

King County Democrats

2017 Candidate Questionnaire State Level – Legislature

Candidate Name	Nigel Herbig	
Position Sought	House of Representatives, 46th District, Position 2	
Home Legislative District	46	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes and yes.	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: n/a
	Website: www.nigel4the46th.com Email: [REDACTED] Twitter: [REDACTED] Facebook: www.facebook.com/nigel4the46th	
Campaign manager or point of contact	n/a	
Consultant(s)	n/a	

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.

University of Washington, B.A. - Political Science and Comparative Religion

Directly after graduation at UW, I was a member of SEIU while employed at UW.

I have worked in politics since Howard Dean's presidential campaign. Since then I have worked for environmental groups (WCV), labor groups (SEIU Washington State Council), worked on local and federal races. For the last five sessions I have worked for Rep. Jessyn Farrell, and have been a Kenmore City Councilmember since 2014.

I have been a PCO for in the 46th for two precincts (one in North Seattle, and now in Kenmore), and served on the 46th District Eboard from 2012-2016.

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?

Washington State Howard Dean campaign - 2003/04
SEIU Washington State Council - 2004
Washington State Democratic Party - Hand Recount Staff - 2004
Dwight Pelz for Seattle City Council - 2005
Washington Conservation Voters 2006/07
Volunteer - Dow Constantine for King County Council - 2009
Rep. Larsen's reelection campaign - 2010

Fundraiser for Farrell, Frame, Urquhart, and Pridemore campaigns - 2012
Legislative Assistant to Rep. Farrell - 2013-2017

While I support new, progressive revenue for the state, in my role as a legislative staffer, I have been barred from lobbying. In my role as a Kenmore City Councilmember, I have spoke in public meetings about the harm caused by the Eyman 1% property tax cap.

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

A devotion to public service has defined my career since I entered politics on the Howard Dean campaign in 2003. I've fought for workers rights, to protect our environment, and to improve the quality of life for people in Kenmore and throughout the 46th. Public service is a calling to me (I certainly are not in this line of work for the money or the power). Having worked in the Legislature for these past five sessions, I've worked on issues that affect our district, from saving the Haller Lake neighborhood from huge Sound Transit transmission towers (I worked, at Rep. Farrell's direction, to get them moved to I-5 right-of-way), to addressing the externalities of 520 construction/deconstruction. As a Kenmore City Councilmember I have helped make our government more transparent, built miles of new sidewalk and bike lanes, and helped pass our first bond measure (to fund even more sidewalks, and parks improvements). Government is a force for good. I have a passion for serving constituents. I want to continue this work as your next Representative.

I am a leader in the area of transportation - I want to get the state away from thinking about how to move cars, but instead to think about how to move people and goods. The state should be in the business of helping us fund needed mass transit improvements, especially when we know more roads won't help anyone move any faster in the 46th district and surrounding communities.

As a former Washington Conservation Voters organizer, our environment is incredibly important to me. I want to help environmental champions, like Reps. Fitzgibbon and Doglio, defend the growth management act, ensure that our toxic cleanup funds are properly funded, and price carbon (we must join the rest of the West Coast in this effort!).

I also want to tackle some equity/opportunity issues, like predatory payday lending, and how we treat and release prisoners. See my answer to the last question for more details on those ideas.

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

Jessyn Farrell, former State Representative (Democrat, 46th District)
King County Sheriff John Urquhart
State Senator Guy Palumbo (Democrat, 1st District)
State Representative Shelley Kloba (Democrat, 1st District)
State Representative Derek Stanford (Democrat, 1st District)
Kenmore Mayor David Baker
Kenmore City Councilmember Brent Smith
Kenmore City Councilmember Stacey Denuski
Lake Forest Park Mayor Jeff Johnson
Lake Forest Park Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford
Lake Forest Park Councilmember Semra Riddle
Lake Forest Park Councilmember Mark Phillips
Shoreline City Councilmember Keith Scully

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?

I've called, emailed, and visited almost every PCO in the past week. I also hosted well-attended coffee meetings over the weekend. With such a quick campaign, I have focused on talking with PCOs one-on-one, and have not sought any earned media.

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?

No and no.

Please answer the following questions.

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

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

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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)?	X		
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	X		
3	Do you support the voter-approved minimum wage increase (I-1433)?	X		
4	Do you support the Reproductive Health Act?	X		
5	Do you support amending Washington's Constitution to require a two-thirds vote to raise revenue, as demanded by Tim Eyman?		X	
6	Did you support adoption of a Sound Transit 3 regional transportation package?	X		On the Kenmore City Council, I led the effort which resulted in Kenmore being the first city to pass a resolution in support of the ST3 package. I also sat on a steering committee for the campaign, and volunteered directly on the campaign.
7	Do you support legislation to fix Washington's broken "three strikes" law?	X		We must make our justice system more focused on rehabilitation and less on punishment. Lost freedom is punishment enough.

