

King County Democrats

2017 Candidate Questionnaire

State Level – Legislature

Candidate Name	Javier Valdez	
Position Sought	State Representative	
Home Legislative District	46th Legislative District	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes. Very much so.	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]
	Website: Under construction Email: [REDACTED] Twitter: Facebook: [REDACTED]	
Campaign manager or point of contact		
Consultant(s)	Janet Miller, Treasurer	

Part I – Candidate Background

Please briefly describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience. Attach a resume with more complete history.

I am the son and grandson of farmworkers and laborers. My mother, a Teamster, worked for 29 years in the local potato processing plant. I am proud of my working class background and the lessons I learned growing up as a Mexican-American in rural eastern Washington.

I am a product of public education, relying on Pell and State Need Grants, and college loans to get me through college. I was the first person on both sides of my family to obtain a college degree, graduating from the University of Washington with a Business degree. I also obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration from Baruch College (New York, NY) as a participant in the National Urban Fellows Program

I have worked for the City of Seattle for over 20 years, most of them with Seattle City Light, where I led their Woman and Minority Business (WMBE) Program. Since 2015, I have been working in the Office of Ed Murray, where I provide executive branch oversight and serve as policy lead on WMBE issues for the Mayor.

During my tenure at Seattle City Light, I served as President of AFSCME Council 2, Local 21-C, from 2010-2015. I was their first President and successfully bargained our first-ever contract between the union and City Light.

I have been involved in numerous civic and people of color activities over my nearly 29 years living in Seattle.

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What campaigns have you run or worked on? What specific actions have you taken as a public leader to advocate for new state revenue?

Precinct Committee Officer, 1992- present (excluding 1994-1995)
UW YD Chair, 1993
KCYD Chair (Founding) 1993-1995
43rd LD Chair (1997-2002)
46th LD Chair (2007-2009)
KCDCC Executive Boardmember, 1993-present
WSDCC St. Committeeman, 2001 - present
WSDCC Executive Boar, 2003-present

I have voted for every King County Democrats and State Democrats since 1994. All those platforms have pushed for new revenue streams, specifically our state adopting a state income tax.

What prompted you to run for this office? What priorities are you seeking to address with your campaign?

Fundamentally, my goal in my professional and political life has been to be a voice for those who have not yet found their voice, for those whose voice is soft, and for those whose voice is silenced.

From standing up for fellow eastern Washington farmworkers and laborers, like my parents and grandparents, to empowering small businesses run by women and people of color, from insisting upon what's right within my own political party, to fighting against gender discrimination and racial injustice at every level, my life's work has been to be the voice for those who needed to be heard.

This is the vision I will bring to my legislative service.

My top two priorities for a 2018 short session are not sexy issues, but they need champions:

1. Repealing Initiative 200

I work in this environment every day. WMBE businesses continue to struggle to have an opportunity to succeed or be considered for work. It's time someone Olympia take this and repeal this Tim Eyman initiative from the books. It will take work, but I'm ready to roll up my sleeves to get it done.

2. Taking the lead in the St. House on shaping a Presidential Primary for 2020. Like many longtime Party activists, I have always supported our Caucus to determine how we allocate our Presidential delegates. But we can no longer sustain over 250,000 people showing up on a Saturday throughout our state run all by volunteers. Our Party, but especially the public wants a primary. I will leverage my relationships in State Party leadership to convince our Party to use a primary over a caucus and I want to lead the Legislature on how that Primary will look like and be conducted in 2020.

List the notable endorsements you have received to date. Who are you planning to ask for an endorsement?

In what has to be possibly the shortest campaign for a significant office in the history of the state, I have secured the following endorsements in six days' time:

Congressman Jim McDermott (ret.)
Congressman Derek Kilmer
WA St. Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler
46th LD State Senator Ken Jacobsen (ret.)

46th LD State Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (ret.)
 KC Councilmember Rod Dembowski
 King Co. Sheriff John Urquhart
 Seattle City Councilmember Debora Juarez
 Seattle City Councilmember Tim Burgess
 Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes
 St. Senator Rebecca Saldana
 WA St. Democratic Party Leader David McDonald

Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. For instance, what earned media has your campaign received? How much money have you raised? How many doors have you knocked on?

This is obviously a unique race, but I am proud to say that I have doorbelled every single voter's (PCOs) door in the past week. Some of them twice. I have also phoned the entire list, multiple times in cases where I have been unable to reach people, and sent two mail pieces to all voters not yet pledged to another candidate.

I have a professional campaign a professional campaign treasurer and compliance firm hired and I have filed my C1 with the PDC.

I have just opened a campaign account, and will have over \$5,000 in contributions by Monday, June 12, the day that the new St. Rep. is sworn in and then will be unable to accept contributions due to the special session. If I am honored to be the choice of the PCOs and the King County Council, before I am sworn in and take my new place with the legislature now sitting in the third special session, I will have banked a healthy beginning to a campaign chest, and will be prepared, once we finally have a budget and session is over, to immediately build on those funds.

