

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Endorsement Request (*Lt. Governor*)

Full Name (as shown on ballot) Cyrus Habib

Office Sought: Lieutenant Governor Today's Date: June 2, 2016

Years in the state of Washington: 34

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Friends of Cyrus Campaign Manager: Miranda Roberts

Campaign Address: 11900 NE 1st St., Suite 300, Bellevue, WA 98005

Campaign Phone: (425) 679-9103 Email: cyrus@cyrushabib.com Fax: _____

Website: www.cyrushabib.com

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? my budget is \$1 million

How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? Noone

How much have you raised so far? over \$500,000

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Are you using union printers and/or sign shops to do your campaign printing? Yes.

Questionnaire

Please keep your answers brief.

Please list your qualifications for seeking office:

I currently represent the 48th Legislative District in the State Senate where I serve on the Democratic Leadership team as Democratic Whip. From 2012-2014 I represented the same district in the State House of Representatives.

I am an attorney by trade, and practiced law at Perkins Coie from 2009-2013 advising technology startups. In 2013 I was name Professor and Distinguished Lawmaker in Residence at the Seattle University Law School where I teach courses on legislative procedure and on intellectual property.

I earned my undergraduate degree from Columbia University, my master's degree at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and my law degree at Yale Law School.

I currently sit on the boards of the 5th Avenue Theatre, the Bellevue College Foundation, and the Bellevue Downtown Association, and I previously served as a Civil Rights Commissioner for King County and as a Human Services Commissioner for the City of Bellevue.

I have been active in the Democratic Party as a former PCO, a member of the 48th Legislative District Democrats, an executive board member of the King County Young Democrats, and an alumnus and former board member of the Institute for a Democratic Future. Just recently, I was appointed by the Executive Committee of the DNC to serve on the 2016 Platform Committee and develop our party's national agenda for the next four years.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

As a person of color, a child of immigrant parents, and a person with a disability, my lived experience has given me a unique perspective, and taught me the value of hard work and creative solutions—traits I have brought to my work in the state legislature on behalf of Washington’s 48th District, and now want to bring to the office of Lieutenant Governor on behalf of all Washingtonians. I believe the role of Lieutenant Governor is entrepreneurial in nature, and offers opportunities for innovation and leadership. I hope to utilize these opportunities to tackle the challenges our state faces: income inequality, the opportunity gap, and climate change.

As Lieutenant Governor I will focus primarily on the following three areas:

- (1) As presiding officer in the senate I will rule on the constitutionality of bills and cast tiebreaking votes on legislation. Drawing upon my legal background, I will use my parliamentary and procedural powers to ensure that our values are reflected in the legislation we pass.
- (2) I will have the responsibility of appointing officers to more than forty boards and commissions, and I’ll do my part to make sure that they reflect the true geographic and demographic diversity of our state, and create leadership opportunities for those who are often not engaged in government.
- (3) Finally, as the holder of a statewide office, I will have the ability to act as a statewide spokesperson and champion progressive values in every corner of the state. As Lieutenant Governor I intend to use the bully pulpit to advocate for progressive issues, create and take advantage of earned media opportunities, partner with the Governor, Legislative leaders and allied groups on key initiatives, and work with our party to help recruit and support our platform and candidates in all 49 legislative districts.

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

I first became active in politics as a volunteer on the Gary Locke gubernatorial campaign in 1996, and as a student member of the Peace Action Network, which organized and lobbied for Hanford cleanup and sensible firearm safety legislation. In 2001, I interned for Senator Cantwell in her D.C. office, and later went back to work for her as a legislative fellow in 2003. In 2008, I managed my mother’s campaign for King County Superior Court Judge, which, though it was a nonpartisan race, gave me experience in political campaigning. I have doorbelled and fundraised for dozens of candidates, including Patty Murray, Suzan DelBene, Adam Smith, Denny Heck, Derek Kilmer, Jay Inslee, Bob Ferguson, Dow Constantine, Claudia Balducci, Roger Goodman, Matt Isenhower, Maureen Judge, Monica Stonier, and many more.

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

Yes, I successfully ran for the State House in 2012, and for the State Senate in 2014.

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

Yes, I served in the State House of Representatives from 2012-2014, and currently serve in the State Senate.

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

Education: Securing a quality education for our children remains a critical issue statewide, and addressing the McCleary decision, as the Court, the public, and our conscience demand, is the key priority for our legislature in the upcoming 2017-18 biennium. As Lieutenant Governor, I will use the powers of the office to ensure we pass a budget that meets our state’s constitutional obligations, including exercising my right to not sign a budget that clearly violates the constitutional right that every child has to an amply funded basic education.

