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

Candidate name: Emily Randall

Position sought: U.S. Congress, WA-06

Date submitted: **Thursday, March 21**

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?

Washington's 6th District deserves to continue to have representation in Congress who will fight as hard for them as they fight for their families. In my time in the State Senate, I have proven that I am a fierce advocate for my district, and I look forward to continuing to do that as a member of Congress.

I also look forward to making sure that policymaking in Washington DC centers those who will be most impacted - women, communities of color, LGBTQ folks, immigrants, the disability community. I am dedicated to fighting that trend by ensuring hard-working folks have a say in legislation that impacts them.

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

I am currently the State Senator for the 26th Legislative District, and have been since being elected in 2018, and re-elected in 2022. I've been elected by my colleagues to serve in multiple leadership positions, and am currently the Deputy Majority Leader.

My experience in the state legislature has prepared me well for the policymaking, coalition building, and constituent service duties of congressional work.

In the state senate, I have led passage of landmark legislation to help my community—from protecting abortion access, to expanding Medicaid, to improving apprenticeship programs for high school graduates.

I am also fueled by my family's experiences. When my sister Olivia, born with complex disabilities, received access to newly expanded Medicaid, I became a fierce advocate for quality, affordable healthcare. And as the first in my family to attend a four-year college, I know the importance of education that aligns with the community's needs and leads to family-wage jobs.

3. What is the most important policy issue that inspired you to run for this office?
Reproductive healthcare and abortion. From passing Reproductive Health Access for All in 2019, to working to ensure student health plans covered abortion care, to ending cost sharing, to preserving access to mifepristone, I have been a leader on reproductive health policy in Washington – and have worked in coalition with reproductive justice partners. I will continue that work – as a coalition builder and a policy maker – in DC. That is why I am the only candidate in this race sole endorsed by Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

In Washington state, I have been one of the top abortion rights and reproductive rights advocates. I have sponsored legislation to block religious hospital mergers that lead to reduced reproductive healthcare and gender affirming care access; extend postpartum healthcare coverage support birthing parents for a full year after giving birth; expand the types of healthcare professionals who can perform abortions require all health plans to cover reproductive healthcare and contraception; and many other pieces of legislation expanding access to healthcare generally and reproductive freedom specifically.

I work closely with reproductive care providers and advocates to find more ways to expand and protect access to this essential aspect of basic healthcare – including regulating health systems by passing the Keep Our Care Act in 2024! I am proud to have a 100% lifetime pro-choice voting record.

I know there is more we can do at the federal level. In Congress, 6th District voters can be sure that I will fight as hard for abortion rights as I do in Washington State.

4. How have you demonstrated Democratic Party values?
During my six years in the legislature, I have championed working families, organized labor, quality education, access to healthcare, access to abortion, and other critical Democratic issues. In all of my work, I ensure the people most impacted by policy have a seat at the table when I'm deciding what to sponsor or support.

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?

As a working person and elected official, I have always stood for the rights of working people. This means being vocal about workers' rights to organize, collectively bargain, and strike if necessary. In contract negotiations, I believe it is best for elected officials to not get involved unless asked to by both sides to help management and the union come to a favorable conclusion to a negotiation.

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

I believe a good, responsive elected official can hold true to policy stances as well as have deep personal connections with community members. While I haven't, and likely won't, always see eye-to-eye with everyone I represent, I pride myself in taking the time to talk to folks, meet them where they're at, and try to find common ground; if we aren't able to do that, I believe in respecting folks enough to have a real, honest conversation with them about where I stand on an issue and why. I do that as a State Senator and I will do the same in Congress.

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

Diverse lived experience in policy conversations leads to better outcomes. I am proud to be a leader in the legislature on racial equity in health, education, civic engagement, and employment. I am proud to have always fiercely advocated not only for my community, but all communities of color and anyone who is in a traditionally marginalized community.

I apply an intersectional lens to all of my policy work, asking: Who is impacted by the policy? How have those impacted been engaged? Does this work remediate or perpetuate disproportional impacts? Asking these questions over and over again has helped our caucus and our state. As Deputy Majority Leader for the Senate Democratic Caucus, I have worked to train and educate my colleagues on how to bring an equity analysis into their policymaking as well. These questions have led to expanding a Medicaid lookalike program to undocumented Washingtonians, expanding wraparound services and supports to first generation and minoritized college students, and rethinking the way we fund transportation projects.

I would bring this same approach to Congress and I look forward to continuing to deliver real results for the most marginalized in my community..

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

My campaigns and legislative office have always brought together a diverse group of people and I am committed to ensuring that we have people reflective of every

background in the 6th CD in positions of leadership on my campaign. I am staffing up my campaign right now and we are actively seeking out people with nontraditional political experience who are able to connect with the communities that make up our district. In the State Senate, I am proud to be a leader on racial equity in health, education, civic engagement, and employment issues. In Congress, I will work hard to uplift people and keep the voices of the people most directly impacted by policies at the center of conversations about them. I am committed to keeping an open door to racial justice and community groups and working in DC will not change that, I plan to keep having in-district and virtual townhall and community events and welcome hearing how I can better advocate for our district.

