

King County Democrats

2017 Candidate Questionnaire County Level

Candidate Name	John Urquhart	
Position Sought	King County Sheriff	
Home Legislative District	41 st LD	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	The Office of Sheriff is non-partisan, but my personal values align very closely with the Democratic Party.	
Campaign Name	John Urquhart for King County Sheriff	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing Address: PO Box 9100 Seattle, WA 98109	Phone: 206.618.5504 Fax:
	Website: www.johnforsheriff.com Email: John@johnforsheriff.com Twitter: @ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/johnforsheriff/	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Juliana da Cruz	
Consultant(s)	Argo Strategies	

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 was honored to be elected in November of 2012 as your King County Sheriff.

I have served the citizens of Washington State as a police officer for over 40 years, the last 28 as a full-time member of the King County Sheriff's Office. My career has included stints as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Master Police Officer, Sergeant, and a street level vice/narcotics detective. I have investigated everything from property crimes to homicides.

I grew up in North Seattle and attended Ingraham High School and then the University of Washington. I graduated from the School of Business with a Bachelor's Degree, I began my next endeavor and started a Bellevue-based wholesaler of electrical construction material. I grew this very successful business to four locations and about 60-70 employees before selling the company.

I became a full-time police officer in 1988 when I was hired by the King County Sheriff's Office (then the King County Police). Eventually I became the public information officer, working for both Dave Reichert and Sue Rahr. I had a reputation, not only with the press but also with the community, for being honest, straight-forward, and transparent as I provided both information on the good and the bad. A Seattle Times article in September of 2011 described me as "...blunt speaking...known for his honesty and ruthless wit...who sees the media as an integral part of the democratic process".

I "retired" in early 2012 to pursue other interests, before ultimately deciding to run for Sheriff a few months later.

After my election as Sheriff, I delivered on my promises from the campaign. The Sheriff's Office is a beacon for accountability in policing. My deputies respect the public, and collaborate together for solutions. We have reconstituted the Domestic Violence Unit for the first time since 2010. I have managed to under-spend my budget every year. Solved cases are have risen since I've been Sheriff. The precinct in Maple Valley was re-opened under my watch, providing access to citizens, both when they want to report a crime or talk to a deputy, but as a community hub as well. The public has never had more trust and confidence in the Sheriff's Office as they do today.

Towards that end, I overhauled the internal investigations unit. I reformed our officer-involved shooting reviews, and I implemented an Administrative Review Team that ensures the leadership in the Sheriff's Office uses introspection to learn from its events so that mistakes are not repeated.

I plan to continue this great work for four more years.

I live on the Eastside with my lovely wife of almost 42 years. We have two adult daughters and a Chesapeake Bay Retriever named Lulu.

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?

As mentioned, I was first elected to the King County Sheriff and 2012 (special election) and again in 2013 for a full four-year term. In 2014 it was my honor to be selected as the **King County Democrats Elected Official of the Year**.

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

We have made great strides these last four-and-a-half years in the Sheriff's Office. I decided to run for re-election because of I am very proud of what has been accomplished. But I want to do more and continue the momentum.

I plan to reinstitute the Cold Case Unit in the Sheriff's Office. There are over 170 cold case homicides or missing persons that are likely homicide victims. At least some of these cases can be solved with proper follow-up work using detectives dedicated to this project, especially with the advent of new DNA processes and procedures. Families need closure and victims need justice!

I plan to continue the era of financial accountability. I have never gone to the County Council for extra money during a budget biennium. And I never will. One of the jobs of the Sheriff is to be a good steward of the public's money. That will continue after I am re-elected.

I want to continue to diversify the Sheriff's Office. I will do this by a new focus on *how* we recruit, *where* we recruit, and *who* we recruit. Since during my tenure as Sheriff, we have never been more diverse, both by race and by gender. But we have a long way to go!

I will continue to hold my deputies—of every rank—accountable. The Sheriff's Office is now a model of accountability and a model for community trust! This work must continue, and I will focus on maintaining that trust into my next term. While I plan to find new and better ways to fund essential services, my primary focus will always be to keep that trust.

