

**Completed forms are not confidential and will be published on-line for the Pierce County Democrat voting membership.**

**2024 Pierce County Democrats Endorsement Questionnaire  
-U.S. Congress-**

**Candidate name:** Hilary Franz

**Position sought:** U.S. House, WA-06

**Date submitted:** April 5, 2024

**Candidate qualities and conduct:** The Pierce County Democratic Central Committee endorses and supports qualified Democrats seeking elected office. When deciding whether to recommend endorsement, the Endorsements Committee may consider the candidate’s dedication to Democratic Party values and principles, the viability of the campaign, and the candidate’s qualifications for office, among other things. Endorsed candidates are discouraged from supporting non-Democratic candidates or from supporting any candidate who does not represent Democratic values. Endorsed candidates should distinguish themselves from any Democratic opponents in an objectively fair, informational, and non-confrontational fashion.

**By submitting this endorsement questionnaire, I publicly affirm:**

- I am a Democrat and will uphold Democratic Party values.
- I will abide by the above principles of conduct.

**You may respond N/A (not applicable) if appropriate. Expand or decrease space as needed.**

**Questions**

**1. Why are you running for this office?**

My roots run deep in the 6th CD. My grandparents came to Pierce County in 1938 where they were cattle ranchers and small business owners. My sister and I were raised by a single father, a public servant – and proud union member – who took great pride in serving his community. I remember my father struggling with finding childcare, so I spent much time after school in the city hall and fire hall where he worked. It was there I learned the value of service, dedication, purpose, and that progress comes from working together and putting people first.

I put myself through college, taking out student loans and working as a hotel worker, a caregiver for children and adults with disabilities, a rape crisis counselor, and a community mental health counselor. These experiences led me to dedicate my career to serving our communities – first as an

environmental attorney, then a Bainbridge Island City Councilmember, then a nonprofit leader (Futurewise), and now as Public Lands Commissioner for our state.

As Lands Commissioner and leader of our wildfire fighting force (first elected in 2016 and reelected in 2020), I have worked in every corner of the 6th Congressional District and the state, responding to climate-change fueled disasters from wildfires, drought, and floods to ocean acidification and sea level rise.

I have been a fierce defender of our lands and waters, standing up to corporate polluters who sought to pillage and extract from our public lands. I have spurred economic development and put in place policies and investments that have created good-paying jobs in traditional and new industries. And I have pushed the agency I lead, the Department of Natural Resources, into new, innovative areas to ensure our public lands are creating the mutual benefits our communities need, from clean energy investments to building affordable and workforce housing – all while generating hundreds of millions of dollars each year for public schools and critical local services like hospitals and libraries.

The challenges we face go past our state's borders, and so too must our solutions. As I've traveled across every part of this district and this state, I've seen the urgent challenges we face and heard the same fears. I meet hardworking people struggling to get by, with stagnant wages and higher costs for healthcare, housing and childcare. I hear their fears about the direction we're headed in, with threats to our democracy and attacks on reproductive freedom. And I see the impacts of a changing climate in every community.

That's why I'm running for Congress - to bring bold, transformative leadership that will address the threat of climate change, respond to our housing crisis, lower costs for working families, increase economic opportunity and good-paying jobs, and stand up for our democracy and reproductive rights.

We need to get Congress and this economy working again – *for all of us, not just the few*. We need bold progress, and we don't have time to waste.

The people who know my values and my record are supporting my campaign. I'm proud to have the endorsements of both Congressman Derek Kilmer and Congressman Norm Dicks.

I'm proud to be endorsed by the National Organization of Women, Democrats Serve, Washington Fire Chiefs, and 25 labor unions, a list which is growing everyday. *That's more than 20 times as many union endorsements as my opponents combined* – from the firefighters that protect our communities (including Tacoma Firefighters IAFF Local 31, East Pierce County Firefighters Local 3520, and West Pierce County Firefighters Local 1488) to the trades building our clean energy future, including the Pierce County Building & Construction Trades Council.

