

King County Democrats

2017 Candidate Questionnaire Municipal Level

Candidate Name	Sara Nelson	
Position Sought	Seattle City Council, Position 8	
Home Legislative District	43rd	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes!	
Campaign Name	Sara for City Council	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: 119 1st Ave.South, Suite 320 Seattle, WA 98104	Phone: (206) 910-8762 Fax:
	Website: www.saraforcitycouncil.com Email: sara@saraforcitycouncil.com Twitter: @sara4council Facebook: saraforcitycouncil	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Please contact me directly	
Consultant(s)	Doug Greven, Mission Control	

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 am a neighborhood small business owner who puts my progressive values to work every day on behalf of my employees, community and the environment. I am an environmental leader with 11 years of experience working on City Council and co-owner of Fremont Brewing which is nationally recognized as a leader in triple bottom line sustainability. I am also the mother of two school-aged children and I understand the challenges of working families in Seattle. I am the only one in this race with that breadth of experience and knowledge. I know how government works and **I have a proven track record translating Seattle's shared progressive values into workable policy solutions** (see attached resume for complete employment and academic history).

At Fremont Brewing, I have had many opportunities to promote green industry practices and progressive policy and at the city, state, and federal levels *and* to give back to the community. The [community engagement](#) efforts and [sustainability](#) accomplishments of which I am most proud include (see website for more information):

- Being in the top 25% tier for water, electricity, and gas conservation according to Brewers Association's annual benchmarking study of over 300 US craft breweries. The BA is craft beer's trade association and the 25th percentile is the top tier analyzed.
- Advancing the craft beer industry on the BA's Government Affairs Committee and the WA Brewers Guild GAC
 - Primary focus is lowering the federal excise tax on craft breweries.
<http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/craft-beer-brewers-need-tax-relief/> Got Murray, Cantwell, and 7 of 10 WA Reps to co-sponsor a bill.
- I am on the Envirostar Advisory Committee to relaunch expanded program

- I am on the [Cascadia Grains](#) steering committee to revitalize the grains economy west of the Cascades (gives farmers an additional cash crop, reduces emissions from long-haul transportation of malt, reduces soil erosion and the spread of pests and disease common in agribusiness farms). This is a joint WSU/OSU project in the Skagit Valley.
- Success growing the organic hop market by contracting directly with organic hop farmers and using them in specialty beers. Organic hops are 50-100% more expensive but if farmers see demand, they will have more incentive to get certified.
- Reducing our carbon footprint by using City Light incentive program to replace 900 fluorescent bulbs with LEDs
- Advancing zero waste: Partnering with Impact Bioenergy and SPU in pilot project to advance anaerobic digester technology which could be a source of renewable energy and is a better way of disposing of spent grain than giving it to farmers who drive trucks down the freeway to get their animal feed.
 - Also always talking about the need for tech companies to recognize brewers as a market for green technology such as CO2 recapture if it can be scaled and priced for us.
- See this article for more about our efforts to generate beer-specific green tech solutions: <http://www.geekwire.com/2016/seattle-fremont-beer-technology/>
- **Donations:**
 - In 2016, we donated over \$20,000 in in-kind donations to environmental, social justice, and educational non-profits.
 - Cash donations ranging from \$1,500 to \$8,000 from proceeds of particular beers including \$3,000 for the GSBA Scholarship Fund and Rainbow Community Center in Tacoma from our Pride beer, \$8,000 to a national veteran's service agency from Homefront IPA, \$3,000 to Cowiche Canyon Conservancy outside Yakima from our soon-to-be-certified organic Cowiche Fresh Hop Ale, \$2,500 to Pink Boots Society to get more women in beer production, and others.
- Other recent initiatives:
 - Sponsored Planned Parenthood benefit March 15, 2017 with 9 other breweries, raised over \$10,000
 - Hosted 2 fundraisers for Inslee, 1 for Walkinshaw, and Rob Johnson's launch
 - Regularly serve our beer at Seattle Green Drinks, Mountaineers lecture series and other ongoing enviro/social justice events and series.
 - 2017 beer sponsor of Cascade Bicycle Club (will donate over 70 kegs this year to their rides).
- **Civic recognition:** "King County Executive's Small Business of the Year Award" (2014), AWB "Manufacturer of the Year" Award, Sustainable Seattle's "Triple Bottom Line Sustainability" Award for Small Business (2017)
- **Employee benefits:** All FTE's (32+ hours/week) get:
 - 401k with 3% match
 - Medical/dental/vision insurance (under \$35/mo. depending on what they want). We've offered this benefit since 2009, not in response to ACA.
 - Deeply subsidized Orca card
 - Secure, indoor bike racks.
 - Up to 12 weeks paid family leave following a new child, depending on how long they've worked with us.
 - Compensation and PTO exceeding what's required by Seattle labor laws.
 - 2 six-packs/wk. free beer (that's a minimum \$18/wk. value!)

