

KCDCC Questionnaire - EXCEPTIONS

1. ROSENCRANTZ: I agree with the core values as expressed in the introduction to the Platform. I do not agree with some of its details.
CREIGHTON: I differ with the King County Democrats Platform on the following issues: While I wholeheartedly support freedom of religion and separation of church and state as enshrined by our founding fathers in the US Constitution, I also support the placing of religious symbols reflective of the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded in public spaces during the Christmas season. While I support a progressive tax system that does not unduly burden low income families, I do not support an income tax or any other change to our state tax system that would discourage businesses from locating and creating jobs in our region, or talented people from moving to our state. I also do not support a state level estate tax that is not deductible from federal estate tax obligations, as I believe that it drives away people with the means and talent to foster economic activity that benefits everyone in our region, and in the end decreases the total amount of revenue that the state would otherwise receive through its tax system. I support the "No Child Left Behind" Act and the retention of state-wide student assessment exams that can measure how well our education system is serving the needs of our children and equipping them with the skills necessary for them to succeed in life. Our state cannot succeed without ensuring a skilled, competitive workforce. I support publicly funded charter schools and voucher programs, and examining other innovative ways to equip our children with the skills necessary to compete and succeed in modern society. I support the United States government pursuing policies that guard against multi-lateral institutions from infringing on our national sovereignty when the policies promoted by those institutions do not serve US national interests. I do not support adding to the federal bureaucracy by creating a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence – I believe that we currently have an extremely capable Secretary of State who can promote those values within her agency. While I support a comprehensive national health care policy that promotes universal coverage, I believe that each individual citizen should have a choice in their health plan and health provider. I do not support government interference in the faith-based policies of religious institutions. I believe that, under our federal system, whether a particular state implements right to work laws should be decided by the citizens of that state. I support maintaining the status quo in the State of Washington. I don't support a blanket policy prohibiting the privatization of prisons and jails. I believe that each locality needs to decide what is best in view of its particular circumstance, and that there are many rehabilitative-oriented services associated with our correctional system that are more efficiently provided by private operators. I do, however, support mandatory standards for private operators.
4. ROSENCRANTZ: Questions 4&5. President Obama recently said, "So let's work together to reduce the number of women seeking abortions by reducing unintended pregnancies, and making adoption more available, and providing care and support for women who do carry their child to term. let's honor the conscience of those who disagree with abortion, and draft a sensible conscience clause, and make sure that all of our health care policies are grounded in clear ethics and sound science, as well as respect for the equality of women." "when we do it that - when we open our hearts and our minds to those who may not think like we do or believe what we do - that's when we discover at least the possibility of common ground." I agree with President Obama.
5. ROSENCRANTZ: In order to better serve underserved children, I would support a focused charter school program. Such programs have brought benefit in several urban school districts after initial mixed results. In Los Angeles, for instance, charter school programs with union teachers have brought impressive turnarounds to several long-standing problem schools.
PLANT: I support families having a choice of where to send their children... but I don't think the funding for school vouchers or charter schools should reduce or interfere with public school funding.
MCGINN: I am open to looking at publicly regulated charter schools in Seattle as a way to generate new ideas and better educational results.
OBRIEN: I do not support school vouchers but I am open to the idea of charter- I believe there is a way to approach the concept that is good for all, but many charter school designs are problematic.
DONALDSON: As an African American who has worked extensively with youth and families, I have seen what happens to promising kids who are stuck in poorly performing schools. We have a "Great Divide", where the North-End schools are overenrolled and performing well, while South-End schools, particularly in SE Seattle, are under-enrolled and performing in the 20-30th percentile. Parents have wanted to send their kids to better performing schools, but the District cannot meet their requests. Some of these parents reach out to private schools, and if they can afford them. But most of the parents can't afford those private schools, and their kids do not get the same quality education as others in public school. We must recognize that "charter schools" has become a negative code word that is not necessarily fair. Alternative public schools are virtual charter schools, with public funding. Most alternative schools perform well. Unfortunately, alternative schools suffered greatly in recent cutbacks. We need to do two things: make a voucher option available, on a limited and test basis, for students. But more importantly, we need a mayor who will step in, as a leader and a partner, with our independently elected school board, our Superintendent, the business and corporate community, our non-profit community, and our philanthropists to make our public schools highly performing works of civic pride, a temple to our commitment to public education. As a graduate of public schools, I bring a special passion to this issue, and I will make education a major component of remaking Seattle into the city it is meant to be.
MILLER: If we fund our public schools at the same levels as private schools & continue to see a performance deficit, then and only then would I entertain a *discussion* on school vouchers or charter schools.
12. VEKICH: *In eight years in office and eight Legislative campaigns, I had two late filing fines.
NICKLES: \$30 fine for reporting a commissioned poll 3 days late. \$30 fine for reporting expense late. In 2005, the SEEC rules that the printing and distributing of a "Mayor's accomplishments piece" as in violation of Seattle's ethics and elections code. The campaign paid the City of Seattle \$2205 for reimbursement of printing and postage expense of the piece. There was no fine.
LICATA: I self reported to the PCD that I had asked citizens who had contacted my office concerning pedestrian issues that they should contact their legislators to support legislation to allow local governments the option of installing speed cameras. I received a \$50 fine.
ISRAEL: In January, my campaign sent out the first email blast to friends and supporters. The email was sent from a home computer, but mistakenly included the governmental email addresses of a number of County employees. As a candidate for City Council, I have an obligation and a commitment to uphold the highest of ethical standards. It was an error that I regret and on which will not happen again.
BLOCK: I was fined \$100 for a reporting error during the 2003 council campaign.
14. CREIGHTON: Not answered.
GINSBURG: I was a founding member of the Seattle Green Party in the 1990's, but am not currently a member of any other party.
WALKER: I was formerly a member of the Libertarian Party, but it turned out I'm too independent-minded for them, and they're too dogmatic. I allowed my membership to lapse several years ago and I am no longer involved in party activities.
15. CREIGHTON: In the current election cycle, I have contributed to Reagan Dunn.
WALKER: I endorsed Fred Jarrett while he was Republican. He has since switched to the Democratic party, and I have endorsed him in his race for county executive. I also support Sam Reed, a Republican.
BAGSHAW: No, I am not a member of any other party nor have I ever been. I am a proud and active Democrat since 1968. I have always supported the Presidential and Gubernatorial Democratic Party candidates since moving to Seattle in 1978. On three occasions I have supported lawyers running as Republicans with whom I have a professional relationship and know them to be advocates for justice and civil rights. I was Chief of the Civil Division of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office under Norm Maleng, a well-known, moderate Republican. As did Ron Sims and many other Democrats, I supported Norm. Like Jenny Durkin and other good Democrats, I supported Norm's successor Dan Satterberg, a good friend with whom I worked closely for nearly two decades. I also supported Rob McKenna for Attorney General. Rob was my client when he was on the King County Council and he and I have worked closely together to stop elder abuse, a very personal cause to me. I was primary caretaker for my father the last years of his life, and advocate incessantly for good senior care and programs. Rob asked me to co-chair his transition team after his first A.G. election, knowing I am a Democrat, to help unite his new office. We succeeded and the feedback from the lawyers working in his office is excellent. While I do not agree with Rob on some policy issues, I know him to be an excellent attorney and a fine manager who has focused his efforts on justice and fairness issues to consumers and our most vulnerable populations.
ROSENCRANTZ: I supported and gave money to Norm Maleng.
16. CREIGHTON: I hold a nonpartisan office, but believe that my values and governing record as a port commissioner align with the Democratic Party.
WALKER: Like most voters in Washington state, I am fiercely independent.