I'm honored to have 13 Tribes supporting my campaign – *13 times as many as my opponents combined*. Tribal Nations that have endorsed my campaign include the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe,

the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and many more.

And I've earned the endorsements of community leaders across the district, including Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards and the mayors of Bremerton, Poulsbo, and Aberdeen.

In Pierce County, I also have been endorsed by County Councilmember Ryan Mello, County Councilmember Marty Campbell, former County Executive John Ladenburg, Rep. Jake Fey, and many more.

**2. How has your professional/personal experience prepared you to hold this position?**

I believe that our lived experience shapes our perspective and our priorities. I'm the mother of three boys – boys I raised on a small farm in Kitsap County. I'm an environmental attorney, who was in the courtroom defending our salmon and Puget Sound. I'm a former city councilmember, and now your Commissioner of Public Lands.

Throughout my career, I've always fought for the vulnerable. To give voice to the voiceless, and to lift up those who need it most. This isn't by accident.

When I was three years old, I was taken from my bed with my sister – kidnapped by a close relative. We were taken from our father and moved across the country. We were constantly on the move, and terrified. Each day, we didn't know if we'd eat and didn't know if we had a bed. After three months, my father rescued us and took us home. But I'll never forget the feeling – what it's like to be vulnerable, to lose security and safety.

I learned about hard work from my father. He was a do-or-die union guy who took great pride in serving his community. After school, I would visit him at the fire station. It was there I learned about dedication and purpose. Those brave firefighters taught me that progress comes from working together and putting people first.

When I was in college, I boarded a bus to Washington DC, where we marched for abortion rights and reproductive freedom. Tens of thousands of us, from across the country, fighting for the rights of millions. We saw the world for what it was, but also what it could be. And we strove to make the world a better place, not just for us, but for all the women and families that would follow us. We knew nothing would be given to us. We knew we had to fight.

Those are some of the moments that shaped who I am. And I've never forgotten those lessons: We can't be complacent. Take care of the vulnerable. Work hard. And fight to create a better world.

**3. What is the most important policy issue that inspired you to run for this office?**

Climate change is a crisis that requires local, state, and – critically – federal action. I am running to build on the successes we have had in Washington state and force action – at a faster pace and scale – at the federal level.

As Commissioner of Public Lands, I have taken on the climate crisis with full force. I developed the state's first Plan for Climate Resilience, which centers environmental justice, and have led efforts to reduce our state's carbon emissions. For example, I authorized the first-ever solar power developments on public lands and expanded wind power generation, part of my commitment to reach 1,000MW of clean energy on public lands by 2025.

I have also implemented carbon sequestration strategies to reduce pollution impacts. Wildfires, for example, are often the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. As leader of our state's wildfire fighting force, I prioritized initial attack – getting on fires quickly – and secured \$500 million from the legislature to rapidly expand and modernize our force. As a result, last year, 95% of fires were kept below 10 acres (even as we had a record number of wildfire starts, including the most ever west of the Cascades). For this work, I was truly honored to be recognized as an Honorary Fire Fighter by the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters.

This partnership and leadership is why I have earned the endorsements of firefighter unions across the district, including Tacoma Firefighters, East Pierce County Firefighters, and West Pierce County Firefighters.

I have also led when it comes to protecting our forests. I brought together stakeholders to develop the state's first Forest Health Strategic Plan, a bold strategy to restore the health of forests in order to save them from wildfire, disease, and infestation. To date, thanks to our ambitious strategies and record investments I secured at both the state and federal level, 600,000 acres of forestlands have been restored to health – an unprecedented achievement.

And I have been a national leader in the fight to conserve high-ecological value forestland, conserving tens of thousands of acres of forestland and wildlife habitat, including launching a first-in-the-nation Carbon Project to keep the Evergreen State evergreen (an initiative we are proudly defending in court against corporate interests).

