

King County Democrats

2015 Candidate Questionnaire

State Level

Candidate Name	Sarah M. Reyneveld	
Position Sought	Appointment to the Washington State House of Representatives	
Home Legislative District	36 th Legislative District	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes	
Campaign Name		
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NW, Seattle WA 98117	Phone: [REDACTED] Fax: N/A
	Website: N/A Email: [REDACTED] Twitter: N/A Facebook: [REDACTED]	
Campaign manager or point of contact		
Consultant(s)		

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 have spent 10 years in public service as a state employee advocating on behalf of the people of Washington state. For the past three years I have worked as an attorney and litigator on hundreds of hearings and court cases involving workers that have been injured on the job and the victims of wage and hour theft. Prior to becoming an attorney I served five legislative sessions in Olympia in the executive and legislative branches, and as a lobbyist on behalf of 12,000 graduate and professional students. I worked as a Research Assistant in the Office of Governor Gregoire and as a Legislative Assistant in the Washington State Senate. I am particularly proud of my service as a Legislative Assistant to health care champion and State Senator Thibaudeau (D-43rd) in 2005 when she was a prime sponsor of the historic mental health parity legislation, which ended insurance discrimination against the mentally ill. As a registered lobbyist for 12,000 graduate and professional students for two legislative sessions I successfully lobbied the Legislature and secured funding in the budget for affordable childcare for student-parents and increased access to mental health counselors.

I have been involved in Democratic politics, served on numerous campaigns, and been a community activist for the environment and education in Seattle for over 10 years. In addition to being the Political Director of the 36th District Democrats, I currently serve on the statewide Endorsement Advisory Committee of the Washington Conservation Voters (WCV); the Board of Schools First, the campaign organization that works to help pass Seattle School levies; and am a co-founder and board member of Graduate Washington, an organizing committed to electing higher education champions. As a Board Member of the Association of

Washington Assistant Attorneys General (AAGs), I advocated for legislation in the 2015 Legislative Session that would allow AAGs to collectively bargain and organize as a bargaining unit to obtain fair wages.

I graduated *cum laude* with high honors in Government from Smith College in Massachusetts. I am also a graduate of the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance where I earned a certificate in Environmental Management, and the University of Washington School of Law where I served as a student co-founder and articles editor of the Washington Journal of Environmental Law and Policy. I worked my way through graduate school and law school as the elected President and Vice President of the graduate and professionals student government that included over 12,000 students. A proud Husky, I received a stipend and tuition waiver to attend graduate and law school, and was a member of UAW Local 4121. For a complete history see my resume attached.

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What offices have you previously sought election or appointment to? What campaigns have you worked on?

I became involved in Washington state politics when I returned to Seattle after graduating from college in 2003. That year I worked as a campaign manager for a Seattle School Board race, and then as Deputy Finance Director and post-election field organizer for Governor Gregoire's historic 2004 campaign. Also in 2004, I served on the Executive Board of the 36th District Democrats and participated in the Institute for a Democratic Future (IDF) as a fellow. In 2007, 2009, and 2010, I was elected to represent 12,000 graduate and professional students at the University of Washington as the President and Vice President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS). As Vice President and lobbyist for GPSS, I successfully advocated before the Legislature for affordable and accessible child-care for student-parents, increased access to mental health counselors, and predictable graduate and professional student tuition.

I was elected and have served as the Political Director of the 36th District Democrats since 2011 and have been active on numerous local and statewide campaigns. As Political Director, I was responsible for helping to coordinate the District's get-out-the vote efforts in 2012 when the District was recognized as having the highest Democratic turnout for President Obama and helped elect Governor Inslee. In 2012, I was elected from the 7th Congressional District as a delegate for President Obama and had the privilege of attending the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

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

I am seeking the appointment because I believe we need energy, vision, and new perspective in the Legislature. The Washington State Legislature has too few young women with families and no Democratic women legislators under the age of forty. As a working mom, I experience many of the challenges working families and individuals face each day. We are blessed in the 36th District to live in a community with an abundance of natural resources, a working waterfront, vibrant new industry and an educated and diverse population. However, our state's broken and regressive revenue system means that we too often fall short of providing a quality basic education to all our children, ensuring access to social services to the most vulnerable, and addressing social and economic inequities in our back yard. I would like to work with you to tackle these challenges in Olympia. If appointed, I promise to work tirelessly to advance the progressive priorities we share, including investing in quality early learning, K-12 and higher education, protecting the environment, expanding public transportation and affordable housing, and ensuring economic justice for Washington workers. I am running to address the following priorities:

- Reforming Washington’s regressive tax system by enacting fair, equitable and sustainable revenue measures;
- Protecting our environment against climate change and building a clean energy economy by creating a market-based system to limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases;
- Fully funding basic education in compliance with the *McCleary* decision and ending the unconstitutional reliance on local property-tax levies to fund education costs;
- Ensuring quality early-learning programs so that every child can start kindergarten ready to learn;
- Expanding multi-modal transportation options, including bus and rapid transit, bridge maintenance, pedestrian, biking, and safe routes to school, and affordable housing options;
- Leveling the playing field and ensuring economic justice for Washington workers by passing legislation to increase the minimum wage, wage equity, enact paid family, vacation and sick leave, and end wage theft;
- Restoring cuts to the social safety net to fund children’s services, economic services, and services for the developmentally disabled;
- Improving access to quality essential health care services such as mental health services and safe and legal reproductive health care;
- Creating opportunities for success for Washington’s youth by enacting legislation to end the opportunity/achievement gap, and the school-to-prison pipeline, and creating greater access to higher education including community, technical colleges, and four-year institutions, for all.

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

King County Councilmember and PCO Larry Phillips. For this appointment I am spending most of my time talking to the Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs). I am also reaching out to Washington State Legislators, Seattle City Council members, and community leaders.

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

Currently I am seeking an appointed position, not an elected position. I have been speaking, corresponding, and meeting with Precinct Committee Officers (PCO), community activists, thought leaders, and elected officials to seek their support.

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.

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 any 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 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, see response		<i>Citizens United</i> is one of the most politically motivated and damaging decisions to our democracy that the five conservative Supreme Court justices have ever made. We must reverse this terrible decision.
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	YES		
3	Do you support increasing the state minimum wage to \$12/hr or higher?	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	Do you support the lawsuit filed by teachers & parents to overturn I-1240 (charter schools)?	YES, see response		I do not support charter schools, but I am not familiar enough with the case law on the common schools provision of Article IX of the Washington State Constitution to conclude whether the initiative is unconstitutional. My favorite law profession and respected constitutional scholar, Hugh Spitzer, has argued that 1240 will not pass constitutional muster and I usually agree with his legal analysis.
7	Do you support authorizing new revenue for Sound Transit so it can bring a Sound Transit 3 proposal before Puget Sound voters?	YES		
8	Do you support legislation to fix Washington's broken "three strikes" law?	YES, see response		Research by Columbia Legal Services shows that the application of the three strikes law is discriminatory and has a disproportionate impact on Washington's communities of color. This law should be overturned.

9	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		NO	
10	Do you support Governor Jay Inslee's proposal to levy a capital gains tax?	YES		
11	Do you support requiring tax exemptions to be listed as expenditures in the state budget, and sunseting existing tax exemptions that are not benefiting the public interest?	YES		
12	Do you oppose the privatization of workers' compensation?	YES, see response		I practice workers' compensation litigation. I do not support further expansion of structured settlements. I believe the State-run workers' compensation system works and should not be privatized.
13	Do you support requiring paid vacation and sick + safe leave for Washington's workers?	YES		I also support requiring paid parental leave for Washington's workers.
14	Do you support Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax increases to 1% per year, regardless of population growth, inflation, and need?		NO	
15	Once elected, will you work to get diverse candidates elected to office?	YES		
16	Do you support women's right to reproductive freedom?	YES		

Part III – Free Response Questions

Please review the 2014 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 read the platform and do not disagree with any of the planks.

As an elected leader, what will you do to promote increased awareness of the climate crisis, and what public policy would you endorse to reduce emissions and penalize producers of pollutants? Do you support Governor Inslee's Pollution Accountability Act, which would impose a cap and trade system?

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. I am supportive of any market-based program that is fair and equitable, holds polluters accountable for effectively limiting carbon pollution, and lessens the effects of climate change in the fastest and most efficient manner possible. In the legislature I would make combating and mitigating the impacts and increasing awareness of climate change a top priority.

As an environmental activist and attorney I have advocated for Washington state to adopt a market-based regulatory approach to limiting carbon pollution in the absence of federal regulation. As a member of the

Washington Conservation Voters (WCV) statewide Endorsement Advisory Committee, I help promote awareness and educate and recommend candidates that are supportive of legislative efforts to reduce carbon, including Governor Inslee's Pollution Accountability Act in the 2015 Legislative session.