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 never run for public office.
- I was the campaign manager for Councilmember Richard Conlin's reelection in 2009
- I volunteered for and donated to his 1997, 2005 and 2013 reelection campaigns
- Held 2 fundraisers for Jay Inslee (2012, 2016) at Fremont Brewing
- Held fundraiser for Brady Walkinshaw at Fremont Brewing in 2016
- Donated generously to WA candidates and WA Coordinated Campaign in 2008, 2012, 2016 and (see PDC)
- Provided Fremont Brewing beer to WA Democratic Party events and progressive initiatives (marriage equality, WA won't Discriminate, etc.)

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

As a mother of two school-aged children and a neighborhood small business owner, I have a deep stake in this city's future and I want to make sure this is a city that works for everyone. That means taking care of basic services, protecting our environment, and ensuring opportunity for all. I do not believe that City Council today is sufficiently focused on a broad enough range of issues to ensure the above. My areas of interest include but are not limited to:

Affordability/Growth/Land Use: My neighbors are having a hard time paying King County's rapidly increasing property taxes and it's difficult for my employees to find apartments with affordable rents despite their generous compensation and benefits (and free beer!). Seattle is a growing city and the City Council must steer that growth wisely yet boldly to maintain affordability, while reducing our carbon footprint. We must add density to our urban centers and villages and along transit lines to make our transit system more efficient. We can embrace growth without losing our quality of life if we also commit to maintaining our public assets such as parks, community centers, and roads and ensuring that public safety resources keep pace with our growing, diversifying population.

Sustainability/Environment: The City of Seattle can do more to reduce pollution to our lakes, urban waterways, and Puget Sound and promote private sector water and energy conservation by expanding programs such as Envirostars and City Light's LED rebate program. We also need much more focus on promoting energy efficient buildings and renewable energy technologies.

Protecting Small Business/Economic Development: Small businesses are the cornerstones of our neighborhoods. We create jobs, support the local economy, and give back to our communities. As a small business owner, I'll bring a fresh perspective and some common sense to City Hall in order to keep Seattle a vibrant, affordable, and livable city. That means ensuring that our local businesses thrive, especially our most vulnerable immigrant and minority-owned businesses.

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

endorsement?	
EXISTING: Name	Organization
Angela and Ethan Stowell	Owners, Ethan Stowell Restaurants
Anne Bikle	neighborhood activist
Annie McGrath	Brewers Guild
Bill Dunbar	policy advisor, EPA region 10
Brooke Davies	Director, Hashtag Fremont and Hashtag Redmond
Charlie and Rose Ann Finkle	Pike Brewing
Charlie Cunniff	former OED green business coordinator
Chuck Wolfe	Urbanist, Author, BoD of Forterra
Colter Mott	
Dabid Burger	ED, Stewardship Partners
	Works at Sightline but mostly known for his blog, CityTank
Dan Bertolet	
	UW Professor of Geology, MacArthur Genius Award recipient for "Dirt"
Dave Montgomery	
David Meinert	Owner, Comet Tavern, 5 Point, Neumos, Big Marios,
Elaine Ko	former staffer to Richard Conlin
Eric de Place	Environmental Policy Director
Eugene Wassrman	ED, North Seattle Industrial Association
Fiona McGuigan	
Gary Fish	Founder/CEO, Deschutes Brewery, Inc.
Greg Nickels	Former Seattle Mayor
Greg Smith	Urban Visions
Harriet Phinney	Pofessor of Anthropolgy, Seattle University
	Director of Growth at ShareGrid, Former Director of Seattle Office of Film and Music
James Keblas	
Jan Allen	Owner, Impact BioEnergy
	Owner, Copperworks Distilling Co., President, WA Distillers Guild
Jason Parker	
Jaxon Ravens	Former Chair of WA Democratic Party
Jeff Shuey	Social Media Club, Seattle
Jerina Pillert	Owner, Hashtag Fremont and REDmont
	Owner, Grist Public Affairs, former ED of WA Wildlife & Recreation Coalition
Joanna Grist	
Joe Fougere	Owner, Tutta Bella
Jon Milazo	Owner, Retrofit Home
	Owner, Terra Plata and Board of Directors, Seattle Restaurant Alliance
Linda Morton	
Maria Hines	Owner, Tilth Restaurant
Matt Lincecum	Owner/CEO, Fremont Brewing
Matthew Stull	Founder, The Bobs
Mike Stewart	Ballard Chamber
Pam Brulotte	Owner, Icicle Creek/Guild Pres
Pete Hanning	Owner, Red Door Fremont Chamber President
	Green Lake Community council, Metro Transportation Planner
Ref Lindmark	
Richard Conlin	former Seattle City Councilmember

Rob Tod	Owner, Allagash Brewing
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Ross McFarlane	BoD, Climate Solutions
Sherry Carr	former Seattle School Board
Sierra Hansen	Cap Hill Chamber
Susan Sigl	former Director of Washington Technology Industry Association
Susan Wickwire	ED of 2030 district
Taylor Hoang	Owner, Pho Cyclo Café, Founder, Ethnic Business Coalition
Tom McCormick	Executive Director, California Brewers Guild
Tom Uniack	ED, Washington Wild
Dan Kleban	Owner, Maine Brewing
Doug Howell	Sierra Club

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?