I have also fought to defend and restore our waters. When Donald Trump tried to open Washington's coast to offshore oil drilling, I refused to allow any pipelines or drilling equipment to cross our public coastline. Last year, I banned aquatic net pens from our waters. Today, despite years of corporate lawsuits, there are no more commercial net pens in Washington's waters, making Washington a global leader in the fight to restore our waters to wild fish and protect aquatic habitat.

We have also restored 5,000 miles of salmon habitat by removing fish passage barriers; created the state's first Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone and conserved 10,000 acres of our submerged forests; secured tens of millions of dollars to remove derelict boats (resulting in more than 900 abandoned vessels being removed from our waters) and derelict structures, like creosote-treated pilings at

Dickman Mill; and created the largest aquatic conservation easement in the world – a 2,400 acre zone on Hood Canal.

Through all this work, I have helped make Washington state a national leader on climate action. I now want to bring that same leadership to Congress to make our nation a worldwide leader on climate action. Our climate crisis is larger than any one state, and so too must be our solutions to it.

This undaunted, progressive, results-based leadership is what I will bring to Congress. To solve our climate crisis will take urgency, focus, commitment, and experience. I have proven that I am up for the challenge.

#### **4. How have you demonstrated Democratic Party values?**

I'm a lifelong Democrat and have been a public servant since 2008. I have served as a PCO in the 23rd LD, a local government official, and a statewide elected. My entire career has been focused on working to create a more just and fair society and advancing our shared values.

Both as a candidate and an elected official, I have championed Democratic Party values. This includes helping other Democrats up and down the ballot get elected. In 2017, I launched my Win With Women initiative to support Democratic women candidates by providing mentoring and financial support, including hosting fundraisers for three dozen Democratic women running for office in our state up and down the ballot.

#### **5. How can elected officials in the office you are running for best ensure that all workers are treated equitably at work and in contract negotiations?**

When we create jobs, they must be jobs that protect and empower workers. And I will always defend the fundamental rights to organize and collectively bargain. Defending and supporting organized labor is essential to creating an economy that benefits all, not just those at the top.

I made it my mission to be the most pro-labor Commissioner of Public Lands – and I delivered. In word and in deed. Under my leadership, and for the first time in the history of the Department of Natural Resources, construction projects on public lands now require project labor agreements (PLAs) to ensure strong safety standards and lift up communities. And projects must utilize apprenticeship programs to help people learn trades and access good-paying careers.

We also utilized labor peace clauses, such as at the Edgewater Hotel (represented by Unite Here Local 8), to ensure that workers were given the opportunity to negotiate strong collective bargaining agreements. And I have shown up and utilized the bully pulpit. Just a few months ago, for example, I [walked the picket line](#) with striking teachers and wrote a letter to the Evergreen School Board supporting the teachers.

This record is why my campaign is overwhelmingly supported by labor unions, including the Washington Machinists Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, Teamsters, Laborers, Operating Engineers, Painters, Washington Building Trades, the Longshore & Warehouse Union, Iron Workers, Steelworkers, and many more.

In Congress, I will always stand with unions and workers. Including fighting to boost funding for OSHA and the NLRB to hold violators accountable; bring our fair share of infrastructure dollars home; increase good-paying job opportunities; and, importantly, pass the PRO Act and Paycheck Fairness Act so that we finally level the playing field for all workers.

**6. In what way are your policy stances more important than your personal connections with community members?**

There are certain core beliefs that we hold as Democrats that are absolutely unshakeable: that abortion should be legal and accessible to all; that everyone, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability status should be treated equally and with dignity and respect; that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid should never be cut or privatized; that common-sense gun laws such as closing the Charleston and boyfriend loopholes need to be enacted federally; and that the right to organize and collectively bargain is fundamental.

I have always made clear that this is where I stand. I am open to listening and working with people of different perspectives, but will fiercely defend these keystone rights and values, no matter what – because that’s what WA-06 constituents expect me to do.

