

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Endorsement Request (*Superintendent of Public Instruction*)

Full Name (as shown on ballot): Chris Reykdal

Office Sought: Superintendent of Public Instruction Today's Date: June 29, 2016

Years in the state of Washington: 41

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Friends of Chris Reykdal Campaign Manager: Katy Payne

Campaign Address: 855 Trosper Rd. SW Suite 108-117, Tumwater, WA 98512

Campaign Phone: (360) 790-3151 Email: chris4wakids@gmail.com Fax: N/A

Website: www.chrisreykdal.com

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign?: \$300,000. How much in personal funds do you intend to spend?: \$20,000 How much have you raised so far?: \$126,000 (\$104,000 cash on hand)

Party Affiliation: Life-long Democrat, but running for a Nonpartisan seat.

Are you using union printers and/or sign shops to do your campaign printing?: Absolutely!

Questionnaire

Please keep your answers brief.

Please list your qualifications for seeking office:

I have a 20+ year career in public education – I began as a classroom teacher, then was elected to my local school board, and have served the last 14 years as an education finance and policy leader at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. I have served the last three terms in the State House of Representatives, where I am Vice-Chair of the House Education Committee. I also sit on the Higher Education and Finance Committees.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

I'm running to build bi-partisan funding models, to simplify our testing system and to return career and technical education programs to our schools. What used to be a dedication to getting kids prepared for life – *whatever their path may be* – has turned into a system of over-testing and drowning our teachers in false accountability processes. We need to step away from the university-for-all approach and create a fully funded system that works for all kids!

Have you been involved in partisan politics in Washington State before? Please give details:

Yes. I have been elected the last three terms in our state House as a Democrat representing the 22nd legislative district, and I am a current PCO in Tumwater. I was the president of the Young Democrats of WSU for three of my four years there. MY CHILDREN'S NAMES ARE CARTER AND KENNEDY!

Have you run for an office before? Please give details:

Yes, I was elected to the Tumwater School Board and served from 2007-2011, and have been elected to the Washington State House of Representatives for the last three terms (from 2011-present).

Have you held office, either elected or appointed? Please give details:

Yes, as listed above. In addition, I was appointed by the mayor to the City of Tumwater Planning Commission and served for three years; and I have served as a Trustee for the College Spark Washington Foundation from 2010-2016.

What do you believe will be the three most important issues in your campaign?

The three most important issues for my campaign are fully and equitably funding our schools, reducing standardized testing, and returning career and technical education programs to our schools so *all* kids have a pathway to graduation. Each of these issues is grounded in an equity lens since each of them have disproportionate impact on rural communities and communities of color.

Please give examples of policies you would initiate to teach our public school students about the threat of climate change and help them develop strategies to address the threat.

OSPI is responsible for adopting next generation science standards and assessments to align with those standards. I will absolutely ensure that climate change, and the human causes of it, are part of the standards. The SPI also sits on the Board of Natural Resources making critical decisions about timber harvests and other natural resources issues. I am proud of my 97% lifetime environmental voting record. I am the only candidate rooted in the critical issues of climate change.

Given the realities of Republican obstruction in funding necessary programs, what are your three top budget priorities within the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction? Give some examples of budget items that you will fight for.

What sets me apart from the other candidates is the fact that I have a proven track record of bipartisanship. I have worked with the Republicans in the Senate who block Democratic bills, and I have been able to get my bills passed. That being said, I also have a different approach than the other candidates when it comes to fully funding our schools (my top priority). While the other candidates want to remain "hands off" when it comes to the Legislature, I will write my own budget (with new streams of revenue) and deliver it to the Governor and the Legislature. Waiting for the Democrats and Republicans to come to an agreement on how to fund our schools isn't working. The Superintendent must get involved by developing a bipartisan budget as a starting point.

In additional to fully funding basic education, I will fight hard for career and technical education program pathways and funds to fully implement my equity agenda – recruiting and retaining teachers of color, fully training all staff on cultural competency, funding the necessary student discipline practice changes, and ensuring that student achievement data is disaggregated so we can truly understand student achievement through the lens of racial, ethnic, and gender equity.