Forthcoming pending submission of complete questionnaire to King County Democrats on May 16th.

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! I am a Democrat and i have always **only** ever supported DEMOCRATIC candidates.

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		
3	Do you support increasing the minimum wage in your jurisdiction to \$15/hr or higher?			
4	Do you support legislation at the local and state level to require equal pay for women	x		

	and people of color?			
5	Are you willing to undergo and ask your staff and peers to undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implicit bias?	x		I went through Seattle's Institutional Racism training when I was on Conlin's staff at City Council and would make my staff go through it as well.
6	Do you support raising revenue at the city level to expand transit service?	x		
7	Do you support development impact fees to pay for schools, roads, and parks, as allowed under the Growth Management Act?			The rationale for and implementation of impact fees are incredibly complex policy issues. As a former public servant at Council and erstwhile policy wonk, I cannot respond in the positive or negative because the services specified (schools, parks etc.) are nuanced and administratively unique in Seattle and I would carefully consider the response of any candidate who says categorically yes or no. For example, Seattle approved the Metropolitan Parks District in 2014 but the Green Lake Community Center is vulnerable to closure because of unfunded repairs and maintenance. How would impact fees ameliorate the backlog of infrastructure maintenance? Seattle already has a SEPA-based transportation impact fee. I want to know more about the allocation of those dollars (what are they going to? mode-shift priorities? transit-support infrastructure?, etc.)
8	Do you support building a municipally owned and operated broadband system in your city?	x		
9	Do you agree that municipal government should use its borrowing capacity to fund additional units of affordable housing?	x		I support the \$29 million Affordable Housing bonding proposal that Councilmember Herbold introduced and that has already been passed by the Council. I also support finding the funding for that bonding via the funding stream that should be created by extending the Convention Center tax (which now applies only to hotels with more than 60 rooms) to all short term rentals, including Airbnbs. That extension is currently under active consideration in Olympia.
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?	x		Seattle already has tree canopy protection regulations that require a permit to cut down trees of significant size (12 inches in diameter, I believe).

				So yes, I agree in spirit with urban tree canopy protection but each municipality is different and details matter when it comes to implementation, particularly in regards to zoning (i.e. multifamily vs single family, etc.)
11	Do you support infrastructure to make it easier to walk and bike on your city's streets?	x		
12	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		x	
13	Do you support requiring police officers in your jurisdiction to wear body cameras?	x		I favor technology that will help keep keep SPD on track to fulfill the requirements of the DOJ consent decree and reduce disproportionality in arrests. However, I am concerned about the privacy of witnesses and victims as reported on a recent KUOW story. I would want to ensure that the archiving and public disclosure of "footage" of body cams is practical and affordable to both protect the identity of victims and witnesses (child rape victims, friends of drug crime investigations, etc.) and help assess officer conduct to reduce the racial disproportionality of arrests and police misconduct.
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?	x		
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		Reproductive choice has always been of primary importance to me. I voted for I 120 in 1991, assuring a woman's right to abortion in WA. I served on the NARAL Pro-Choice Washington PAC from 2008 to about 2011. I have served and/or donated beer to several events for both organizations. If elected, I will continue to be a champion of policies that protect choice (regulating "pregnancy crisis centers" for example) and enable gender pay equity through policies such as paid family leave.

17	Do you support all municipalities in King County implementing a "Ban the Box" program as is already in place in Seattle and Spokane?	x		As a progressive owner of a neighborhood small business, i know that implementing this program has raised concern among some businesses with predominantly female work forces.
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?	x		
19	Do your support "Gender Neutral" bathrooms throughout the city?	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.

Forthcoming pending submission of complete questionnaire to King County Democrats

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

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?

Forthcoming pending submission of complete questionnaire to King County Democrats

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?

Forthcoming pending submission of complete questionnaire to King County Democrats

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?

Forthcoming pending submission of complete questionnaire to King County Democrats

What would you do to address social justice issues?

Forthcoming pending submission of complete questionnaire to King County Democrats

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

(insert scanned signature or sign electronically)

Printed Name

Sara Nelson

Date: 05/09/17