**7. What will you do as an elected official to ensure that marginalized groups feel empowered and have a voice in local politics?**

In my role as Commissioner of Public Lands, I have pursued several initiatives to ensure that marginalized communities are not just heard, *but are part of decision-making*. As detailed in my response to Question #8 (below), I have significantly expanded the Department of Natural Resources’ Tribal Affairs Department and instituted the first Government-to-Government Consultation Policy with tribes, ensuring that our tribal communities are always at the table.

Additionally, I launched the agency’s first DEI Council, hired the agency’s first Director of Equity and Environmental Justice, implemented the first agency-wide DEI trainings, diversified a senior leadership team that, when I was elected, reflected the historically white and male natural resources workforce, installed gender-neutral bathrooms at our workplaces, and designated our headquarters as an official “Safe Place,” in conjunction with the Washington State Patrol. This designation means that any victim of a hate crime or harassment can come to our office and our staff are trained to aid that victim. I have consistently used my public position to speak out in support of LGBTQ+ rights, and will always do so.

But we have also implemented policies to ensure that marginalized communities are *involved* in the process of developing policies that will impact them.

As Commissioner, I have changed the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) mission to one focused on sustaining and protecting Washington's natural resources by putting equity and environmental justice at the forefront. I am proud that I led the development and adoption of the HEAL Act, requiring Environmental Justice assessments on all significant agency actions. I also reworked DNR's boards and commissions appointment process to ensure appointments reflect the communities we serve.

Further, I have always worked to make myself accessible to constituents, holding town hall meetings in person and online, attending county and legislative district Democrats meetings, attending community and neighborhood meetings and events, and even putting my personal cell phone number and email in the voters' pamphlet.

As your congressman, I will hold town halls – virtual and in-person – to ensure that people can bring their concerns directly to me. I will have multiple offices throughout the district, and my staff and I will hold mobile office hours in rural areas to make sure that everyone can reach us. I'll also host in-person and virtual meetings on specialized topics, like Social Security assistance, scam and fraud prevention, and how to apply to military academies. And I will ensure we are reaching everyone by regularly sharing updates via social media, newsletters, and the mail.

You'll also see me regularly at local Democratic Party meetings, labor events, and other community gatherings.

I will also always make sure we are reaching marginalized communities through direct outreach to community groups and Tribes, showing up to community and cultural events, providing translation and ASL/CART during town halls, and ensuring that our communications are reaching, and accessible to, everyone.

#### **8. Share an example of what you have done to make sure all voices are at the table.**

I strive to always make sure that all voices are at the table. By showing up, we can help bring people with us, even when they may initially be skeptical of, or even hostile to, a new idea or proposal. Take climate action, for example.

Too often, climate issues are used to divide us, even though we are all experiencing and suffering from the impacts of a rapidly changing climate. As Commissioner, I have demonstrated an ability to coalesce disparate coalitions around shared values and common benefits to achieve significant progress – and an ability to find innovative solutions.

For instance, I set a bold goal to produce 1,000MW of clean energy on public lands, as clean energy expansion is critical to meeting our state's climate goals. However, some stakeholders, such as Tribes and building trades, have been reluctant to support such expansion.

To address Tribal concerns about where developments are cited, my agency worked with Tribes to map all state lands suitable for clean energy projects. We identified sites that would be problematic for Tribes (due to cultural resources concerns) and instead highlighted and prioritized lands that would not engender such conflict. As a result, renewable energy companies have a clear map of public lands that are ideal for clean power development and which will not face Tribal opposition.

For the building trades, there was concern about the types of jobs that these projects are creating (i.e., jobs that are not good-paying and do not have adequate safety standards and benefits). To address this, I issued a Commissioner's Order requiring clean energy projects to use a Project Labor Agreement.

Through these two steps, we addressed potential divisions that bold climate action could have created. By bringing people together and being willing to try new approaches and think creatively, we set up DNR's clean energy program for success as it rapidly scales and created win-wins for our environment, Tribes, and workers. As a result, we built the state's largest solar power development on state lands.

I also want to note that throughout my career I have been a fierce ally of tribal nations and defender of tribal treaty rights. I have always sought to work together and collaborate, based on mutual respect and respect for Tribal rights.