Job Growth: Contrary to what many conservatives say, our state’s relatively high minimum wage, lack of tip credit, public worker’s compensation insurance system, prevailing wage contracting provisions, and relatively high level of union density have all contributed to a state that is among the most economically sound of any in our country. We still have much more to do, however, if we hope to lift the hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians who experience economic insecurity in our state into the middle class. We must expand opportunity and enhance working conditions for all Washingtonians by establishing a minimum wage that reflects the high cost of living in our state, basic benefits like paid sick, safe and family medical leave, a better funded education system that addresses the teacher shortage and opportunity gap, labor reforms that will allow us to crack down on worker

misclassification, wage theft and violations of apprenticeship utilization standards, housing policies that allow people to live near their workplaces, college and workforce training for the 21st century, and investments in infrastructure that improve our state while creating family wage jobs. By implementing these changes, we will continue to lead the country in both fairness and prosperity.

Building a Sustainable Future: Washington State is home to abundant natural resources, and a thriving trade-based economy— two things that make our state a uniquely wonderful place to live and work. We are facing critical decisions on how to make sustainable investments in transportation and infrastructure that will serve our communities, reduce congestion, and enhance quality of life, while supporting our industries efficiently and effectively in the 21st Century economy. As Lieutenant Governor, I will continue to advocate for pro-growth, progressive policies that maintain and improve our roads, ports, and bridges, while investing in sustainable energy solutions that will power our state in a cleaner, more efficient way.

Please give examples of specific policies you would work for as Lt. Governor to help the citizens of Washington respond to the threat of climate change.

Last year I became the first State Senator to introduce legislative language recognizing that climate change is real, that human behavior is a significant contributing cause, and that it is an urgent issue that our state must face.

We should place a price on carbon, extend and expand the solar tax incentive, invest in clean energy research programs at the UW, develop and pass the next generation of renewable energy standards to build on the success of I-937, close the tax loophole enjoyed by the oil industry, approve Sound Transit 3 and make further investments in transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, update our building codes to enhance energy conservation efforts, and work collaboratively with other states and British Columbia to coordinate our efforts for maximum impact.

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

As Lt. Governor, my job is to ensure that the bills that budgets that make it through the legislature pass constitutional muster. To that end I hope to work with Senate Democrats to ensure the passage of budgets that fully fund our education system, including ample provisions for reduced class sizes, and resources to address the teacher shortage *without* cutting other critical social services. Though I do not play a role in budget negotiations, I will use all the tools at my disposal to push for increased environmental protections, and reject attacks on workers rights in any form.

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 robust campaign finance reform at every level—money is not speech, and corporations are not people. We need to look at all available solutions to ensure that money plays less of a role in elections, and I would be open to looking at any proposal that seeks that end.

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

Yes.

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

No, and this past legislative session I voted against the charter schools “fix” which I believe fails to bring these schools into constitutional compliance.

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

Yes, tax incentives, while a useful tool, should include claw-back measures and other accountability provisions to ensure compliance.

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

The position of Lieutenant Governor is unlike any other; it exists in both the legislative and executive branches of state government. First and foremost, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the State Senate, where his or her constitutional, parliamentary, and procedural rulings can determine the outcome of legislation. As a lawyer who has taught legislative procedure at the Seattle University School of Law for three years, I am uniquely prepared to preside fairly and effectively, and to work with legislative Democrats to advance a progressive agenda.

The Lieutenant Governor makes appointments to over forty boards and commissions, ranging from the Gambling Commission to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. As a blind Iranian American and a person of color, I know how important it is to use these boards and commissions to reach into diverse communities throughout our state, and to give young people access to public service opportunities.

Finally, my legislative record shows that I am dedicated to using the position to champion progressive values throughout the state. As the prime sponsor of statewide paid sick leave legislation, the Washington Voting Rights Act, legislative language acknowledging that climate change is real and man-made, and “Cap the Copay” legislation to curb the costs of prescription drugs, I have used my time in the Legislature to take a leadership role on some of the most important issues of the day.

I look forward to continuing this work as a statewide elected official. My commitment to doing so is reflected in my wide array of endorsements: I am supported by elected officials and progressive organizations in nearly every part of the state, which will allow me to play an even better leadership role throughout Washington State in the years to come.

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

I believe Washington State deserves a Lieutenant Governor who will use the powers of the office to ensure that the Legislature passes constitutionally sound budgets that fully fund education and workforce training, to champion economic policies focused on creating high-quality and well paying jobs throughout our state, and to fight for civil and human rights for all Washingtonians. I have been a vocal advocate for Democratic values throughout my career in the legislature, fighting for social, environmental, and economic justice, and working to elect Democratic candidates to every level of government.

I am the only candidate running a truly statewide campaign, and my commitment to this community is reflected in the support I’ve received from many respected Democratic leaders and progressive organizations across the state, including Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Former U.S. Representative Norm Dicks, the Washington Education Association, Washington Conservation Voters, the Washington State Labor Council, and County and Legislative District Democratic Organizations in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Yakima, and Whatcom County. Having Democratic Party support in this race is a top priority for me, and I would be honored to have the endorsement of the 25th Legislative District Democrats.

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: Cyrus Habib

Today’s Date: June 3, 2015

Please return your completed questionnaire to ericherde@gmail.com