

# King County Democrats

## 2017 Candidate Questionnaire

### Municipal Level

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Sheley Secret	
<b>Position Sought</b>	Seattle City Council Pos 8	
Home Legislative District	37 <sup>th</sup> LD	
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b> Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes	
<b>Campaign Name</b>	Friends of Sheley Secret	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address: PO Box 75525 Seattle, WA 98175	Phone: 509-499-2274 Fax:n/a
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Campaign manager or point of contact	Garrett Havens, B&B Strategies	
Consultant(s)	B&B Strategies, Mario Brown; McKenna Hartman	

### 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 currently serve as the Economic Development Chair and Vice President for the NAACP, and am the owner of the Law Offices of Sheley J.M. Secret. I earned my Bachelor's Degree at The Evergreen State College, and my Juris Doctorate at Seattle University School of Law. Over the years I have worked as a policy analyst for the Alliance for a Just society and the Urban League. I've worked for the Washington State Senate, Governor's Office, and Pierce County Council. I have been a union member as a caretaker with SEIU 775 and during my time as the staff attorney with the Defender Association. I spent 4 years sitting on the City of Seattle Office of Professional Accountability Review Board, served as the President of the Seattle King County NAACP, and was a Fellow at the Washington State Bar Association. Over the years I have been actively involved in many civic and community activities aimed at lifting up marginalized communities, creating fair labor practices, improving our public education system, creating more affordable housing, police accountability and reform, and expanding voter rights.

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 have previously run for Senate in the 37th Legislative District in 2014, and sought the appointments for Seattle City Council (2015) and Senate 37th LD (2017). I have worked in leadership roles on a number of campaigns for important community issues including Ban-The-Box, bringing in the US department of justice to help reform reform the Seattle Police Department, organizing testimony for the McCleary decision, Seattle's \$15 minimum wage, restoring voting rights for felons, organizing the food worker and WalMart strikes, implementing the inclusion rule with Sound Transit, creating affordable housing, blocking the bunker

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

I am running for Seattle City Council because I have the experience and vision to help create a safer and healthier community here in Seattle. For over a decade I have helped lead the way on critical issues such as closing the school to prison pipeline; working to grow small business; improving police oversight and accountability; and enforcing Seattle's labor practices. As a Seattle City Council member I will take this experience and use it to lead the way on some of the most critical issues the people in our community face.

Once elected I am prepared to get to work on creating more affordable and accessible housing for our residents. As a member of the Black Community Impact Alliance I have experience with securing the YK building and ensuring the creation of 130 units that will serve low income youth. I am also prepared to start addressing housing discrimination with creative solutions like a ban-the-box style initiative on housing applications.

I will work on creating a fair and healthy economy for workers and businesses alike. I have worked with the office of labor standards to uphold and enforce critical labor practices such as the \$15 dollar minimum wage, ban-the-box on job applications, and paid sick leave. I also have experience helping support and build up our small and local businesses in the community and helping connect them with resources directed toward the growth of micro-businesses. I will fight to see more resources dedicated to enforcing our labor standards, building small businesses, and creating an economic environment that is healthy for everyone.

I will invest in a future that is focused on building and preparing people for living wage jobs instead of investing in prisons and jails. If we want to see everyone thrive in our community then we need to invest in prevention services that create real opportunities for people to succeed in our community. Programs and services that help create successful outcomes like those achieved by the Urban League Career Bridge, and apprenticeship opportunities like those we see at the Seattle Vocational Institute. When we invest in our people instead of throwing them in jails our entire community benefits. These are the types of solutions I have been creating for years and I look forward to bring to the council when I am elected.

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

I have received endorsements from; the Seattle Education Association; Seattle Black Firefighters Association; King County Councilmember Larry Gossett; Pamela Banks, Seattle Urban League; Senait Brown, No New Youth Jail; Lisa Daugaard, Public Defender Association; Ian Eisenberg, Lake Union Partners; Gerald Hankerson, NAACP; Gyasi Ross, No DAPL.

I am currently seeking the endorsement of many other unions and organizations such as ILWU, The Letter Carriers, Plumbers and Pipefitters, the National Association of Letter Carriers, Our Revolution, Democracy for America, NARAL Pro Choice, Washington Conservation Voters, APACE, as well as many other local elected officials and organizations.

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?