I supported Governor Inslee's Pollution Accountability Act during the 2015 Legislative session. This "cap and trade" program would set an annual limit on the total amount of carbon big emitters could produce and reinvest pollution-based revenue to support education, expand transit options, and further reduce emissions. I support enacting a market-based plan that would hold polluters accountable for effectively limiting carbon pollution and raise needed revenue to fund basic priorities.

Describe your vision for tax reform and tax fairness. What changes to the state's tax system would you ask the Legislature to make? If you were in charge of putting together a budget proposal for your city or district, what would it look like? Would you be willing to raise revenue to avoid harmful cuts to public services?

Washington state's antiquated tax system is considered to be the most regressive and unfair taxation system in the nation. Our State's overreliance on sales tax means that our taxation system is not only regressive, but it is also volatile and inadequate.

My vision for tax reform in Washington state would be to create a fair, equitable, and sustainable revenue system. To achieve this, Washington state's tax regime must act like the "three legged stool" of an equitable blend of sales, property, and income taxes. An equitable and sustainable tax regime will more effectively generate the necessary revenue to support our State's constitutionally mandated obligations such as amply funding basic education, as well as critical government services such as higher education, early learning, our social safety net, and growing infrastructure and public transportation needs. I support systematic structural tax reform, including, but not limited to:

- Enacting a progressive personal income tax and reducing sales tax and property taxes
- Enacting a capital gains tax
- Eliminating the B & O tax and replacing it with a corporate income tax
- Closing tax loopholes

During the 2015 Legislative Session, I supported Governor Inslee's proposal to levy a capital gains tax and was disappointed that the final 2015-2017 Biennial budget did not include this new revenue measure. I am in favor of closing tax loopholes and would support a special session to pass the capital gains tax to fund class size reduction goals and teacher salary increases in accordance with the *McCleary* mandate.

If appointed, I will work tirelessly to build coalitions in the community and the State Legislature to advance fair, equitable, and sustainable revenue solutions.

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?

Examples of such state issues are as follows:

Environment and transportation:

- Climate change and environmental justice;
- Food safety, security and GMO use/labeling;
- Investment in multi-modal transportation options including, but not limited to rapid transit, and buses, and bridge replacement/maintenance.

Progressive Taxation:

- Enacting a progressive personal income tax and reducing sales tax and property tax

Social Justice, human services, and housing:

- School-to-prison pipeline and youth incarceration for noncriminal offenses;
- Racial disparity in incarceration, sentencing reform, and inmate education;
- Funding for mental health services, alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs, affordable housing, and transitional housing programs.

K-12:

- Full state funding of basic, gifted and highly capable programs, special education, and English Language Learners (ELL);
- Recruiting and retaining quality teachers and staff, and providing professional development opportunities;
- Capital funding to reduce overcrowding in Seattle Public Schools.

Higher Education:

- Full funding of the state need grant and the College Bound Scholarship;
- State disinvestment in public higher education.

Campaign Finance Reform

- Increasing transparency and funding limits of campaign contributions

Voting Rights

- Passage of the Voting Rights Act and automatic voter registration

Do you support legislation/policies that will address the disproportionate application of school discipline on at-risk students? If so, how will you show your active support?

I strongly support legislation and policies that would reform school discipline practices and address the disproportionate application of discipline on low-income students, students of color, and special education students. To this end it is important that the use of discipline in our schools be transparent, minimize student time out of the classroom, and provide learning opportunities for students, including culturally competent/responsive behavior interventions. In 2013, I supported ESSB 5946, which ended indefinite suspensions and limited expulsions and suspensions to one year in length, required the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to make discipline data public, and created a Statewide Taskforce to help increase data collection and develop definitions of causes of student disciplinary actions. If appointed, I would work with coalitions such as the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, Equity in Education Coalition, and education advocacy groups, and school districts to develop legislation to implement the recommendations of the Statewide Taskforce, including, but not limited to: 1) requiring staff professional development training on the Restorative Justice model which focuses on mediation and relationship building, rather than punishment, 2) providing alternative programs for in-school suspension, and/or 3) requiring that suspended and expelled students receive equitable access to behavioral interventions and/or counseling and mental health services by trained and culturally competent/responsive staff. I see the disproportionate application of school discipline as one of the causes of the "school-to-prison" pipeline and, if appointed, would work actively with key constituency groups to address this issue by implementing strategies such as those outlined above.

What would you do to address social justice issues?

