

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Javier Valdez
Position sought	Appointment to 46th District State House
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	LD: 46 CC: 1 CD: 7
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	N/A
Web page	N/A
Campaign Email address	javiervaldez@comcast.net
Manager	N/A
Campaign mailing address	9800 Roosevelt Way NE, Unit 23 Seattle, WA 98115
Campaign phone number	(206) 251-6425
Campaign FAX	N/A

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, 46th District Democrats, 2007 -2009 • Chair, 43rd District Democrats, 1997 - 2002 • Boardmember, Washington State Democratic Party Executive Board, 2003 - present • Member, Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee, 2001 - present • Boardmember, King County Democratic Central Committee Executive Board, 1993 - present • President, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 2, Local 21-C, 2010 - current • Founding and Current Boardmember, Institute for a Democratic Future, 1997 - present • Co-Chair, Ernest I.J. Aguilar Endowed Scholarship Fund for Latino MBA Students, University of Washington Foster School of Business, 2009 - current • Former Boardmember, Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce • Strategic Advisor II, Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program Manager, Seattle City Light, 2005 - current

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	N/A
Union Endorsement	N/A
Municipal League	N/A
SEAMEC	N/A
Other Endorsements	Congressman Jim McDermott, St. Rep. Phyllis Kenney, St. Senator Ed Murray, St. Senator Margarita Prentice, former St. Senator Ken Jacobsen, and Shoreline City Councilmember Chris Roberts

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I will be focusing on the support and endorsements from 46th LD Precinct Committee Officers.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	X		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	X		
3	Do you support government funding of Planned Parenthood and other family planning services, including abortion and contraception?	X		
4	Do you support majority votes by state and local governments to enact taxes for revenue and to repeal tax exemptions?	X		
5	Do you support the Affordable Health Care Act?	X		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		X	
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	X		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	X		
9	Do you support Federal and State regulation of greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change?	X		
10	Do you support a constitutional amendment to limit free speech rights to persons, not corporations?	X		
11	Do you support public financing of campaigns?	X		

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	

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X
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* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

In 1996, when I ran in the special election for a Seattle City Council position, one report was filed late, as I was out of town, serving as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Are you a member of another political party? If so, which ones? Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom and when?

I am and always have been a proud Democrat. I have never supported or contributed to any candidate who was not a Democrat.

Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

Yes, I am a member of the 46th District Democrats. I am the former chair of the 46th LD (2007-2009), and of the 43rd LD (1997 – 2002). In my 20+ years of Democratic Party involvement, I have probably contributed to every Democratic LD organization in King County, as well as the King County Young Democrats, the Harvey Muggy Stonewall Democrats when they were in existence and of course, the King County Democratic Central Committee and Washington State Democratic Party.

I have been a Precinct Committee Officer since 1992.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

If appointed, I will fight for:

- Saving the Basic Health Care Plan
- Preventing Further Cuts to K-12 Education and our Public School Teachers
- Maintaining our Transportation System and Work to Continue to Improve It
- Protecting Our Environment and our Fragile and Unique Puget Sound Region
- Creating and Sustaining Family and Livable Wage Jobs

What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?

Dealing with the \$2 billion deficit in the upcoming special session is the most pressing issues facing not only the 46th District, but the entire state of Washington. Our governor has proposed an all-cuts budget, which hurts working families, children, students, our environment, public safety, etc.

If appointed, I will oppose the all-cuts budget proposal. I will work with my fellow legislators and seek to end unnecessary tax loopholes and raise revenue where we can.

If you are a candidate in a contested primary race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issues distinguish you from your opponent(s)? If you do not receive

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.

I am a tested and proven leader within the Democratic community. Due both to my political experience and the nature of my job with City Light, I have an extensive network of contacts among elected officials, state and local government managers and leaders, business leaders and community activists which will allow me to be effective as a legislator from day one. I will have a learning curve, as would any appointee, but mine will be shorter, which will be imperative for the person who is appointed, as the special session will likely be already underway when the appointment is finalized. I have no family obligations whatsoever currently that would prevent me from applying myself 100% from day one to the urgent business of representing the 46th district during another painful round of budget discussions.

My qualifications for this position include:

- Chair, 46th District Democrats, 2007 -2009
- Chair, 43rd District Democrats, 1997 - 2002
- Boardmember, Washington State Democratic Party Executive Board, 2003 - present
- Member, Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee, 2001 - present
- Boardmember, King County Democratic Central Committee Executive Board, 1993 - present
- President, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 2, Local 21-C, 2010 - current
- Founding and Current Boardmember, Institute for a Democratic Future, 1997 - present
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- Former Boardmember, Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Strategic Advisor II, Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program Manager, Seattle City Light, 2005 - current

If I do not receive the appointment, I will support the choice of the PCO's as the nominee.

Do you believe the current structure of taxes and/or fees that generate funds in your area are fair? If not, how would you change it?

Of course it's not fair. I voted for and supported Initiative 1098 last year, which would have established a state income tax for certain high-income individuals. President Barack Obama is absolutely correct in using Warren Buffett as an example of those individuals who not paying their fair share in taxes.

Unfortunately, the voters of this state have continued to voice and vote against a state income tax. We need a fair and progressive tax system that is equitable to working families, hard-working individuals, and the thousands of small businesses in this state that employ our citizens. I will work with my colleagues in the legislature to continue to promote these ideas.

King County has a ten year plan to end homelessness. What ideas do you have to increase low income and affordable housing?

We obviously need to maintain the funding levels that are currently in place. That will be hard to do during the upcoming special session. Additionally, funding for affordable housing solutions at the county and city

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

levels are threatened by cuts to local budgets, which, like the state budget, are being negatively affected by the current state of the economy and the poorly designed nature of our current tax revenue structure.

We need to continue to work with non-profits and grant-giving agencies to support those families and individuals who need assistance to support themselves and their families. It's wrong that so many children are living in poverty, as their parents struggle to maintain some type of sustainability and structure for their children. We must continue to support programs that assist shelters and food banks, as well as programs such as First Place, which provides a stable daily school and socialization environment, along with hot nutritious meals, for young homeless children in Seattle while their parents use their days to get back on their feet.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Congressman Jim McDermott has it right every year when he files his bill as prime sponsor to establish a Single Payer system. While President Obama's health care measure is a good start, it still does not go far enough. Health care is a right, not a privilege.

What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

I have always been a strong supporter of the GLBT community. When the organization was active, I was a dues-paying member of the Harvey Muggy Stonewall Democrats' organization.

I fully support equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage, and parental rights.

What creative solutions can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged?

Education and Training programs are key in assisting the economically disadvantaged. Apprentice programs have continued to prove that by utilizing these types of programs, individuals are likely to become independent and self-sufficient. Making further cuts to these type of programs is not the answer to revitalizing our economy. Investing in our vulnerable and citizens in need is the best way to keeping a competitive and talented workforce for our region and state.

While it may not be especially creative, education and career training remains the great equalizer. Every public school needs to be funded so that it can be a quality school. The entire school system must be funded and supported so that every student graduates, college- or career-ready. Whether a disadvantaged student dreams of attending a university, or of learning a solid trade as an apprentice or at a vocational school, that will well support a future family, their education should be such that the choice is theirs – they need only study and apply themselves conscientiously. Reinvesting in these individuals through educational opportunities will reap enormous benefits to the state and the community.

Cutting Education funding in times of need is truly cutting away at our future as a society.

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	Javier Valdez	Date
Signature	Submitted via email	11/14/11