This is not just rhetoric; I have lived these values. I have worked hand-in-hand with tribes to protect our lands and waters and ensure natural resources provide benefits now and for future generations.

As Commissioner, I have emphasized and instilled the need for consultation and partnership with Tribes. Under my leadership, we instituted DNR's first Government-to-Government Consultation Policy, quadrupled the agency's Tribal Affairs department to ensure that Tribes have avenues to raise concerns and are informed and consulted early and often, and have moved forward with, for the first time, co-management of our lands with Tribes.

That is why my campaign is supported by 13 Tribal Nations, a list which is growing by the day.

In Congress, I – and my staff – will always consult with Tribes early and often and do so in an authentic manner. Tribal input will directly impact how I shape legislation and investments. I will never meet with Tribes simply to inform them that a decision has already been made or a policy is already finalized. I will respect Tribal leadership, in recognition that they have been managing and stewarding our lands and waters since time immemorial.

**9. What are the most important issues for the constituency you would represent if elected?**

I have worked in every community in the 6th CD on the most pressing issues, including natural disasters, housing, workforce development and apprenticeships, education, public safety, and job creation. In addition to climate change (discussed above), the most important issues to this office's constituency include:

**Housing:** Every corner of the 6th CD is facing a housing crisis. Too many of our friends and neighbors are struggling to pay the rent or mortgage, experience housing insecurity, or are homeless. This must be a top priority for all local, state, and federal leaders. This issue is deeply personal to me. I experienced housing instability in my own life. At times growing up, I had to sleep on couches as my family moved from place to place. I know the impacts this has on a person's mental, physical, and emotional health – especially a child's.

That's why I have been working with local government organizations and nonprofits, including Tacoma Housing Authority, to begin building affordable housing on state-managed public lands. In Congress, I will have even more ability to address our housing shortage and ensure everyone has a roof over their head and a place to call home. I will make increasing housing security, reducing homelessness, and housing-for-all a top priority – and we will deploy every tool at our disposal.

**Economic Opportunity:** Across the 6th CD, too many are struggling with the high cost of housing, childcare, healthcare and basic needs along with underemployment, stagnant wages, and job insecurity. I have worked throughout the district to protect thousands of jobs in wood products, maritime, and food production while also creating thousands of jobs in new clean technologies, sustainable wood products, education, natural resource conservation, and transportation. I have also developed and launched workforce development and apprenticeship programs to create the workforce we need today and in the future. In Congress, I will continue this innovative work to grow good-paying jobs and strengthen our rural and urban economies, always standing by our unions; supporting veterans and military families; building more housing, including affordable and workforce housing; providing accessible, affordable childcare; growing workforce development and apprenticeship programs; and increasing job opportunities and fighting to lower costs for working families. By putting more money in the pockets of workers and families, we also create more customers for local businesses, more spending in our communities, and we grow our economy from the middle-out.

**Abortion and Reproductive Freedom:** Nothing is more important than an individual's health and the right to control your own body. In the year and a half since the Supreme Court rolled back our rights, we've seen attacks on reproductive freedom in states all over the country, including in neighboring Idaho, where women are forced to come across the border for safe healthcare. As a woman who marched in DC to protect women's reproductive freedom and was fortunate to have affordable, accessible healthcare when I needed an emergency D&C in my early twenties, I will fight every day to restore federal protection for abortion rights and the full spectrum of reproductive care for women and families. Congress needs to restore reproductive freedom and ensure every woman, no matter what state she lives in, has the right to a safe, affordable abortion and reproductive healthcare. We also must protect access to reproductive healthcare from the impacts of hospital mergers, especially in rural communities. The 6th CD faces significant challenges in having too few healthcare options

available to our rural communities, and I will make it a top priority to ensure accessible, affordable healthcare for all.

