

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Endorsement Request (*Insurance Commissioner*)

Full Name (as shown on ballot) Mike Kreidler

Office Sought: Insurance Commissioner

Today's Date: June 28

Years in the state of Washington: 72

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Re-elect Mike Kreidler Insurance Commissioner

Campaign Manager: Michelle Fowler

Campaign Address: PO Box 15017 Tumwater, WA 98511

Campaign Phone: 360 819 6956 Email: mike@mikekreidler.com Fax: _____

Website: www.mikekreidler.com

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? About \$100,000 How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? None How much have you raised so far? \$63,000

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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 am the longest-serving elected insurance commissioner in the nation, first elected in 2000. I also served 16 years in the Washington Legislature, both as a representative and senator. I also served in Congress on House Energy and Commerce Committee and Subcommittees on Health and the Environment and Energy and Power. I earned a master's degree in public health from UCLA and worked as an optometrist at Group Health for two decades.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

Continue my lifelong desire to improve our reformed healthcare system so that it continues to deliver enhanced quality and results at lower cost. I am ideally positioned to carry on the fight. It will be make or break for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in the coming years. As insurance commissioner, the law and bully pulpit enables me to continue to improve transparency, hold insurance companies accountable and fight for lowering out-of-pocket costs, especially for lower-income individuals. I also want to continue my effort to protect consumers from "surprise medical" billings, which has become a growing problem that adds hundreds to thousands of dollars to medical bills that consumers never expected to receive.

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

Yes. Served 16 years in state legislature as representative and senator. Also served one term in Congress.

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

Yes. As representative and senator in state legislature, one term in Congress and since 2000 as insurance commissioner.

Have you held office, either elected or appointed? Please give details:
Please see previous response.

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

- End surprise medical billings.
- Improve access to quality, affordable healthcare for all state residents by working to build on the early successes of the Affordable Care Act and make improvements to it in the coming years.
- Maintain a strong watchdog role as the top advocate for consumer protection against the insurance industry.

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

People may not make the connection to insurance and climate change, but there's a lot that insurers can do to effect positive changes. One is divesting from fossil-based investments, such as thermal coal. By working with insurers, I believe we can involve them in the conversion to alternative sources by making encouraging and nudging them to invest in green energy, such as solar, wind and more. I recently sponsored a climate summit with insurers at the University of Washington. Global insurers detailed their efforts to make changes, which shows a growing commitment by this industry to become part of the solution. There is no greater effort we can make for future generations than acting now on climate change.

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

The insurance commissioner does not vote on state budgets. My office is fortunate in that it does not receive operating money from the state's general fund. Premium taxes on insurance companies contribute about \$1 billion every two years to the general fund, and my office's biennial budget is less than \$60 million. My top priority is to ensure a fair and balanced regulator approach to the industry. This maintains a watchdog role while also enhancing the ability of insurers of all types to operate efficiently and fairly in our state. Since my first election in 2000, insurers in Washington have expanded their lines of business, creating more competition and choices to benefit consumers. There are thousands of good-paying jobs within the industry, all of which contribute to a solid tax base that helps finance many state programs.

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

Yes.

Do you support comprehensive family planning and women's health care?
Yes. I have been a strong and vocal supporter.

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

Do you believe that single payer should be our ultimate goal for our healthcare system? If yes, what would you do as Insurance Commissioner to move in this direction? If not, why not?
Single payer would obviously be easier and more effective for everyone. However, I do not see this occurring anytime soon. That is why I am committed to making the Affordable Care Act work as well as it can. Perhaps we will eventually get to

single payer, but for now I am focused on improving and enhancing the ACA. It's what Congress could pass. I oppose repeal of the ACA and am committed to building on its successes.

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

Because I am the only candidate for this position who truly understands the issues, particularly the commitment to consumer protection and access to quality, affordable care for all state residents. The other candidates have slogans. I have a solid and admirable record of achievements that I intend to build on in the next four years.

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

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your questions. The work that committed Democrats in legislative districts perform during elections and at all times are paramount to helping us achieve our goals. I would be honored to earn your endorsement.

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

Today's Date: _____ June 29, 2016 _____

Please return your completed questionnaire to ericherde@gmail.com