The campaign is progressing very well. We have established ourselves as a favorite in a packed race for Seattle City Council Position 8. The campaign has just recently submitted the qualifying signatures for the Seattle Democracy Voucher Program and is just getting ready to move into the doorbelling phase of operations this month. We have been receiving a lot of media attention from our formal announcement on Dr. Martin Luther King Junior day through our campaign kickoff a few weeks ago, that highlighted leaders of color in our community. I was also featured in a KCTS9 video report on the Seattle Voucher Program. The campaign has raised over \$7,000 from individuals and will see a significant jump once we are able to access the democracy vouchers that have been submitted.

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 been a member of another political party, but I have supported candidates who are part of more progressive parties such as, Kshama Sawant (Socialist Alternative) and Nikkita Oliver (People's Party). I have done so because the Democratic party and their candidates don't always do a good job of sticking to their party platform and values. However, I believe in the Democratic Party and am not only committed to promoting our progressive values and platform, but also helping to lead us in the right direction.

**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?		No

\* 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?	Yes		Corporations are not people.
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	Yes		I am a strong supporter of worker rights and ensuring that both public and private workers have the ability to organize.
3	Do you support increasing the minimum wage in your jurisdiction to \$15/hr or higher?	Yes		Minimum wage is \$15 per hour in Seattle and I am proud to say that I was directly involved in that effort.
4	Do you support legislation at the local and state level to require equal pay for women and people of color?	Yes		We need our City Council to actively engage in efforts to reduce the income gap for women, people of color, and all other who are being undercompensated in our current system.
5	Are you willing to undergo and ask your staff and peers to undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implicit bias?	Yes		I have personally spent a lot of time both professionally and personally combating and educating the community about institutional racism and implicit bias.
6	Do you support raising revenue at the city level to expand transit service?	Yes		I am open to exploring options to increase revenue at the city level to improve transit. However, we need to look at revenue options that are not regressive and place an undue burden on low and middle income families and individuals.

7	Do you support development impact fees to pay for schools, roads, and parks, as allowed under the Growth Management Act?	Yes		I think that development impact fees provide a good alternative to more regressive funding mechanisms.
8	Do you support building a municipally owned and operated broadband system in your city?	Yes		I would be open to exploring a way to provide better and more affordable access to broadband services to the people of Seattle.
9	Do you agree that municipal government should use its borrowing capacity to fund additional units of affordable housing?	Yes		Yes, as a Blunk the Bunker activist, I worked on the Build 1000 homes campaign to demand city council use all resources available to fund our housing crisis.
10	Do you support protecting what is left of our urban tree canopy with strong tree ordinances that require property owners to consult with city government prior to cutting down trees?	Yes		Seattle is known as the Emerald city in part because of our green spaces and eye towards preserving the natural beauty of our area. I believe that protecting our green spaces and what is left of our urban tree canopy is incredibly important.
11	Do you support infrastructure to make it easier to walk and bike on your city's streets?	Yes		Seattle still has more work to do when it comes to making our streets safe for those who walk and bike for both commuting and recreational purposes.
12	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		No	Coal and oil are both incredibly harmful to the environment and pose threats to the communities that are close to their production and transportation lines. We need to be looking toward promoting clean renewable energy. I believe that the City and Port of Seattle have an important roles to play in guiding our energy industry. I have been endorsed by Gyasi Ross a No DAPL activist from Indian Country.
13	Do you support requiring police officers in your jurisdiction to wear body cameras?	Yes		Body cameras have proven to be incredibly helpful for both citizens and police officers. It just makes sense.
14	Do you support repealing Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax increases to 1% per year, regardless of population growth, inflation, and need?	Yes		In general I oppose Tim Eyman's short sighted and destructive brand of initiatives. In this case I think it would be better for local municipalities to have the flexibility to make decisions that are best for them and reflect the local economic realities.
15	Once elected, will you work to get diverse candidates elected to office?	Yes		I have worked to get more diverse candidates into office for years and would absolutely continue to do so once elected to office.
16	Do you support women's right to reproductive freedom?	Yes		I unequivocally support a women's rights to choose.

17	Do you support all municipalities in King County implementing a "Ban the Box" program as is already in place in Seattle and Spokane?	Yes	I would love to see this. As someone who has played a major role in implementing and enforcing the ban-the-box efforts in Seattle, I would like to not only see that expand to other municipalities, but also other areas, such as housing.
18	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?	Yes	Disabled persons are some of the most marginalized and ignored people in our community. I believe that forming a task force to generate input from disabled persons to help remedy the hazards and barriers in our community would be an important effort to support.
19	Do your support "Gender Neutral" bathrooms throughout the city?	Yes	There is currently a national epidemic of violence against trans people, especially trans women of color. I think that we have an obligation to do or part to create an environment that is safe for everyone. Supporting Gender Neutral restrooms throughout the city is a fairly modest, but important step in the right direction.

