

King County Democrats

2017 Candidate Questionnaire Municipal Level

Candidate Name	Ryan Asbert	
Position Sought	Seattle City Council, Seat 8	
Home Legislative District	District 3	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	While I consider myself left-leaning, I identify as an independent.	
Campaign Name	Ryan Asbert for City Council	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address:	Phone: Fax:
	Website: Email: Twitter: @ Facebook:	
Campaign manager or point of contact	None	
Consultant(s)	None	

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.

This is probably a good place to give a little more information on my platform. My campaign is about re-approaching our government's processes and finding new ways to augment them through technology. I will be doing this with a new type of software voting and discussion platform that will further enable the citizens of Seattle and give them new opportunities to engage in our city's decision-making process.

My background is primarily in software development, mostly working in the field of UX (User Experience), and it is this expertise which will allow me to deliver a platform that will allow all users - from citizens to businesses to representatives themselves - a new method of finding mutually beneficial solutions to our city's issues.

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've never sought office or worked on a previous campaign before.

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

To put it simply, I feel our system is broken and there is a severe lack of integrity in our government. The goal of my campaign is explore new ways to better integrate the public into our decision-making process, though a new type of software and voting platform that we are personally designing, developing, and delivering in an initiative we call The x Party.

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

I haven't received any endorsements as of yet.

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?

We haven't begun door-to-door campaigns or fundraising yet as we've been predominantly focused on the development of our software application and the formation of The x Party organization, but things are coming together and we'll be a lot busier here in the coming weeks. That said, despite not having spent a single penny so far, we've already gotten a fair amount of media coverage, including an article in GeekWire and an interview with KIRO.

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 always considered myself politically independent, and the only political donations I have made were to both the Obama and Sanders presidential campaigns.

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?	Absolutely yes		The way money has permeated and corrupted our government system is utterly sickening.
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	Yes		While I have concerns about abuse of power in unions, that is an issue with the execution - not the idea - of unions. I fully support the right to bargaining.
3	Do you support increasing the minimum wage in your jurisdiction to \$15/hr or higher?	Yes		People aren't making nearly enough money. However, I also want to explore other solutions to foster a better working climate.

4	Do you support legislation at the local and state level to require equal pay for women and people of color?	Yes		I think it's pretty sad that such a measure would even be necessary.
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 don't see why not.
6	Do you support raising revenue at the city level to expand transit service?	Yes		I don't think the state alone is able to do enough to help with our transportation issues.
7	Do you support development impact fees to pay for schools, roads, and parks, as allowed under the Growth Management Act?	Yes		I feel, in regards to the GMA specifically, there is little consensus among business and environmental groups as to its effectiveness. While more comprehensive research is needed, in a general sense I do support the intended purpose of this initiative
8	Do you support building a municipally owned and operated broadband system in your city?	Yes		I absolutely support a municipally-owned broadband system, but I believe that the city should be able to lease this network to other providers. I would definitely be interested in a proposal.
9	Do you agree that municipal government should use its borrowing capacity to fund additional units of affordable housing?			Due to the delicacy of this situation, I am undecided on this issue. I would like to see the specific proposals before giving my support.
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		This issue is one that I haven't specifically looked into, but I would be in favor of trying to retain Seattle's unique urban style, including its status as the "Emerald City". While I have concerns regarding the rights of homeowners, I would support the idea of some city oversight on the issue of our urban canopy.
11	Do you support infrastructure to make it easier to walk and bike on your city's streets?	Yes		The easier it is to walk and bike around Seattle, the better.
12	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?	Yes		While I am highly favorable of renewable resources, we can't just stop using coal and oil right now, as much as I wish we could. Speaking pragmatically, our use of coal and oil will have to end someday, but I'm not sure that condemning our state export

				of these items is the appropriate approach at this time.
13	Do you support requiring police officers in your jurisdiction to wear body cameras?	Yes		I fully believe in more transparency in law enforcement
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?			I am fairly undecided on this issue, but I am certainly willing to have a conversation about it.
15	Once elected, will you work to get diverse candidates elected to office?	Yes		I believe Seattle's diversity is one of its strongest characteristics.
16	Do you support women's right to reproductive freedom?	Yes		I honestly don't feel this is my jurisdiction as a male.
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		While I feel that employers have a right to know who they are hiring, I understand and empathize with the idea behind these programs, but I think we are brushing on a much larger topic regarding our criminal justice system that requires a lot more conversation.
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		My software platform itself is the task force through which I intend to engage with the disabled community and address their mobility concerns within the city.
19	Do your support "Gender Neutral" bathrooms throughout the city?	Yes		I support gender neutral bathrooms, although frankly I don't care who I share a restroom with.

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.

I am currently unable to find this information on the website, but I do disagree with this 404 error telling me the information may not have existed at all.

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

I generally support the up-zoning efforts, mostly along major metro routes and near higher-education facilities and business centers, as I agree we need increased density and more housing units to help alleviate the skyrocketing cost of rent in our city and mitigate the population influx. However I do empathize with those who are worried about seeing Seattle become a so-called "urban jungle," and I believe in practical approaches that can limit this effect. Seattle has a certain charm that we certainly don't want to lose from overdevelopment.

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?

Our entire planet is in danger, this is a particularly crucial issue and one which I take very seriously. Bottom line, there are no negative consequences to energy independence other than the difficult road of getting there. As swift action is required, I would do everything in my power to promote a greener infrastructure and raise public awareness on this issue through The x Party software platform and utilize our resources to find workable solutions.

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?

I believe our tax system to be not only particularly regressive, but incomprehensibly convoluted, and we need to take a new approach. This will be no easy task and will require coordination between all various state partners, but I believe a progressive tax reform is absolutely possible, and one which can be mutually beneficial to all involved parties. I can't currently say what such a budget proposal may look like, however regarding cuts to public services, I believe we can find ways to streamline a lot of these services in ways that can save them enough money to continue operating at the same capacity while increasing their efficiency and productivity, and I would support these initiatives foremost.

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?

I feel that we could be using technology better to provide a more inclusive process to the public, but most of the issues I am concerned with have been widely addressed earlier in this questionnaire.

What would you do to address social justice issues?

Our software platform will allow us new ways to directly engage with the community and better address issues surrounding social justice. It also serves as a means of gathering and centralizing additional metrics and polling data, as well as a tool for the public to better share additional pertinent information. This additional level of accessibility will provide us with the opportunity to explore new sources of useful metric data.

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)

Date:4/12/17

Printed Name

Ryan Asbert