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

ORGANIZATIONS

32nd District Democrats

STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sam Reed – Former Secretary of State (R)
Ralph Munro – Former Secretary of State (R)

KING COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Dan Satterberg – King County Prosecuting Attorney
John Arthur Wilson – King County Assessor
Rod Dembowski – District 1
Larry Gossett – District 2
Kathy Lambert – District 3
Jeanne Kohl-Welles – District 4
Dave Upthegrove – District 5
Claudia Balducci – District 6
Pete von Reichbauer – District 7
Joe McDermott – District 8
Reagan Dunn – District 9

SEATTLE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Pete Holmes – Seattle City Attorney
Tim Burgess – Seattle City Councilmember

SHERIFFS

Paul Pastor – Pierce County
Ty Trenary – Snohomish County
John Snaza – Thurston County
Rob Snaza – Lewis County
John Turner – Walla Walla County
Casey Salisbury – Mason County
Gary Simpson – Kitsap County
Brian Winters – Yakima County
Dave Stanko – Jefferson County
Steve Boyer – Former Sheriff of Kitsap County
John Lovick – Former Sheriff of Snohomish County

MAYORS

Nancy Backus – Auburn
Jim Ferrell – Federal Way
John Stokes – Bellevue
Sean Kelly – Maple Valley
Bruce Bassett – Mercer Island
Matt Larsen – Snoqualmie
Leanne Guier – Pacific
Suzette Cooke – Kent

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bruce Harrell – President, Seattle City Council
Lynne Robinson – Bellevue City Council
Conrad Lee – Bellevue City Council
John Holman – Auburn City Council
Yolanda Trout – Auburn City Council
Bill Peloza – Auburn City Council

Don Gerend – Sammamish City Council
Nigel Herbig – Kenmore City Council
Ed Prince – Renton City Council
Benson Wong – Mercer Island City Council
Wendy Welker – Mercer Island City Council
Chris Roberts – Shoreline City Council
Keith Scully – Shoreline City Council
Shari Winstead – Shoreline City Council
Bill Boyce – Kent City Council
Carol Simpson – Newcastle City Council
Wayne Snoey – Formerly with Covington City Council

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATORS

Senator Guy Palumbo – 1st LD (D)
Representative Derek Stanford – 1st LD (D)
Senator Mark Mullet – 5th LD (D)
Representative Paul Graves – 5th LD (R)
Representative Steve Bergquist – 11th LD (D)
Representative Mike Pellicciotti – 30th LD (D)
Senator Mark Miloscia – 30th LD (R)
Representative Morgan Irwin – 31st LD (R)
Representative Drew Stokesbary – 31st LD (R)
Representative Tina Orwall – 33rd LD (D)
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon – 34th LD (D)
Senator Sharon Nelson – 34th LD (D), Senate Democratic Leader
Senator Reuven Carlyle – 36th LD (D)
Senator Lisa Wellman – 41st LD (D)
Senator Jamie Pedersen – 43rd LD (D)
John Lovick – 44th LD (D), Former Sheriff of Snohomish County
Representative Roger Goodman – 45th LD (D), Chair – Public Safety Committee
Senator David Frockt – 46th LD (D)
Senator Joe Fain – 47th LD (R), Republican Senate Floor Leader
Representative Pat Sullivan – 47th LD (D)

CITIZEN LEADERS

Lisa Daugaard
Mary Lou Dickerson – Former 36th District State Representative
Thomas Pitchford
Michael Maddux
Karl de Jong
Mathew Patrick Thomas (WSRP State Committeeman)
Steve McNey
Laura Wells
Rory O’Sullivan – Past Chair, 37th District Democrats
Bailey Stober – Chair, King County Democrats
Steve Gunn
James Fossos – Fire Commissioner, South King Fire & Rescue
Norman Sigler
Natasha Savage

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?

Though I am currently unopposed, I have been active in the media. My recent successes of increasing defibrillator access, the creation of a fallen officer memorial, and the reinstatement of the Domestic Violence Unit have been well publicized. I have met with hundreds of residents and leaders in King County over the last 45 days to talk about immigration issues currently facing local police and King County in the era of President Trump.

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?

I have never run for a *partisan* political office. When I ran for King County Sheriff in 2012 and 2013, and now in 2017, it is no secret my personal political convictions are shared with the Democratic Party.

Over the years, I have given money to candidates of both parties. When I worked for Sheriff Rahr, she often asked me to help “fill her table” at candidates’ campaign kickoffs. Therefore, I have contributed to Dan Satterberg, Kathy Lambert, Jane Hague, Dave Reichert, and Reagan Dunn.

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:

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?	X		
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	X		First responders i.e. police and fire, should not be able to strike. To do so would put the public at risk. I do support interest arbitration for their bargaining rights, however. My support for interest arb is well documented when my Court Marshals were granted that ability.
3	Do you support increasing the minimum wage in King County to \$12/hr or higher?	X		
4	Do you support legislation at the local and state level to require equal pay for women?	X		
5	Are you willing to undergo and ask your staff and peers to undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implied biases?	X		I have done this and I will continue to do so.