Do you support Public Campaign Financing for: (1) Federal Positions? (2) Supreme Court Candidates? (3) Local government positions and lower court judicial positions?

I support public campaign financing for all levels of government. I am also a co-sponsor of the Washington Voting Rights Act, and I prime-sponsored the only measure to pass the House to take the necessary steps to end Citizens United.

Do you support comprehensive family planning and women's health care?

Yes, absolutely. It has been proven that comprehensive family planning and medically-accurate sex education decreases the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned teen pregnancy. The SPI must be a leader in this area as part of serving the whole child/whole student.

Do you support the use of public money to fund private schools that are called “charter schools”?

No! Charter schools do not have the necessary accountability in place to satisfy my interests or that of the courts (in my opinion). We should not fund these schools with public dollars before we fully fund our public schools. 1,100 students should not be given first priority over 1.1 million.

Do you believe that tax incentives provided to companies should contain accountability provisions?

Yes! I have been a legislative leader in closing ineffective tax preferences and tying job requirements and wage standards to existing tax preferences. We can't fully fund our schools while giving away billions of dollars without job requirements.

Do you support comprehensive sex education, including birth control and consent education?

Yes! As I mentioned before, comprehensive, medically-accurate sex education reduces the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned teen pregnancy. Consent education is also extremely important, especially with the stigmas and stereotypes that surround sexuality – especially a woman's sexuality. The high profile culture of rape on college campuses starts much earlier. Our public K-12 schools need to teach a consent curriculum.

Why should the 25th Legislative District Democrats support you over any other candidates running for this position?

I am the only candidate who has a lifelong allegiance to the Democratic party, but also a proven track record of bipartisanship and executive leadership. This office oversees \$9 billion per year and over 400 employees. I have been executive leader in our State's CTC system carrying out the exact role that OSPI has for the K-12 system. This is important in a nonpartisan race, as the Superintendent must work with people on both sides of the political aisle. If elected, I would be the first Superintendent in 30 years to actually have kids in public school at my time of service – I have a personal stake in the success of our schools! I also am the only candidate with experience developing a local-based policy and budget agenda. The State Constitution places supervision for the entire K-12 system at the hands of OSPI. Therefore, OSPI needs to be the most data-driven education organization in the state. I am the candidate who can transform it into that, and I am ready and excited to take on that challenge!

Are there any additional comments you would like to share with the 25th Legislative District Democrats?

I'm passionate about this work because it was public education that helped me to break the cycle of poverty. Public school gave me a chance at success and it leveled the playing field for me and my brothers and sisters. Today 250,000 students live in extreme poverty. 400,000 students are on free or reduced-price lunch. Poverty cuts across geography, race, ethnicity, and all other demographics. We have an income inequality problem in the U.S. and in Washington State and I believe equitably funded public education can help change this dynamic. I'm Chris Reykdal and I am running for OSPI as a former teacher, school board member, education executive, policy maker, and more. My wife is an award-winning school counselor and if elected, I would be the first SPI in 30 years to actually have kids in public school at the time of my service.

It is the intent of the 25th District Democrats to support qualified Democrats seeking political office for both partisan and nonpartisan races. To that end we are looking for individuals who adhere to Democratic principles as demonstrated by Democratic Party activity, community activities, their reputation among Democrats, and statements they make supporting the Democratic Party and fellow Democrats. Endorsed candidates are discouraged from giving support in any partisan race to non-Democratic candidates. If an individual is running against another Democratic candidate(s), such endorsed candidate is encouraged to draw clear distinctions and differences with his/her opponent in a friendly, informational, and non-confrontational fashion. My signature below signifies my agreement with these principles and that I understand that the 25th District Democrats may withdraw its endorsement if I do not adhere to them.

Candidate Signature: Chris P.S. Reykdal Today's Date: June 29, 2016

Please return your completed questionnaire to ericherde@gmail.com