8	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		X	
9	Do you support making two years of community college or technical school tuition-free?	X		
10	Do you support requiring tax exemptions to be listed as expenditures in the state budget?	X		Every dollar we spend is up for discussion and negotiation when we write the budget, except those dollars that we give away as exemptions. They should be held to the same scrutiny as any other expenditure.
11	Do you support the privatization of our public worker's compensation system, which protects employees who are injured on the job?		X	
12	Do you support requiring paid vacation and sick + safe leave for Washington's workers?	X		
13	Do you support repeal of Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax collections?	X		As a local elected, I have seen first hand how I-747 has tied the hands of local government, and limited their ability to serve their constituents.
14	Do you support Washington adopting a truly nonpartisan, citizen-run redistricting process that would result in more competitive districts?	X		
15	Do you support Washington State prepaying postage on all ballots?	X		Postage=Poll Tax
16	Do you support automatic voter registration?	X		
17	Do you support the death penalty?		X	It's a barbaric practice, which fails to deter crime, and too often results in the state murdering an innocent person.
18	Do you support barring employers from asking criminal history questions in job applications?	X		
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"?	X		
20	Do you support Healthcare for All-Washington (HB 1026 and SB 5701)?	X		

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 agree with all of the planks.

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.

I have skin in this game - my daughter is a 4th grader in the Northshore Public Schools. I am the product of Seattle Public Schools. I believe that our public school system is a central part of the foundation of our society, and is integral to our success as a state - economically and culturally. Our legal and moral obligation to comply with McCleary is clear.

At an absolute minimum, we must fund 2009's HB 2261. I would also like to fund I-1351 (the class size reduction initiative), and use the Capital Budget to fund the \$2 billion in new classroom construction to enable the smaller class sizes.

We must fund McCleary in a progressive manner - our revenue system is already broken, and we cannot let it get worse in order to fund our schools. We also cannot fund our McCleary obligations by reducing spending on our social safety net programs, housing, higher education, early learning, etc. We must also fight off any cynical attempts by Republicans to use this as an opportunity to implement further "accountability measures". The McCleary case isn't about state oversight of our schools, but rather proper and ample state funding of our local school districts.

I am supportive of the capital gains tax proposed by House Democrats, and am disappointed that the Governor took it off the table. I believe, however, that we may have an opportunity to raise \$500m/year by passing a tax on carbon, and I would advocate for that. The proposal by House Democrats to tier the Real Estate Excise Tax is also appealing, and is an important piece of the funding puzzle. Our school districts, teachers, and students, deserve ample, predictable, and steady revenues from the state so every kid gets access to a quality education.

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?

We must join California, Oregon, and British Columbia, and price carbon. We should also fund programs to incentivize the use of home solar, protect net metering, take a look at electrifying our rail system (both freight and passenger), build on the gains mandated by I-937, and promote alternative fuel vehicles.

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?

It's time to convene a new version of the Gates Commission, and ask ourselves how we would build a revenue system if we were starting from scratch. Our current system is embarrassingly regressive - we are funding an ineffective tax break for Boeing on the backs of the poorest among us.

I support a graduated, progressive income tax, and using those revenues to help fund our schools and buy down the state's portion of the sales and property tax. I am also in favor of moving to a corporate income tax (based on net profits), rather than our current B&O (based on net revenues). Such a move would make our corporate taxes more fair, and remove the necessity of many of our current tax loopholes.

I also believe that there is a possibility of using a carbon tax to help pay for a portion (~\$500m/year) of our McCleary obligations.

Yes, I support sunseting all tax exemptions and subjecting them to close scrutiny when they come up for renewal.

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. Public funds should only be spent on truly public schools. Charter schools are not generally overseen by local school boards, and are thus not responsible to local taxpayers and voters.

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?

I would need to learn more, but at first blush, these all seem like necessary hires.

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

Yes.

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?

Absolutely. Teachers that put in the effort to become board certified deserve to have that recognized in their compensation.

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

Yes. This is a very important issue that must be addressed.

The War on Drugs has been an abject failure. We've incarcerated addicts instead of dealing with addiction as the public health issue, and we've seen how this has affected minority populations disproportionately. Many kids, especially in the African American community, have been raised without a father because of how we have unfairly targeted our drug enforcement and sentencing. As a first step we should immediately free anyone still in prison for simple marijuana possession.


Part of this should be addressed by mandating regular racial bias training by police officers, prosecutors, and judges. They must be forced to confront and recognize any unconscious bias they harbor as they decide to whom arrest, prosecute, and sentence.

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?

I would like to start a wider discussion on access to traditional banking services for the poor. Currently many folks, who don't have the capacity to keep a minimum balance, aren't able to access banking services, and are instead forced to use predatory check cashing and payday loan services. This situation makes being poor an expensive proposition. No one should have to give up a percentage of their paycheck to access their earnings. I'd like to work with Statewide Poverty Action and Washington Community Action Network, and other stakeholders, to find a way to open up community banks or credit unions to everyone. A public bank is another option that should be kept on the table.

I would also like us to take a hard look at how we treat inmates while incarcerated, and during reentry into society. We lock people up for years, isolate them from society and family, then let them out without proper supports, hinder their ability to find a job or a place to live, take away their ability to participate in democracy (vote), and then wonder why recidivism is so high. We are setting people up for failure. We must give them the tools they need to be contributing members of society after leaving prison, and focus on rehabilitation, not punishment. We should take a look at making parole available, and ensure that as newly freed prisoners reenter society, they have proper reentry supports, and the opportunity to succeed. I would work with the Black Prisoners Caucus, among other stakeholders, on this issue in my first session.

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

Signature		Date: 6/7/2017
Printed Name	Nigel Herbig	