6	Do you support replacing trees on or off site lost during development to protect our cities' urban tree canopy?	X		
7	Do you support Gov. Inslee's plan to restrict pollution with a cap and trade system?	X		
8	Do you support Sound Transit's request for new revenue authority so it can bring an ST3 proposal before Puget Sound voters?	X		
9	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		N/A	I have not done enough research on this to have a firm position. It's not relevant to the office I am seeking.
10	Do you support the Growth Management Act's limits on development (including schools) in exurban areas to protect rural land uses in unincorporated King County?	X		
11	Do you support restoring lost funding for the King County DOT Roads Division?	X		I enthusiastically support this, and hope they once again fund the KCSO STEP unit, which is our motorcycle traffic enforcement!
12	Do you support increased funding for Regional Mental Health Courts?	X		
13	Do you support requiring King County sheriff's deputies to wear body cameras?	X		I support the concept, but public disclosure laws must be amended in order to make it financially feasible for police departments.
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?		X	I have consistently lobbied in Olympia alongside Executive Constantine to get this property tax cap lifted.
15	Once elected, will you work to get diverse candidates elected to office?	X		
16	Do you support women's right to reproductive freedom?	X		
17	Will you form a task force to gather input from disabled persons to identify and remedy hazards for pedestrians, and will you work to have these suggestions implemented?		X	I support the formation of a task force, and I would be happy to have KCSO representation on such a task force, but I don't see myself forming one in the Sheriff's Office.
18	Do you support "Gender Neutral" bathrooms throughout the county?	X		I was quoted extensively in the media in 2016 in opposition to the initiative campaign to limit access.

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.

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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?

This is largely outside of my jurisdiction, but I generally try to be the best steward of our environment. I am interested in increasing the efficiency of the vehicles in our fleet, and I will always work toward funding our search and rescue helicopter that saves lives every year of hikers lost or hurt in our federally protected lands.

What is your view on up-zoning as it relates to transit-oriented development and neighborhood quality?

This is not within my jurisdiction.

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 King County, what would it look like? Would you be willing to raise revenue to avoid harmful cuts to public services?

Most importantly, the 1% property tax cap is crippling our general fund and putting the public at risk. This cap must be lifted.

Secondly, Washington has an extremely regressive tax structure. Yet we lobby for "equity and social justice." The number one way to achieve equity and social justice would be to make sure the tax system is fair. That means an income tax with a corresponding reduction in sales tax and property taxes.

Unincorporated King County does not have the same taxing authority for utilities that municipalities do. As a result, the service levels of unincorporated residents, even those that live in urban and suburban areas, are often at the rural levels. This leaves our citizens vulnerable, and I support giving counties the authority to collect a utility tax just like the cities.

Finally, yes I support raising revenue to avoid cuts to public services.

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?

The men and women of the Sheriff's Office do an incredible job day in and day out. I want to "protect" two specific units in the Sheriff's Office from the ever-diminishing general fund. The Air Support Unit and Marine Unit saves lives every year, yet they are always threatened around the time of budget cuts. It costs under \$2 million per year for the Air Support Unit. A tenth-of-a-cent increase in the sales tax county wide would bring in \$67 million per year, more than enough to protect the Air Support Unit, Marine Unit, and countless other public safety services our residents depend on each and every day. I hope to be able to secure the support of my fellow elected officials in the future to "protect" these vital services from Tim Eyman's 1% property tax cap and ever diminishing general fund resources. They are too important to lose, and once they're gone, they will be gone forever.

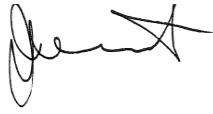
What would you do to address social justice issues?

I am working with my deputies to have blunt conversations about race and gender. Honest dialogue is vital to combatting the cynicism of police work. This conversation must also include the community. I host regular town hall meetings to encourage public feedback and input in the broader discussion of race and law enforcement.

I also want our Sheriff's Office to reflect the diversity of the community. King County is especially diverse, with many different ethnicities, races, and gender identities. The Sheriff's Office cannot succeed in its mission until it is a mirror of the community. Though I am prohibited from using affirmative action in hiring for the department, I try to encourage diversity in the hiring process. If you speak a second language or have been in the Peace Corps for two years, you get an extra ten percent on the civil service test. These qualifications encourage new and needed perspectives in the department and were implemented at my urging.

Beyond hiring, I am trying to change the culture in the department. I want my deputies out of their patrol cars so that they are interacting personally with the 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		Date: April 9, 2017
Printed Name	John Urquhart	