I would work to address the following social justice issues:

- Income inequality, pay inequities and wage theft through legislation to support an increase in the minimum wage, wage equity, paid family, vacation, and sick leave;
- Inequities in access to housing and health care, through support of legislation, including, but not limited to the Housing and Essential Needs Program, Housing Trust Fund and Fair Tenant Screening Act;
- Environmental and food justice, through legislation to support Puget Sound restoration and water quality improvements, transparency around the use of pesticides and pesticide drift, and transparency around food safety and labeling;
- Access to community-based mental health services and treatment facilities through advocacy for increased state support;
- Racial disparity in the criminal justice system, incarceration rates, and sentencing reform, including, but not limited to rehabilitating youthful offenders and expansion of King County's innovative, and nationally recognized, LEAD program for diverting non-violent drug offenders from jail to treatment;
- Opportunity/achievement gap through legislation to address systematic funding inequities, increase mentorship and culturally competent instruction in the classroom, and reform school discipline;
- Fair and transparent trade agreements that protect the interest of our communities, workers, and the environment through advocacy efforts.

Do you believe that transportation funding bills should require funding for accessible sidewalks, safe intersections, and public transportation accommodations for the disabled?

Yes, absolutely. If appointed I would advocate to ensure that transportation funding bills require funding for accessible pedestrian walkways and accessible sidewalks, bike paths, safe intersections, and public transportation accommodations for the disabled, youth, and the elderly. I also support greater investment in public transportation options such as buses and rapid transit.

What will you do to protect and expand voting rights for all eligible citizens?

I believe in protecting and expanding voting rights that make it possible for all eligible citizens to participate in our democracy. To this end, I support the Washington Voting Rights Act to level the playing field and provide equal opportunity to communities with significant minority populations.

Washington State should enact legislation similar to that which Oregon recently enacted that automatically registers eligible voters and sends them mail-in ballots. Voting is a basic fundamental right that should not require an action to "opt-in" to exercise that right.

Short of legislation mirroring Oregon's new law, I will support legislation to increase and expand voting rights including:

- Election day voter registration;
- Allowing voter pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds at the time they obtain their drivers license.

I also support legislation to permit physically disabled persons to use a signature stamp for completing voting registration and ballot forms. Finally, I've been supportive of ballot drop off locations at college and university campuses to expand voting access among eligible students.

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

Sarah Reyneveld (signed electronically)

Printed Name

Sarah Merkel Reyneveld

Date: 8/13/15

Supplemental Question to the King County Democrats Questionnaire

#	Question	Yes	No	Qualify your response
17	Do you pledge to respect the democratic will of the Elected and Appointed PCOs and support their first choice for the appointment to the King County Council and not lobby, nor encourage others to lobby, the Council to support anyone but the Elected and Appointed PCOs' first choice?			<p>In appointing a legislator to a vacant seat, the Washington State Constitution sets up a two-tiered process in which the King County Council is responsible for appointing a candidate among three selected by the PCOs. As the Political Director of the 36th District Democrats and the Elected PCO of 2147, I have the utmost respect for the PCO process of selecting three candidates. If selected by the PCOs, I expect my name to be submitted for consideration by the Council in accordance with this two-tier appointment process. If my name is submitted, and council members, without my urging, show active interest in me as an appointee, then I will speak to my attributes as a qualified candidate. As a lifelong Democrat, I believe this position is in keeping with the spirit of our democratic process under our State Constitution, which PCOs and the people of the 36th District can expect me to uphold if given the honor to serve.</p>

Sarah Merkel Reyneveld

Seattle WA 98117

EDUCATION

University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington

Juris Doctor, June 2011

- Associate Editor-in-Chief for Articles, Washington Journal of Environmental Law and Policy
- Elected President and Vice President of Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) (2009-2011), full scholarship

University of Washington, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, Seattle, Washington

Masters of Public Administration and Environmental Management (EM) Certificate, August 2008

- Member, *Pi Alpha Alpha*, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administrators
- Elected Vice President of GPSS (2007-2008), full scholarship

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Arts, 2003, Government.

- Graduated *Cum Laude*
- Awarded High Honors in the Government Department for senior thesis.

Oxford University, England

Visiting Student at Wadham College, 2001. Studied Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE)

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCES

Office of the Washington State Attorney General, Labor and Industries Division, Seattle, Washington

Assistant Attorney General, May 2012-present

- Successfully litigated a high volume caseload of complex workers' compensation and Wage Payment Act (WPA) cases. Represented the Department of Labor and Industries in full evidentiary hearings before the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals. Litigated and settled fast-paced workers' compensation disputes with multiple parties and medical and forensic expert witnesses.
- Represented the Department of Labor and Industries in workers' compensation jury and bench trials before King County Superior Court and the Court of Appeals.
- Advised the Office of Medical Director on workers' compensation litigation and the Employment Standard/Prevailing Wage programs on issues relating to prevailing wage on public works.