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

My top priorities for my district are protecting reproductive freedom, cutting costs for families, and protecting democracy.

PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

As a State Senator, I have been one of the top abortion rights and reproductive rights advocates. I have sponsored legislation to block religious hospital mergers that lead to reduced reproductive healthcare and gender affirming care access; extend postpartum healthcare coverage support birthing parents for a full year after giving birth; expand the types of healthcare professionals who can perform abortions require all health plans to cover reproductive healthcare and contraception; and many other pieces of legislation expanding access to healthcare generally and reproductive freedom specifically.

I work closely with reproductive care providers and advocates to find more ways to expand and protect access to this essential aspect of basic healthcare – including regulating CPCs/fake clinics in 2024. I am proud to have a 100% lifetime pro-choice voting record.

I will bring this same energy and determination to Congress. I won't rest until we codify Roe v. Wade and protect the right to abortion care for every person who wants it.

CUTTING COSTS FOR FAMILIES

In Congress, I will work across the aisle to make sure that working class families like mine are able to earn a decent living where we can put food on the table, pay our bills, and breathe a little easier toward the end of the month.

I believe in an economy that works from the middle class out—not trickle down—putting working families at the center of economic policies. I believe in equal pay for equal work, a tax structure that requires big business to pay its fair share, and in creating good jobs by investing in small and mid-sized businesses. I believe in removing the barriers to economic freedom and opportunity for our most marginalized communities such as communities of color, LGBTQ folks, and the disability community.

I am especially focused on cutting costs for healthcare. No family should go bankrupt or lose their home because of a medical emergency or an unexpected diagnosis. No parent should have to choose between food for their kids and treatment for their cancer. I will fight to ensure every one has access to the comprehensive, high-quality care we need.

We can build a better future for all of us by strengthening the middle class, by giving folks the opportunity to earn a good wage and benefits, keep their lights on and food on their table, and have money in their pockets.

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

We are at a critical moment for our democracy, and protecting the right to vote for Americans is crucial. This starts with ensuring that all eligible voters have access to the ballot box. I will continue to fight to remove barriers to voting and ensure every citizen's voice is heard.

Washington's 6th District deserves a champion who will work as hard for them, as they work for their families. For too long, too many in Congress have placed partisan politics and corporate special interests above The People and that needs to end.

As a member of Congress, I will be dedicated to lifting up the voices of Americans—not special interests. I am a part of the community I am running to represent—I see my constituents at the grocery store, and one thing that I consistently hear is that they appreciate the stand I've taken against taking corporate PAC money since I started running for office. They know where I stand, and it's with them, not corporate special interests.

In Congress, I will continue to fight hard to safeguard and defend the right to vote for all eligible voters, and to ensure that those who are most impacted by legislation have a say in that legislation.

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

With the makeup of the Supreme Court how it is – where several conservative justices are striking down case law previously considered settled law, it is imperative that Congress has Democrats who have experience crafting and passing substantive policy that can act as a strong check and balance to the Court—particularly when overtly political outside forces are trying to unjustly influence the outcome of cases. Living in the 6th for practically my entire life, I have seen how precious our natural environment is, but also how easily it can be damaged when there aren't good guardrails in place to protect it. With the Court being poised to rule this term on a case that could limit the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate air pollution in *Ohio v. EPA*, we

absolutely must elect Democrats to Congress who don't need to learn on the job in order to craft and pass policy protecting the environment.

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

To me, social justice means a movement to ensure that everyone in our society can thrive. In Washington's Sixth District, we have exciting opportunities to address a wide range of inequities: racial wealth gaps, rural healthcare access and costs, maternal mortality rates, and unequal impacts of climate change. I am running for Congress because I believe that there is more we can do to make sure that every person in our state can make a good life for themselves and their family.

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

The greatest budget challenge facing the House of Representatives is simply crafting and passing a budget that can satisfy the Hastert Rule (a majority of the majority party must support for a bill to move to a vote of the full House), pass the House, pass the Senate, and be signed by the President. While Schoolhouse Rock made this all seem pretty simple, we've seen national Republicans send our country careening from manufactured budget crisis to manufactured budget crisis far too many times since 2013. In Congress, I will do what I've done in the State Senate: bring impacted parties to the table, listen and learn, and then work in good faith with my party and across the aisle to ensure we start passing budgets and the world of continuing resolutions and debt ceiling crises becomes a thing of the past.

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

I was born in this district, I grew up in this district, and my wife and I live in this district. I represent the district and have experience legislating in the State Senate, and critically, I have won hotly contested campaigns in this district. In addition to my deep ties to the 6th District, as a legislator I am a leader finding common-sense, bipartisan solutions that increase access to healthcare, champion apprenticeship and job training programs, and I am the only candidate in the race who has proposed and passed groundbreaking infrastructure investments. Like many in the 6th District, I am the proud product of a union household and currently live in a union household—my mom and dad were union members and my wife is an apprentice union carpenter.

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