

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

## Candidate Endorsement Request (*US House of Representatives*)

Full Name (as shown on ballot) \_\_\_\_\_ Tony Ventrella \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ US House Representative in 8th Congressional District \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: May 30, 2016

Years in the district that you want to represent: 2017-2018

### Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Team Ventrella Campaign Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Huy Nguyen \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: \_\_\_\_\_ PMB 2117, 1420 N.W. Gilman Blvd. Suite 2, Issaquah, WA 98027 \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Phone: (425) 691-0647 Email: Team@TeamVentrella.com Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Website: TeamVentrella.com \_\_\_\_\_

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? \_\_\_\_\_ How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? \_\_\_\_\_ How much have you raised so far? \_\_\_\_\_

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:

35 years of broadcast experience, much of it in sports but a good portion as a news and political host and interviewer. As an interviewer is where I've learned to truly communicate with all walks of people. I am expert in finding common ground which is what I believe is lacking in today's Congress. My network of relationships in Congress, those already established and those to build, are strengths I plan to bring to this job.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

I served my country in the U.S. Army from 1964-1970, I'm excited to serve my country again in the U.S. Congress. We as a country have never been more divided. As a concerned citizen, I can no longer stand on the sidelines and watch our country stagnate. If we want to see change in the world, we must be that change, and change in Congress begins with ending the influence of big money keeping our country divided. Only then can we address pressing issues listed below.

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

I support and endorsed the the WAmend initiatives to get big money out of elections.

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

No.

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

I was PCO of the 41st LD in 2015 and appointed as Newcastle Community Activities Commission Commissioner in 2015 as well as subcommittee leads of the inaugural Newcastle Days and the revision of the park signs plans presented to the city council.

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

1. Getting big money influence out of politics.
2. Affordable education, especially at 2 and 4 year colleges.
3. Closing the income gap in America, restoring the middle class.

Do you support expansion of Social Security benefits including disability and survivor as well as retirement benefits?

Yes. Over 10,000 people a day are coming into retirement age. In order to keep that population supported to engage with the economy and the society, we need to see that their needs for these benefits are addressed.

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

Absolutely.

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

- 1) Yes.
- 2) Yes.
- 3) Yes.

Do you support an amendment to the United States Constitution to unequivocally state that inalienable rights belong to human beings only, and that money is not a form of protected free speech under the First Amendment and can be regulated in political campaigns?

Yes. I think we need the political will to finally reign in the outrageous amounts of dark money coming in campaigns. We must over turn Citizens United as a start.

Please give examples of specific policies you would work for in Congress to help the people of the United States and the rest of the world respond to the threat of climate change.

Climate change is a top priority of my platform. I have nine grandchildren. I do not want this to become the only issue that matters in their day to days live. We must reduce carbon emissions immediately and work to run this country on clean renewable energy to set an example for the rest of the world. From this day forward my decisions would be based on the end goal of alleviating carbon emissions affecting man-made climate change. To this end, I would support alternative methods of transportation for our district that may include mass transit options that are efficient and actually used. Also, we have an expansive district with a massive freeway artery running along our northern borders. That artery is vital to trade within and in between the state. That understanding will also be critical in tempering my actions regarding transportation.

Considering the Korean Free Trade Agreement that was negotiated by the Obama administration has resulted in a loss of 106,000 jobs and has more than doubled the trade deficit with South Korea in its first four years according to US government data<sup>1</sup>, do you support the Trans Pacific Partnership? If so, justify your support of the TPP in light of this data.

Specifically, I know the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a hot-topic. But before voting for or against it I would have to see if its intentions are more about foreign policy, like NAFTA was despite it's criticisms. The literature on the TPP has been somewhat vague in regards to the benefits to our unions here in Washington. Would trade with Asia (China specifically) actually benefit our unions in the long run? We'll see. On a more general note, I will protect and be a champion for the middle class and hard working Americans at every turn.

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

I will get results through persistence, team building and a deep knowledge of the issues effecting my district. They call my platform progressive but it's no different than the values instilled in me as a child growing up in John F. Kennedy's Camelot. I believe in lifting up those among us who need it most. I believe a strong and informed middle class is the foundation of any first-world economy and democracy. I also believe in my ability and chances to unseat Dave Reichert.

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

I am not a politician. I am an American, a father, a grand father and a Democrat in that order. I don't have every answer to every issue, no one does and if they claim to, they're probably not telling truth. I will give every ounce of energy and devotion to serving the 8<sup>th</sup> CD better than it's ever been served before. I appreciate your consideration and would be honored with 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

<sup>i</sup> <http://citizen.typepad.com/eyesontrade/2016/05/new-data-reveal-that-obamas-korea-trade-pact-on-which-the-tpa-was-modeled-resulted-in-doubling-of-tr.html>