

## 2017 Candidate Questionnaire – Local Races

**Candidate Name:**

**Jurisdiction/Position:**

Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund supports candidates who champion public policy that prevents and ends homelessness and moves us toward a time when everyone in Washington has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home.

We will use responses to this questionnaire to determine endorsements, as well as potential contributions and volunteer turnout. Answers may be shared with members and other affiliated parties and may also be used to educate voters.

*To request an endorsement, please complete and return this questionnaire in Word or PDF format to Teresa Clark at [teresac@housingactionfund.org](mailto:teresac@housingactionfund.org) by **Friday, August 18**. The Housing Alliance Action Fund will consider all endorsement requests, but there is no guarantee we will endorse in a given race.*

Please take a moment to tell us a little more about your campaign:

### **Campaign Contact Information**

Committee Name:

Campaign Phone:

Campaign Website:

### **Estimated Campaign Budget**

Primary:

General:

Raised to Date:

### **Key Endorsements to date:**

### **Voter Contact**

What efforts are you making to reach out to communities of color, renters, and low-income constituents?

### **Summary Statement**

If we endorse your candidacy, we would like to provide a summary statement to our members in your district. Please provide a statement by answering the question below.

**If elected, what will you do ensure that everyone in your community has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home? (Please limit your response to 150 words or less.)**

## Local Strategies

**1. What do you believe is local government's role in ensuring everyone has access to a safe, healthy, affordable home?**

2. If passed this legislative session, ESHB 1570 will give counties the option to increase the document recording fees on real estate-related documents to fund homelessness services. These fees are the largest source of funding for services that prevent and end homelessness in every county in Washington State. **If elected, will you support increasing the document recording fee to raise additional revenue for homelessness services in your community?**

Yes  No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

3. The state legislature passed HB 2263 in 2015 to create a local sales tax option to raise revenue for mental health and housing. This legislation allows counties and cities to enact a local 0.001% sales tax to raise revenue for mental health and housing services, and capital. **If elected, would you support using the local 0.001% sales tax option to raise additional revenue for homelessness services in your community?**

Yes  No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

4. A growing number of cities and counties in Washington are passing local housing levies to respond to the need for more affordable homes and services. **If elected, will you support passing or renewing a housing levy in your community?**

Yes  No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

**5. If elected, what other specific, local solutions will you support to expand access to affordable homes and homelessness services, and how will you take leadership on these issues?**

## Tenant Protections

Discrimination against tenants who use rental assistance (e.g.; state or federally funded rental vouchers) or income support (e.g.; SSI benefits) to pay their rent is often a proxy for illegal discrimination against low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and people of color. This is commonly referred to as “Source of Income Discrimination” (SOID). Additionally, it makes it very hard for low-income people to find housing, causing some to lose their long-awaited housing assistance if they are unable to secure a rental within federal time limits. Several jurisdictions in Washington and a number of other states prohibit discrimination based on source of income.

**6. Do you believe that your local community should prevent landlords from discriminating against people who use assistance to help pay rent?**

Yes       No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

**7. Are there other tenant protections you will work to create and/or protect?**

## Preventing the Criminalization of Homelessness

Some cities have responded to the growing homelessness crisis by criminalizing behaviors like sitting, lying, or sleeping in public spaces. Criminalization ordinances have a negative impact on physical and mental health, increase the likelihood that someone will remain trapped in the cycle of homelessness, and do nothing to address the real problems. These policies also have a disproportionate impact on people of color, people with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, LGBTQ people, and veterans.

**8. If elected, (a) will you work to repeal and/or mitigate the impacts of ordinances that criminalize homelessness in your community, and (b) will you oppose attempts to introduce such ordinances in your community?**

Yes       No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

## State and Federal Policies and Resources

There are a variety of ways that local lawmakers can have significant impacts on the priorities of state and federal lawmakers, for example educating and pushing lawmakers to be leaders on these issues, testifying on bills in Olympia, ensuring affordable housing and homelessness issues are prominent in city and county legislative agendas, and playing an active role in city and/or county associations to ensure these issues are high on their state and/or federal agendas.

**9. If elected, how will you use your role as a local elected official to push for solutions at the state and federal level?**

## Voting Rights

Voter turnout, civic participation, and electoral representation show a clear trend in Washington. Those who are older and white have higher voter registration rates, turnout more often, and are more demographically represented in elected office. This perpetuates a cycle in which people of color, young people, low-income individuals, and many other Washingtonians are not represented in our elections and government at an equitable rate.

**10. If elected, what will you do to address this gap in civic access, participation, and representation in your community?**