I am ready. If honored with the appointment, I have the team and resources in place to be an effective, viable candidate for public election immediately on day one, so the seat will be in secure hands.

Have you ever been a member of any other political party? If so, what party? Have you ever given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and when?

Never. No.

Please answer the following questions.

		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		No
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	Yes	

* If you answered "Yes" to either of the above, please explain your answer:

In 1996, I was a candidate in a rapidly-unfolding special election for Seattle City Council following an unexpected vacancy. The week of the Democratic National Convention, both I and my campaign treasurer were in Chicago as DNC delegates. We mailed our SEEC report for that week from Chicago, and it was received by the SEEC one day late. Despite the mitigating circumstances, the SEEC Executive Director at the time was a stickler, and she found us in minor violation of the SEEC regulations, and fined us \$50. This one of the reasons I am very glad that electronic campaign finance filing exists today. Not only does the public have access to information in nearly real time, but also, the same report would not have been late under today's regulations, as it would have been filed electronically on or before the day due and we would not have been subject to the vagaries of the US Postal system.

Part II – Local and State Issues

#	Question	Yes	No	Qualify your response
1	Do you support WAmend's I-735 (amending the U.S. Constitution to lessen the influence of money in politics, and declare that corporations do not have the rights of natural persons)?	Yes		
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	Yes		
3	Do you support the voter-approved minimum wage increase (I-1433)?	Yes		
4	Do you support the Reproductive Health Act?	Yes		
5	Do you support amending Washington's Constitution to require a two-thirds vote to raise revenue, as demanded by Tim Eyman?		No	
6	Did you support adoption of a Sound Transit 3 regional transportation package?	Yes		
7	Do you support legislation to fix Washington's broken "three strikes" law?	Yes		
8	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		No	
9	Do you support making two years of community college or technical school tuition-free?	Yes		
10	Do you support requiring tax exemptions to be listed as expenditures in the state budget?	Yes*		* My caveat with this is that we should be listing tax exemptions as what they are: a revenue loss. And we should be very clear and transparent with the public about how much revenue is being lost. But I also believe that the actual accounting should be done identifying budget entries what they actually are, for clarity of the numbers.
11	Do you support the privatization of our public worker's compensation system, which protects employees who are injured on the job?		No	
12	Do you support requiring paid vacation and sick + safe leave for Washington's workers?	Yes		
13	Do you support repeal of Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax collections?	Yes		
14	Do you support Washington adopting a truly nonpartisan, citizen-run redistricting process that would result in more competitive districts?	Yes		
15	Do you support Washington State prepaying postage on all ballots?	Yes		
16	Do you support automatic voter registration?	Yes*		*only if there are safeguards to prevent the inadvertent registration of persons with green cards and visas. Under Federal Law, non-citizens can be deported and barred from future entry to the US if they turn up on the voter registration rolls, even if there was no intent to register to vote on their

				part. In an effort to provide more access to ballots, we could create a hazardous situation for new Americans still on the path to citizenship, if caution is not used in implementation.
17	Do you support the death penalty?		No	
18	Do you support barring employers from asking criminal history questions in job applications?	Yes		
19	In the law regarding police use of lethal force (RCW 9A.16.040), do you support removing the requirement that officers act "without malice"?	Yes		
20	Do you support Healthcare for All-Washington (HB 1026 and SB 5701)?	Yes		

Part III – Free Response Questions

Please review the 2016 King County Democratic Platform, approved by the delegates to the King County Convention and available from KCDCC's website. List which planks, if any, you disagree with, and why.

I have voted for every King County Democrats Platform since 1994.

I support the Platform.

How do you propose fully complying with the Supreme Court's McCleary decision? In your eyes, what does full compliance look like? Please be as specific as possible.

Easier said than done. Democrats have been trying to fully fund McCleary since the St. Supreme Court's ruling and they started imposing a \$100K/day fine until the Legislature complied.

Until we have a change in our state's taxing structure, we will continue to struggle to fund education. The Republican gimmick on shifting the burden from eastern Washington homeowners to western Washington homeowners is unacceptable - and I oppose it.

Full compliance is ensuring we have all-day kindergarten, ESL students have the opportunity to succeed, special education services are never compromised, ensuring kids have transportation to/from school, no child should ever be denied breakfast/lunch because of lack of funds, teachers being paid with a respectable wage, to name a few. But most importantly, every child, whether legal or not, have an opportunity for a quality education in our public institutions.

What policies would you promote to address the climate change crisis? What ways would you propose combating the climate crisis by implementing control of carbon emission?

I believe that we have expand the uses of renewable energy, and transform our energy system to one that is cleaner and less dependent on coal and other fossil fuels. Washington state and Seattle in particular, are leaders in renewable energy, such as hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy, but more can be done. I also believe that we can build a clean energy economy by investing in efficient energy technologies, industries, and approaches. This will have the added benefit to our state of creating local clean energy jobs to replace some of the logging, oil, and transportation jobs lost as we change our energy priorities.

