

# King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Sarajane Siegfriedt
Position sought	46 <sup>th</sup> District State Representative appointment
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 <sup>th</sup> LD, County Council 1 <sup>st</sup> District, 7 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	<b>Yes.</b>
<b>Campaign Information</b>	
Campaign Name	Sarajane Siegfriedt (no official campaign)
Web page	none
Campaign Email address	Sarajane3h@gmail.com
Manager	none
Campaign mailing address	11811 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 (personal, home)
Campaign phone number	Same as personal: 206-440-5829
Campaign FAX	none

<b>Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.</b>
Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

I am known as a hard worker. I earned my MBA from Northwestern at night, while working fulltime as PR Director of a national insurance company (in the 70s). I worked in large corporations, including AT&T and Boeing, for 23 years, before I quit Boeing to complete a seminary degree. I have worked in and for nonprofits since 1992, primarily in human services. I serve as president of the Unitarian Housing Group and am a board member of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness and Washington Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice. I served on the board of Solid Ground (formerly Fremont Public Association) for six years and continue as a member of their advocacy committee. I am on the State Legislative Committee of Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance. I also usher for four theaters and cashier for a non-profit partner dance group.

I serve as a member of the King County Board of Equalization. I have been a 46<sup>th</sup> District PCO since 2003. I am Legislative Action Chair of the 46<sup>th</sup> and of the King County Democrats and State Committeewoman of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. I have worked on many campaigns and initiatives, including passing the Seattle Housing Levy twice and opposing any Tim Eyman initiative. I gathered about 500 signatures each for Death with Dignity and for the state income tax.

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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	TBA

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?
46 <sup>th</sup> District PCOs, King County Council

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? <b>No</b> Do you support charter schools? <b>No</b>		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
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X

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\* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

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?

No and no.

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 and Yes. I have contributed every year since 2003.  
I became a PCO in the 46<sup>th</sup> in 2003. I joined the Executive Board in January 2004.

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?

The main message in this campaign is that I am an advocate for our 46<sup>th</sup> and King County platforms, since I co-authored both for the past four cycles. In particular, I have been an advocate for low-income housing since I worked in AIDS housing for three years in the 1990s, an advocate for people with disabilities since I headed the DisAbility Resource Center 1998-2001, an advocate for substance abuse treatment since I was the lobbyist for treatment centers in the 2003 session, and a advocate for public campaign financing since I lobbied for it in the 2007 session. My list of current issues is contained in the King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee's Agenda—I chair the committee. Number 1 is raising revenue by repealing corporate tax exemptions and reforming the whole system of tax exemptions, including sunseting them. I am excited that there will be a bill to repeal the death penalty in the 2012 session. I am on the state legislative committee of the Washington Housing and Homelessness Alliance and will champion housing and homelessness.

Due to the circumstances, my campaign will consist of asking each of the PCOs in the 46<sup>th</sup> District for their support. I will also ask elected officials to endorse me. No funds have been or will be raised. I will win because I am well known to the PCOs, having served the District on the Platform & Resolutions Committee, as Legislative Action Chair, as King County Female Rep and currently as State Committeewoman. As a former lobbyist, I will be ready to hit the ground running in Olympia. I know most of the Democratic Caucus, and I am familiar with most of the issues at the state level.

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

The single most pressing issue for the 46<sup>th</sup> at the state level is raising revenue (by repealing corporate tax breaks) to prevent the devastating cuts to the social services safety net outlined in the Governor's all-cuts budget. Restoring Basic Health, Adult Day Health, low-income housing operating funds and drug treatment would be budget priorities. Our economic recovery will only be delayed by laying off more teachers and other state and local government workers, which hurts consumer demand and drives a downward spiral. To make money off of our money, I will work to establish a publicly owned State Bank. We need to make sure the state funds the deep-bore tunnel—Hwy. 99 is not Seattle's responsibility.

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

I offer my candidacy as the best-informed candidate on policies before our state Legislature, as the candidate whose platform and legislative agenda (see [King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee](#)) are on record as being the platform and legislative agendas of King County Democrats and the 46th District. I am a former lobbyist for substance abuse treatment and public campaign financing who knows her way around Olympia and a party leader who has nurtured excellent relationships with our local elected officials, as demonstrated by my recent appointment to the King County Board of Equalization, the appeals board for property tax evaluations.

Over the past nine years, I have testified in favor of human services at budget hearings of the city, county and state. My six years' service on the board of Solid Ground, whose mission is to fight poverty, and my steadfast advocacy for low-income housing are a good match for the 46th District. The positions of other candidates are not well known to me, except for Gerry Pollet's, whose expertise on the environment and education issues I respect.

I will wholeheartedly support the nominee of the 46th.

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?