Office of the Washington State Attorney General, Torts Division, Olympia, Washington

Law Clerk (Rule 9), June 2010-August 2010

- Conducted legal research and prepared a variety of pre-trial motions. Drafted motions in limine, trial briefs, jury instructions, and participated in witness preparation for trial.
- Researched and wrote a summary judgment motion that resulted in the defendant filing a stipulated order dismissing claims against the state with prejudice.
- Researched and prepared a mediation memo and assisted in representing the Torts Division in mediation.

Office of the Washington State Attorney General, Ecology Division, Olympia, Washington

Legal Extern, June 2009-September 2009

- Conducted legal research, analysis and writing for client advice memos focused on water resources, hazardous waste management and spill prevention, air quality and shorelines.
- Worked with attorneys in the division to provide statutory, legal and case analysis for the Department of Ecology.

Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C.

Graduate Student Analyst, May 2008–August 2008

- Researched and analyzed funding mechanisms for Natural Resources and Environment team-project on clean water trust fund.
- Prepared audit documentation and led interviews with federal, state, and industry officials.
- Worked with Office of General Counsel on analysis of state taxation mechanisms.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

President, Vice President, Policy Analyst, December 2006- June 2011

- Represented 12,000 UW graduate and professional students to the Washington State Legislature, University of Washington Board of Regents, Washington State Legislature, Congress, and UW President, Provost and Administration.
- Conducted policy research, drafted administrative policy statements, legislation, legislative agenda, and lobbied for increased quality and access to graduate and professional education, affordable and accessible child-care for student-parents, and increased access to mental health counselors
- Served as an ex-officio member of the University of Washington Board of Regents, and as a member of the University of Washington Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

Earth Economics, Tacoma, Washington

Graduate Research Intern, June 2007– September 2007

- Provided research, analysis and writing support for comprehensive Puget Sound valuation study to quantify the economic value of the goods and services provided by the ecosystems of the Puget Sound Basin.
- Conducted comprehensive literature review of economic valuation studies for Puget Sound valuation study in conjunction with a graduate student from the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont.

Executive Policy office of Governor Gregoire, Olympia, Washington

Research Assistant, December 2005—December 2006

- Analyzed and researched education policy issues, prepared memoranda and reports, and presented findings to the Washington Learns' committees.
- Analyzed quantitative and qualitative research and summarized findings in memorandum and reports to the Governor, Committee Members and Governor's Executive Policy Advisors.
- Co-authored Reference of Six States: K-12 Funding formulas in Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Oregon and presented findings to the K-12 Advisory Committee to fulfill legislative mandate of ESSB 5441.

Office of State Senator Pat Thibaudeau, Olympia and Seattle

Legislative Assistant, December 2004—December 2005

Session Legislative Aide, January 2004—March 2004

- Tracked the progression of legislation and followed-up on committee hearings and secured member's testimony. Researched issues, policies and laws on a variety of subjects on behalf of the member.
- Reviewed and/or drafted articles, notes and press releases.
- Solved constituent casework and acted as a liaison to state agencies on behalf of constituents in the 43rd District.

Publications and Research

- *Stranger Than Fiction: An "Inside" Look at Environmental Liability and Defense Strategy in the Deepwater Horizon Aftermath*. December 2011. Washington Journal of Environmental Law & Policy. William Rodgers, Jason DeRosa and Sarah Reyneveld.
- *Washington Learns: World-Class, Learner Focused, Seamless Education*. November 2006. Office of the Governor. Research Assistant.

- *Reference of Six States: K-12 Funding formulas in Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Oregon.* August 2006. Joint Project of Washington Learns, the Office of Financial Management, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Research Team: Melissa Beard, Heather Moss, Isabel Munoz-Colon and Sarah Reyneveld.

Current Activities

- Washington Conservation Voters (WCV), Statewide Endorsement Advisory Committee, 2015-present
 - Schools First, Board Member, 2015-present
 - Graduate Washington PAC, Board Member, 2012-present
 - Association of Washington State Assistant Attorneys General, 2013-present
 - 36th District Democrats, Political Director, 2011-present
 - 36th Legislative District Precinct Committee Officer, 2011-present
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