**Transportation:** The 6th CD is facing significant transportation challenges, from a struggling ferry system to the need to invest in safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. As someone who spent almost two decades relying on our ferry system to get to and from work, I have worked to secure billions in funding for our ferries. I have also worked to secure significant state and federal investment in our roads, highways, public transit, and bridges. I will continue Rep. Kilmer's leadership and work to secure investments in our ferries and critical pedestrian, road, transit and bridge infrastructure. These investments support our economy -- both through ensuring people can commute to work and school in other communities, but also supporting transportation workers and trade workers in industries (like electric charging stations) boosted by federal spending.

**Military and Veterans Affairs:** Supporting our military families and veterans is a top priority for this district. I will continue to support our military, their families, and our military investments. I understand the importance of the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP) mission not only for our security, but also for the economic importance of supporting our military and civilian workers and mitigating geological risks. We must continue our focus and commitment to completing this project to execute the Navy's once-in-a-century investment to reconfigure, modernize and optimize our four aging naval shipyards into new modern facilities that will serve our Nation into the future.

I am also committed to making sure we support our military families and fulfill our promise to care for our veterans long after they return home from duty. I will always fight for increased benefits, housing assistance, veterans health care services and support, and I will continue on work I have done to help increase education opportunities, expand employment, and address mental and physical trauma service members may experience.

**10. What are some of the environmental impacts of your office and what steps will you take to ensure these impacts are sustainable?**

Members of Congress - even freshmen in the minority (although hopefully soon the majority!) - have many levers to pull to address the climate crisis and protect our air and water. As someone who would be one of a small handful of climate experts in Congress, I am prepared to lead on this issue on Day One.

First, I will always fight to bring our fair share of infrastructure dollars home so that we can fix our roads, bridges, and ferries; build electric chargers, clean our water and Superfund sites; and improve public transit, among other priorities. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a key tool to fund sustainable projects, and I will make sure our district benefits.

During the budget process, members of Congress can also request Community Project Funding (formerly known as earmarks) for specific projects in their district. I will apply an environmental lens

when choosing which projects to recommend, to ensure that all of my requests are sustainable or do not have any negative environmental impact.

Additionally, I will work with companies pursuing green energy projects and encourage them to locate right here in our district, by providing them with needed information about why our communities are the perfect fit and what federal incentives are available.

I will also work with our federal agencies to ensure that the Inflation Reduction Act's green energy policies are being fully implemented, and conduct oversight of key environmental agencies like FERC and the EPA to ensure that we are rapidly scaling up renewables and pursuing environmental justice. And should Trump be elected, I will stand against all efforts to hamstring the EPA, revoke President Biden's environmental rules, and otherwise pollute our air and water.

Finally, I will pursue climate action and environmental justice through legislation. Some specific areas I am interested in pursuing include speeding the approval process for clean energy projects, passing the Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to protect our forests and rivers, and passing legislation to improve tribal and rural access to clean water infrastructure.

**11. What is your definition of social justice and how can your position ensure social justice for your constituency?**

My definition of social justice is ensuring that everyone - regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or immigration status - is afforded the opportunities to succeed, and that we work every day to alleviate the disparities that plague our society, which have been born out of centuries of racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and all other bigotries.

In Congress, I will pursue social justice by striving to make sure that the government is working for all of us, not just the wealthy or well-connected.

I will work every day to secure federal protections for abortion rights; expand access to health care (including LGBTQ health care); lower the cost of prescription drugs and groceries; pass the PRO Act to secure the right to organize; pass the Equality Act, the DREAM Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act to bring us closer to full equality; bring home funding to clean our water; work hand-in-hand with our tribes to fully fund their priorities; provide our veterans with the benefits they deserve and finally put an end to veteran homelessness; make the child tax credit permanent; and protect marginalized communities and places of worship from hate crimes.

I will also apply a social justice lens when evaluating Community Project Funding applications and work to ensure that my funding requests lift up overburdened communities and those that have been left behind.

**12. What do you feel is the greatest budget challenge faced by the office you are seeking?**

Our country is facing numerous budgetary and societal challenges. In the long-term, we need to address our deficit which was massively increased by Trump's tax scam, and looming shortfalls with the Social Security Trust Fund in the next decade. In the more immediate term, we need to provide increased funding to address the high costs of health care and child care.

