

# 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats

## Candidate Endorsement Request (*State Auditor*)

Full Name (as shown on ballot): Pat (Patrice) McCarthy

Office Sought: State Auditor

Today's Date: June 23, 2016

Years in the state of Washington: 41 years

### Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Pat McCarthy for State Auditor Campaign Manager: Taylor Rome

Campaign Address: 2611 N Pearl St #409 Tacoma, Wa 98407

Campaign Phone: 253-720-5148 Email: [info@patmccarthy.org](mailto:info@patmccarthy.org) Fax: N/A

Website: patmccarthy.org

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? \$400,000

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

How much have you raised so far? \$62,000

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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

### Questionnaire

*Please keep your answers brief.*

Please list your qualifications for seeking office:

Over the last 29 years, I've been honored to serve the public at different levels of local government, including three elected positions: as Pierce County Executive for the past seven years, as Pierce County Auditor from 2003 to 2008, and as a member of the Tacoma School Board from 1987 to 1999. I've also been honored to serve in regional leadership roles, including chairing the Sound Transit Board of Directors, and as President of the Puget Sound Regional Council.

I am the only candidate in this race who has already run a large public entity like the State Auditor's office. Pierce County has 3,000 employees, providing a vast range of services that are important to the day-to-day lives of 830,000 residents. Managing the day-to-day operations of a state agency the size of the State Auditor's office is not an entry-level job in public administration. I have the skills, know-how, and experience to ensure the office is on track.

As county executive, I've worked hard to ensure the diverse communities that make up the Puget Sound can prosper, even through the Great Recession and its aftermath. I've committed to making sure every person I was elected to serve has a voice in their government. I'll take those same values and commitments with me into the State Auditor's office.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

I have a strong desire to restore confidence in the State Auditor's Office. I have the professional management skills and abilities to run the office well, and I have a hands-on understanding of the local governments the office is charged with auditing. I have interfaced with the State Auditor's Office for many years in

different elected capacities, as a School Board Director, County Auditor, County Executive, and in my service on the public boards and organizations listed in the attached biography.

I believe in public service and have dedicated myself and my life's work to service of all kinds. No matter the time, place, or role, I have made accountability, transparency and integrity hallmarks of my public stewardship. I would do the same as State Auditor.

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

Yes, I have been a member of the 27<sup>th</sup> District Democrats since I moved to this state in 1975. I have contributed financially to many Democratic causes over the past forty years, including hosting events at my home for statewide Democratic candidates.

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

Yes, I have run for office six times before – twice for Tacoma School Board (1987, 1993), twice for Pierce County Auditor (2002, 2006), and twice for Pierce County Executive (2008, 2012). I have been successful in each election.

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

- Pierce County Executive, 2009 – Present (Elected 2008, re-elected 2012)
- Pierce County Auditor, 2003 – 2008 (Elected 2002, re-elected 2006)
- Deputy County Auditor, 1999 – 2002
- School Board Director for Tacoma School District, 1987 – 1999 (Elected 1987; re-elected 1993)

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

In addition to the restoration of public trust in the State Auditor's office, the creation of entirely new mechanisms to audit the McCleary reforms will be the heavy lift for the new State Auditor. Many people in state public policy making have not even begun to consider the degree to which the new State Auditor will be tasked with auditing the reformation of basic education funding. An additional opportunity for using the office of auditor in a progressive manner may be to create real audit mechanisms to test, track, and report on the efficacy of tax exemptions. Ultimately the State Auditor's office is an executive role and not one of lawmaking, but I will work closely with the State Legislature on policy changes that would improve the office's performance.

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

As a mother of four and grandmother of seven, the future livability of our planet matters to me enormously. I was honored to be a joint recipient of the Innovative Conservation Project Award from the Cascade Land Conservancy for my work as Pierce County Executive on the Orting Valley Farm project, and I've served on the executive committee of the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound since 2010. My time on the Sound Transit Board of Directors has also been marked by a commitment to move our regional transportation network in a more climate-friendly direction. Though the work of the State Auditor's office is not directly tied to the creation of climate and carbon policies, when the opportunity presents itself I will always take actions and set agency policies that reflect Washington state's deeply-rooted commitment to our planet.

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

Our state's tax code is decades out-of-date, and working families are shouldering the burden of this deeply-flawed system. Working families are paying a far greater share of their incomes in taxes than the wealthiest Washingtonians, and these same households are often the ones hit the hardest by reductions in public services caused by our structural budget deficit.

As a county executive, I can see the consequences of this broken system each time I look at our general fund revenues and operating budget. We need Olympia or Washington voters to change state laws if we want to really start making improvements, but the State Auditor can play an important role in the meantime of ensuring that the available revenue we do have is being spent in the smartest, most equitable way possible.

The next State Auditor will also be the first to have the responsibility of auditing the new K-12 education funding required by the McCleary decision. As a past school board member and grandmother of seven, I know first-hand how our local school systems operate, and I also know how important it is that this new investment of money goes where it needs to be going.

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

Yes, I support public campaign financing for all levels of government.

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

I support the judicial standard set in Roe v. Wade and further support its enshrinement in Washington state law, as is currently the case. I support the Affordable Care Act, especially the provisions related to women's healthcare. I support passage of the Reproductive Parity Act by the Washington State Legislature.

With all the American Legislative Exchange Council legislation that has been made into law, do you know of an example where a state department has been improved by such legislation?

No, I do not.

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

No.

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

Yes. Working families' tax dollars should not go towards incentivizing the creation of non-union jobs in states far away from Washington. While this is not a policymaking decision that the State Auditor has a role in, I am supportive of changes to state law that ensure tax incentives are actually incentivizing the activities they're intended to promote. We need much more transparency and much tougher accountability in this space in the years ahead.

Do you support the use of the State Auditor's office to audit companies that do business with the government?

No, this authority has not been granted to the State Auditor's office by the Washington State Constitution or the Washington State Legislature.

In recent decades, there has been a concerted effort to convince people that government cannot do anything well. If elected State Auditor, would you push back against this effort by publicizing audits to reveal how effectively local governments and state agencies are working?

Yes. Some of my first acts as Pierce County Executive were to increase transparency in county government. I have won the Key Award from the Washington Coalition for Open Government for adopting a policy of retaining county email for at least six years.

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

I have been actively involved in the Democratic Party in Pierce County since 1975, when I first moved to Tacoma as a young wife and mother at 21. I attended my first caucus in 1975. Over this period of time I have strongly supported Democratic candidates and causes.

I have proudly run as a Democrat each time I have sought partisan office. I have contributed to many Democratic candidates over the years, and recently hosted events in my home for Governor Jay Inslee, U.S. Senator Patty Murray and King County Executive Dow Constantine. In the past few years I have made contributions to local progressive initiatives and organizations such as Keep Pierce County Blue, the Pierce County Young Democrats, and Win With Women PAC.

I believe our government needs to be inclusive, open, honest, and focused on lifting up vulnerable people and disadvantaged populations. I think my time as Pierce County Executive has shown what Democratic principles look like when they're put into practice, and I'll carry those values forward into the State Auditor's office.

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

Thank you for your commitment to the democratic process, and for your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy. 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: Pat McCarthy  
Today's Date: June 23, 2016

Please return your completed questionnaire to [ericherde@gmail.com](mailto:ericherde@gmail.com)