As part of the 99%, I support Occupy Seattle and Occupy Wall Street, because they have successfully refocused the national debate. The transfer of wealth to the top 1% over the past 30 years and the flattening of incomes of everyone else has denied the American Dream to two generations and made a mockery of Baby Boomer's retirements. Our state has one of the most regressive tax structure in the country, with the bottom 20% paying 17% of their income in taxes (including payroll and sales tax) and the top 20% paying only 3%. This is upside-down. I support raising the federal capital gains tax from 15% to 35%, or equal to the rate the taxpayer otherwise pays. Since our economy has shifted largely toward financial services (but these services are not taxed), I support a state financial transactions tax (such as a penny per share) instead of the unfair B&O tax. I support repealing the unearned corporate tax breaks that benefit wealthy corporations at the expense of taxpayers with no requirement for proving that the tax break is creating jobs or other public benefits. The Motor Vehicle Excise Tax should never have been repealed by the legislature and should be reinstated to fund roads, bridges and ferries. I oppose regressive taxes and support a state income tax for the top 2%. A progressive income tax is fair for those who can easily afford to pay more, and who have benefited the most from the Commons. They need to pay a proportionate share to sustain the quality of life for everyone. Our economy was healthiest when income taxes were much higher.

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

Low-income housing has capital and operations needs. Since the Reagan administration, HUD funding for housing has been cut 90%. The state has been forced to step in. Seed money for capital projects comes from the

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State Housing Trust Fund, which reached a high of \$200 million, was cut to \$100 million in the last biennium and to \$60 million in the current budget. We are told there will be no additional capital funds in the

supplemental budget. There are typically four times as many good, viable projects in the pipeline as there are funds, so this means we have greatly slowed our ability to provide permanent homes to meet the goals of the 10-year Plan. We are in year 6, and we need to recreate and reaffirm the political will to fulfill this goal. Since the construction industry is the hardest hit by the recession, with up to 40% unemployment, building more multi-family homes with Trust Fund and private monies (80% match) is an ideal way to create jobs where they are most needed, while adding to the inventory of low-income housing that is a form of community infrastructure.

In addition, we must pass HB 2048 or its successor, which applies a \$48 recording fee to fund low-income housing and family shelter operations, including case management and supplemental services such as drug and mental health treatment. Rents can never fully cover these services, and an operating subsidy is needed. The current fee runs out in 2013. I am a board member of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness, which works to increase the political will to end homelessness.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Health care for all is the only financially feasible answer. Medicaid costs 3% to administer, while private insurance runs 20% or more, including profit. Physician-owned hospitals and laboratories are moral hazards (causing physicians to over prescribe tests and surgeries, such as heart stints and C-sections); they should be prevented from receiving any government funds. The President should never have negotiated away bulk buying of pharmaceuticals as the VA system does. Washington State should immediately pass a bill for bulk-buying pharmaceuticals, as was proposed in 2003, because it would save the state at least \$100 million a year.

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?

As a Unitarian Universalist, I join with my church in advocating for civil rights for all GLBT persons. We have a national campaign called "Standing on the Side of Love." I have served on the Board of the Washington Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice for the past six years, and this is one of our priorities.

I support the achievements of the Legislature, having incorporated all the benefits of marriage into some 1,500 state laws and regulations. The Legislature should repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and pass Marriage for All. This session may be the right time to do it.

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

For a start, stop laying off government employees. No more cuts. Raise revenue instead. We are seeing poverty increase because of our 9% unemployment.

While we passed a curb on revolving payday loans in 2010, it is under attack by the industry. The industry depends on charging 391% annual interest and capturing people in a cycle of debt. We should pass an interest ceiling of 35%, as Congress did for the military.

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The Governor has made Early Learning a priority and a cabinet-level division of state government. We know that early learning benefits children born into poverty throughout their lives, leading to better test scores,

better graduation rates and better preparation for technical jobs. The biggest barrier to parents trying to get off TANF is childcare, so high-quality, low-cost childcare for working poor parents should be a priority.

Remember when tuition to Berkeley was \$99 a quarter? Government used to fund higher education as part of the American Dream. The House Democratic Caucus would like to provide the first two years of college or technical school free, to prepare workers for available higher-skill jobs. We have skilled manufacturing jobs going begging because of a lack of math skills.

Since a majority of bankruptcies are caused by medical emergencies, we need to continue the Basic Health program. Since lack of chronic disease management will cost the state much more later, we need to provide medical care to disabled persons such as those on the Disability Lifeline. Ending this program is unacceptable. There are no alternatives for people who are not eligible for Social Security Disability. Ending it will cause homelessness and deaths.

Mental illness and addiction are also causes of poverty, and we can prevent poverty by providing treatment and helping to restore their lives. Eighty percent of the prison population has an alcohol or drug problem, but the budget ends treatment programs in prisons. We can prevent recidivism. We need to better fund community mental health, so jail won't be our largest mental health institution. Funding shelters and low-income housing also acts as a first step on a ladder to sustainability for families, veterans and other individuals who need stability to re-establish their economic lives.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Sarajane Siegfriedt	Date
Signature		10/29/11