To address these issues, here's what I will do. First, I will oppose the renewal of the Trump corporate tax cuts - many provisions in the bill expire at the end of 2025. Instead of giving away billions of dollars to Big Pharma and Big Oil, I will seek to end tax breaks for fossil fuel companies. I will defend the Inflation Reduction Act, which is not only the largest-ever climate bill passed by any country, but also provided funding for the IRS to go after wealthy tax cheats and has already brought in \$500 million from increased enforcement.

I will always strive to ensure the ultra-wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share, instead of stiffing the middle- and working-class. Doing so is not just a moral imperative to fund key programs - it is immensely popular among the American people.

Our challenges with Social Security are easily solvable. I will co-sponsor the Social Security 2100 Act, backed by almost every House Democrat, which will shore up the trust for generations to come and raise the needed revenue by requiring those earning more than \$400,000 a year to contribute more into the system. Passage of this bill should be a top priority in the next Democratic-controlled Congress. I will stand strong against any efforts to cut Social Security, raise the retirement age, or otherwise decrease the promise that we owe to all Americans.

### **13. Why should the Pierce County Democrats support you for this position?**

I am a proud Democrat and I will fight every day in Washington D.C. to advance our shared values.

I've worked in every corner of the 6th Congressional District and seen the challenges Washington families face – struggling to keep up with stagnant wages, higher costs for housing, childcare, and healthcare, a housing, mental health and addiction crisis in our urban and rural towns, and an economy that's leaving them behind.

To address these challenges, we need a leader who is ready for this moment. Voters want a congressman with a robust and ambitious vision for the future who isn't afraid to roll up their sleeves, set big goals, solve long-standing problems, and work hard to accomplish that vision. And voters want a leader who on day one has the experience to lead on these most pressing issues.

I have shown my ability to bring people together and build strong coalitions to secure major investments and policies that strengthen our communities and protect our lands and waters, including building the largest clean energy projects and passing House Bill 1168, which secured the largest ever investment of \$500M in wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience.

Voters want their next congressman to have significant professional experience while also having relevant lived experience. Our lived experience shapes our perspectives – our ability to walk in

another's shoes and show empathy, and our priorities – what we are passionate about and will never give up fighting for. I've been through many of the experiences and faced many of the challenges families face today. I know what it's like to not know where you will sleep, moving from one friend's home to another. To work two jobs to pay for college. I know how hard it is to find affordable child care while, at the same time, caring for a father with dementia. And I intimately know how important reproductive freedom is.

I am committed to working tirelessly to ensure no one is left behind – from restoring abortion rights nationwide, to ensuring every person has a roof over their head and wages that keep up with the cost of living, to providing our children, workers and veterans the educational and training opportunities they need to succeed.

I would be honored to have the Pierce County Democrats' support because our communities need a champion ready to fight for all of us on Day One, and who knows how to create jobs and bring home crucial funding. I have done so as your Lands Commissioner and will bring my record of success to Congress.

**14. Finally, any additional comments you would like to share with the Committee:**

We launched our campaign in Q4 and raised over \$400,000 in just seven weeks, the highest-ever Q4 raise for a candidate in this district. In Q1, we set another fundraising record, raising \$415k. At the end of Q1, we had more cash on hand than my closest opponent had raised during the duration of her entire campaign. I have received ten times more labor and Tribal endorsements than every candidate combined, and more in-district endorsements than all other candidates.

I have earned these endorsements because they know that I will always stand for workers and honor our treaty obligations.

This is just a D+6 district, and with two Republicans on the ballot and the state GOP chairman making noise about investing in this race – along with Republican initiatives that will motivate Republican voters – we cannot afford to take anything for granted. As the only candidate in this race to have appeared on every voter's ballot twice and won (as a statewide elected), and the only one who has raised sufficient funds to compete in the Seattle media market, I have what it takes to win decisively. I would be honored to have you join me in this effort.