### 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.

As Economic Development Chair of the of Seattle King County NAACP, I support up-zoning. For decades, we've cried out for development opportunities throughout Seattle's Black and vulnerable communities, but for decades, those cries had been ignored. The current up-zone proposals provide incentives for developers to invest inside of neighborhoods they historically had not found attractive.

I'd like to see more discussion on increasing mandatory inclusion under the MHA; and would like to hear more on how we can work together to prevent economic segregation under the payer option. I believe we need stronger oversight of the Office of Housing to distribute the linkage fees collected in a fair and equitable manner throughout the city's urban villages and TOD areas.

Currently, I lead the NAACP's Development without Displacement efforts where we fight against the harmful effects of gentrification. Long-time residents and business owners of color are excited to see the growth and investment pouring into our communities but don't want to be displaced where we cannot reap the benefits of the development. Growing Seattle forward without leaving our Black communities, and other vulnerable residents behind would increase neighborhood quality for all of Seattle.

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?

I think that taking steps like the vote to divest from Wells Fargo are a great way to not only generate discussion and awareness, but to also put pressure on financial institutions and businesses to start taking a more responsible approach toward climate change. I think that the Seattle City Council is in a great position to take bold actions like this that not only raise awareness in the community, but elevate the dialogue at the national level. It is unfortunate that the legislature has not been able to develop a policy to help reduce emissions and pollution at the state level, but I think there could be room to explore this issue at the city level. I also believe that we need to really dig in on our commitment to clean and renewable energy and continue to challenge the coal and oil industries. I am open to exploring policies that would move us toward further reducing our carbon footprint, such as promoting the use of electric vehicles, more aggressive efforts to reduce energy use in commercial buildings, continuing to improve investments into public transit, and reising energy codes to make new and renovated buildings more energy efficient.

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?

We desperately need a more progressive tax system that does not place an undue burden on low and middle income workers. I would like to see the Legislature pass a capital gains tax, pass a progressive income tax, and reform the B&O tax to create relief for small businesses. I am incredibly excited about the current proposal for a city income tax in Seattle that could help generate much needed revenue that could enable us to address important issues and services such as transportation, affordable housing, homelessness, small business development, improve education and enforcement on labor laws, helping to create alternative education programs to help close the achievement gap, and help build up and protect our green spaces. I would be willing to look at raising revenue to protect public services, but would place an emphasis on options that do not create an additional burden for those who are already struggling.

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?

This is tough because there are so many critical issues just in our community that deserve more attention than they are getting. I believe that the achievement gap at our public school is an issue that everyone in the city should feel embarrassed about. Seattle is a city that prides itself on being progressive, yet we have the 5th highest achievement gap between white children and children of color. We have schools in our city that can't afford textbooks so they hand out scanned paper copies to students. We have grown high school students that are sitting in desks and chairs for elementary school children, and class rooms like a music class at Rainier High School that don't even have any instruments for the students to play or practice on.

What would you do to address social justice issues?

There is a lot that can be done to help address social justice issues in the City of Seattle. I think the first step to really digging into addressing the issues that are affecting marginalized populations in the city is for our City Council and government to do a better job of engaging those who are struggling and have to overcome barriers in our community. Disabled persons, people of color, the LGBT Community, women, homeless and low income families are all facing unique challenges in our city. We need to not only listen to these people and their stories but engage them in the decision making and policy implementation process in our communities.

I have worked on social justice issues for years, and I know the faces of those who are doing some of the tough work in our community and aren't getting the kind of support that they need. I would like to see increased investments in afterschool programs to help eliminate the school to prison pipeline and alleviate the achievement gap in our public schools and communities of color. I would like to see us invest in programs that help out microbusinesses, especially those that are owned by marginalized groups. I would like to see additional investment being made into education and enforcement on worker rights. I also believe that we need to seriously look at housing and the possibility of implementing the ban-the-box style policy on housing applications.

**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 /s/: *Sheley Secrest*

Printed Name Sheley Secrest

Date: April 11, 2017