We need to reduce deforestation, as this is very much associated with global warming. From protecting what's left of Washington's vast forests, including particularly the Hoh rainforest, which has the distinction of being a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve, and one of only two rainforests in the United States, to local tree canopy ordinances, which protect and encourage growth of urban trees, this must be a top environmental priority.

We need to continue to pursue transportation solutions which get people out of single-occupant vehicles, and reduce reliance on internal combustion engines, and increase vehicle fuel efficiency and carbon emissions from vehicles and electricity generation. We must also support other solutions that reduce U.S. oil use.

We must also place limits on the amount of carbon that polluters are allowed to emit. From outright prohibitions to corporate behavior modifications through carbon taxes and carbon exchanges, I am in support of ensuring that we are continuously decreasing the amount of carbon emissions, particularly by our highest-polluting industries.

Describe your vision for tax reform and fairness. How do we fully fund our public schools while making our tax code more progressive? Would you support sunseting all tax exemptions, and voting to renew only those that demonstrably benefit the public interest?

Our state tax system is broken. Horribly so. In our state, home of five of the 10 wealthiest individuals on the planet, our poor pay an extremely disproportionately high amount of tax, while billionaires pay relatively little. Even our homeless pay an extraordinary amount of tax relative to their incomes on their few purchases, due to our exceptionally high retail sales tax.

I fully support a state income tax, but until we get a Democratic State Senate, those discussions will go nowhere. Municipalities should be able to impose a high earners tax. An increase in the capital gains tax needs to be examined.

I support looking at all 694 tax exemptions currently on the books and sunseting those on some type of calendar basis.

If elected, will you vote to uphold the Supreme Court's decision in *League of Women Voters*, which found charter schools to be unconstitutional? Do you support or oppose charter schools?

Yes, I gladly will. I oppose charter schools, which drain resources from the public school system and create a unequal education availability for students, in particular students who are low income, of color, or frequently move and change schools for any reason.

Since the Great Recession, the Department of Natural Resources' Geology and Earth Resources Division has been limping along with inadequate funding. DNR recently asked the Legislature for funding to make three badly needed hires: an earthquake hazards geologist, a tsunami hazards geologist, and a GIS information technology specialist. If elected or reelected, would you help ensure DNR gets the funding it is asking for?

Absolutely. This is a small budget ask on the part of DNR that will reap countless rewards for the citizens of this state.

Do you agree parents should have the right to opt their kids out of state standardized tests like the SBAC?

Yes. Research has shown that high-stakes testing can cause damage to individual students, particularly low income students, and students of color. Using these tests as the sole determining factor for advancement and student assessment is not a reasonable method for improving schools. Parents have a right to protect their children from harm, and must have the right to opt out of SBAC.

Washington has historically been a nationwide leader in encouraging teachers to become National Board certified. Do you support continuing to pay bonuses to teachers who undergo the certification process?

Yes.

Are you cognizant of -- and how do you plan on addressing -- the inequitable incarceration of minorities?

The assurance of basic civil rights for all individuals is one of the primary reasons I became interested in politics and governance as a teenager in Moses Lake. As a person of color myself, I am not only cognizant of the inequitable incarceration of minorities, but I always continue to fight the inequities that people of color and disadvantaged people face on a daily basis.

Our State Legislature needs to invest in more programs for at-risk youth in all communities of color to help those young people obtain the education and services they need to prevent any possibility of harming their future.

What important state and local issues have you worked on (or taken an interest in) that you feel aren't getting enough attention from elected leaders and the media?

We all know that there are significant challenges which will need addressing in the areas of tax structure, housing and homelessness, education, health care in the era of Federal cuts, the environment and transportation, and I pledge to seek solid progressive solutions for these important issues, along with my Democratic Caucus colleagues, if selected.

But I will champion some issues which aren't as well-known, but I believe are an essential part of a healthy state government.

The first of which is the method by which we select our Presidential candidates. With my nearly 20 years of service on the WSDCC, 14 of those being on the state Executive Committee, I am uniquely qualified to pursue a permanent change from a caucus to a primary system to improve voter access to participation and ensure a primary result which reflects the will of our Democratic voters in this state. I have a track record of being able to negotiate respectfully with groups who are not our natural allies, and since the Republican Party will have to use the same system we do under state law, they will have to be part of the team that pursues this. I am ready to lead that team on our side.

Another issue near and dear to me is the repeal of I-200. Nearly 20 years ago, this, the first of the many destructive initiatives pushed by Tim Eyman, eliminated racial and gender-based affirmative action in the operation of public employment, public education, and public contracting. This eliminated a whole host of processes and protocols for ensuring a fair balance of people of color and women in university admissions, government hiring and promotion, and public education at all levels. In this area, I want to see a return to government used for good, for ensuring that one area of our society, at least, is a reflection of our entire community.

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

Signature

(insert scanned signature or sign electronically)

Date: June 7, 2017

Printed Name

Javier Valdez