

25th Legislative District Democrats

Please attach a resume which includes political activities.

Candidate Endorsement Request *(Superior Court)*

Full Name (as shown on ballot) **Katherine M. Stolz**

Office Sought: Superior Court Position 2 Today's Date: **June 29th, 2016**

Years in the district that you want to represent: **40**

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: **Re-Elect Katherine Stolz** Campaign Manager: **John Winkler**

Campaign Address: **P.O. Box 65990, University Place, WA 98464**

Campaign Phone: **(253)732-4062** e-mail: katherinestolz@q.com Fax: _____

Website: _____

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? **Whatever necessary** How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? **Whatever necessary** How much have you raised so far? _____

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: **As a Superior Court Judge, I have presided over a wide variety of cases - both civil and criminal. We preside over all felony trials up to and including murder. The civil case load covers contract disputes, personal injury, medical malpractice, administrative law reviews, appeals from courts of lower jurisdiction, dissolution including child custody disputes, civil commitment, and termination of parental rights. We also try juvenile criminal cases. I have acted as criminal presiding judge on several occasions. I have been assigned to the sexual assault trial unit which handles major sex crimes. Prior to being elected to the bench, I was in private practice for 20 years. I acted as a pro tem judge for Tacoma Municipal Court for 15 years.**

What special skills do you bring to the bench? **Experience. Knowledge of the law. My proven ability to preside over a wide variety of cases in a fair and objective manner.**

Please list your reasons for seeking office: **I have held a position on the Pierce County Superior Court for the last 16 years. I very much want to continue my efforts serving as a judge for the citizens of Pierce County.**

Have you been involved in partisan politics in Washington State before? Please give details: **I served as a Republican PCO for six years in the eighties.**

Have you run for an office before? Please give details: **Yes. I first ran in 1998 for a position on the Tacoma Municipal Court. I was unsuccessful in that campaign. In 2000 I ran successfully for my current position on the Pierce County Superior Court, Department 2.**

Have you held office, either elected or appointed? Please give details: **Yes. Please see above.**

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

Experience

Access to Justice

The ability to be fair and objective

What is the role of the judge? **To apply the law.**

Have you previously served on the bench? **I have served as a Superior Court Judge since 2001. Prior to that I served as a pro tem Judge in Tacoma Municipal court for 15 years.**

Please summarize your legal practice (prior to taking the bench if applicable). **General practice, sole practitioner. I had an emphasis on family law, but also did criminal, estate and real property.**

What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any? **Access to courts. Also, there is not enough funding for the treatment of the mentally ill and those suffering from chemical dependency.**

Do you believe there is under-representation of women or people of color in the court system? If so, how would you work to correct the problem? **As defendants in the criminal justice system, people of color are over represented. As attorneys and judges they are underrepresented. But, I might add that I became a member of the Washington State Bar Association in 1979. At the time, the Superior Court Judges were all white males. Diversity has certainly improved since then, but the solution requires far more investment in educational opportunities.**

Do you believe that all citizens have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can be done to provide wider and better access? **All citizens should have equal access. Ensuring such access would require far more funding for legal services than currently exists.**

Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night, thinking about a case, wishing you had handled something differently? If so, please describe one such case. **I think it is healthy to run decisions through our minds. I made a ruling in one case to allow the jurors to look closely at and/or touch a plaintiff's foot in a**

case alleging complex regional pain syndrome. My decision to do so was ultimately upheld on appeal.

What criteria would you use for deciding whether to impose or affirm sentences outside of the standard ranges? **Such criteria is narrowly defined by statute and must be followed.**

As a prospective judge, what do you consider to be your greatest strengths? Weaknesses? **I have almost 16 years of experience on the bench. I constantly challenge myself to not rely solely on this experience but to embrace fresh perspectives and new ideas.**

If you became aware of unethical conduct on the part of a trial advocate in a case in which you were presiding, how would you handle it? Do you believe judges should be required to report attorney misconduct? **I have, on rare occasion, reached out to the Prosecuting Attorney or the Office of Assigned Counsel concerning their attorneys. Only once, that I recall, have I contacted the Bar Association—out of concern for the attorney's mental state.**

What role, if any, do you believe the County Prosecutor and/or their office should have in regards to activities involving judicial candidates, judicial candidate endorsements, and judicial elections? **No more than any other agency or law firm.**

What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in the past? Currently? **I am involved with the Tacoma Rescue Mission and the animal rescue.**

While serving on the bench, do you believe you have a role in bringing important legal or judicial issues before the public or the legislature? Why or why not? What should your role be? **On occasion, a case may come up where there is no definitive law. A judge can then make a decision which may have a substantial impact on the state, Legislature or the public. We cannot choose these occasions, however, as they depend on the specifics of the cases before us.**

What is your general judicial philosophy? **Fairness for all.**

What would you do to make Superior Court more efficient? **The most serious problem is systemic and involves far more than the Courts. Excessive caseloads for attorneys, constant reassignments in the prosecutor's office, lack of jail transport, and serious backlogs for transport to Western State Hospital all impact court efficiency. Unfortunately, these issues are a direct result of the lack of adequate resources.**

What is your vision for the future of our judicial system: What changes would you advocate and why? **I support additional funding for mental health and substance abuse treatments.**

Why should the 25th Legislative District Democrats support you over any other candidates running for this position? **I have been endorsed by the Pierce County Sheriff's Guild, Tacoma Police Union Local 6, and the Pierce County Democratic Central Committee. I have also been endorsement by 14 of my colleagues on the Superior Court Bench. All of these have been sole endorsements.**

Are there any additional comments you would like to share with the 25th Legislative District Democrats? **For the past 16 years, I have served with distinction on the Superior Court Bench, I have worked extremely hard to earn my reputation as a fair, independent and accessible judge. I would be honored to have the endorsement of the 25th District Democrats.**

My signature below signifies that I am seeking the endorsement of the 25th Legislative District Democrats. I understand that this endorsement may or may not come with monetary support. I also understand that the 25th Legislative District Democrats may withdraw its endorsement.

Candidate Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

Please return your completed questionnaire to ericherde@gmail.com