloughed, and people on unemployment still can get medical care.
- 11M will be without healthcare. She agreed that its catastrophic. Plus, hospitals cannot get by on Medicaid reimbursements.

Drug Prices:

- There was language in HR3 that required negotiations with pharma for 25 drugs and permits negotiations for 50, and allows Medicare to limit price increases
- She has worked on bringing down costs of prescription drugs.
- Asked NIH because they do benchwork then pharma companies do clinical trials. Head of NIH thinks its good to have partnership between government (NIH) and the pharma companies. Should have financial incentive for drug companies to manufacture drugs.
- The real difference is in patent law. Maybe companies should not have patents indefinitely forever, maybe just a few years. Put cap on years for patents.
- Asked if we are saying NIH should pay companies for later stage development and testing, instead of granting them patent monopoly. (Our reply: Yes, that's one way it could be done. You could negotiate many ways to ensure that a patent didn't let them raise prices at will, e.g. split costs of later stage development/testing and then limit prices as part of the agreement.)

Kim's statement:

"I am honored to represent families throughout Washington's 8th Congressional District. These are the families I had the pleasure of serving for the past 16 years as a pediatrician in Issaquah, and I know how to listen. I look at the issues facing our district as a scientist, doctor, and parent, with an eye towards making sure that the patients I cared for have access to great, affordable healthcare, clean air and water, an excellent public education, and a shot at the American Dream. I am not a slick career politician. I am a pediatrician, a wife, and a mom who is excited to bring some basic common sense to Congress."

**Washington State Supreme Court Position 4:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Charles Johnson for this position. Justice Johnson has been endorsed in his prior races by NARAL, WEA, WA State Labor Council, the Stranger, FUSE's Progressive Voter Guide, Teamster Council 28, and State Firefighters. The King County Bar Association has rated him "Exceptionally Well Qualified" (highest rating). He's been on the WA

Supreme Court since 1991 (elected in 1990) and is the longest serving current Justice.

Johnson is considered a relatively liberal member of the court, and he was part of the unanimous 2012 *McCleary* decision that told our state to start living up to its constitutional duty to properly fund basic public education.

He has sat on hundreds of cases and provides the Court with institutional history and knowledge.

**Washington State Supreme Court Position 3:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Raquel Montoya-Lewis for this position. She is Washington's first Native American Jewish Supreme Court Justice and was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Inslee in December 2019. She attended the University of New Mexico for undergrad, then University of Washington for law school. After getting her law degree in 1995, she went on to receive a master's in social work because she wanted to blend her legal training with an understanding of how the law affects people.

Montoya-Lewis has had a remarkable career thus far. She was a tenured professor at Western Washington University and served as chief judge for three Washington Native American tribes: the Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and the Lummi Nation. She also served on the Washington Superior Court from January 2015 to December 2019. She brings a significantly different perspective to the Court and will be a fine Justice for many years to come.

**King County Superior Court Position 19:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Nelson Kao Hwa Lee for this position. Judge Lee is an incumbent appointed to the position a few months ago. He went to Pepperdine Law School and Boston College. He was a King County Prosecutor for 17 years and worked on Juvenile, Felony, Special Assault, and Most Dangerous Offender cases. He had his own law practice for ten years focused on immigration, personal injury, civil litigation and criminal defense. He has performed pro bono work for indigent immigration clients.

He also has many endorsement and is rated as exceptionally well qualified by numerous legal associations and lawyers.

**King County Superior Court Judge Position 51:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Cindi Port for this position. Gov. Jay Inslee appointed Cindi Port to the King County Superior Court to replace Judge John Erlick, who retired on April 30. Port earned her law degree at the Gonzaga University School of Law and her bachelor's from Whitworth University.

Port is a long-time senior deputy prosecutor for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, where she has worked since 1997. She has served in the office's Civil Division since 2010, representing the county and its employees in a variety of complex civil litigation and wrongful death cases. Before that, she worked for over a decade in its criminal division, trying serious domestic violence, sexual assault and murder cases. She also served as a supervising attorney overseeing the felony filing unit and hate crime prosecutions, while developing a reputation for her expertise on behavioral health issues.

"Cindi's career practicing in both the civil and criminal realms positions her well to take the bench on the King County Superior Court," Inslee said. "She has extensive litigation and trial experience, and I know she will make a great judge."

Outside of work, Port volunteered at Angeline's Day Center and served on the board of directors for a local homeless youth agency. She also volunteers at the University of Washington School of Law as a guest instructor and judge of moot court competitions.

**King County District Court Judge-Northeast Judicial District-Position #4:** The Endorsement Committee recommends Kevin Peck for this position. Kevin was a Public Defender, Union Local 8 Representatives, has practiced criminal defense, employment law and civil cases. Litigated hundreds of

civil rights cases representing individuals who have been discriminated against.

His community work includes serving for over three decades as a Board Member and pro bono legal counsel to the Washington Community Action Network, as well as a former chair person to the Civil Rights Committee of the Washington State Bar Association. He earned a B.A from Northern Illinois University and a J.D. from the University of Oregon.

Judge Peck was appointed unanimously by the King County Council to District Court and has been endorsed by all 24 judges serving in the King County District Court, including the Presiding Judge.

He has spent his career fighting the devastating impacts of discrimination and systemic racism experienced by defendants, their families, and their communities.

**King County Superior Court Position 26:** The Endorsement Committee recommends David Keenan for this position. No words really can describe how impressed the Committee was with Judge Keenan. He is in his fourth year as a King County Superior Court Judge. He grew up in Section 8 Housing and was a high school dropout. He worked his way fulltime getting a GED, Community College, Undergrad and Law School.

Judge Keenan has devoted his life to helping provide equal justice to the vulnerable in our society, especially to young adults. He is an outstanding judge because of his passion for the law and his thoughtfulness and commitment to help other young people step away from a path toward prison. He mentors, and donates unlimited amounts of his time to organizations helping provide more equity in our State's justice system. His enthusiasm and dedication is an example for us all to follow.

He was endorsed in his last race by all nine sitting state Supreme Court justices, and other prominent lawyers.

