

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Endorsement Request *(City)*

Office Sought: _____ Puyallup City Council _____ Today's Date: _____ 6.2.17 _____

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: _____ People For Keanan Taute _____ Campaign Manager: _____ Alex Cornyn _____

Campaign Address: _____ 1106 7th ST SW Puyallup, WA, 98371 _____

Campaign Phone: _____ 2532686952 _____ Email: _____ Keanantaute@gmail.com _____

Website: _____ electkeanantaute.com _____

Party Affiliation: _____ Democrat _____

Are you using union printers and/or sign shops to do your campaign printing? _____ Yes, I will be when I begin ordering material _____

Personal Information:

Full Name (as shown on ballot): _____ Keanan Taute _____

Address: _____ 1106 7th ST SW Puyallup, WA, 98371 _____

Years at this address: _____ 4 _____ Legislative District: _____ 25 _____ Precinct: _____ 25-209 _____

Years in the city that you want to represent: _____ 17, since I was 3 _____

Education (Please indicate highest level attained)

Degree (specify): _____ Studying Politics, Philosophy, and Economics _____

School: _____ University of Washington Tacoma _____

Previous Public Service

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Current Job Information

Employer: _____ Title: _____ Full Time Student _____

Supervisor: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Major Civic Interests

_____ Voting rights and access, living wage, youth rights and voice, homelessness assistance.____

Civic Clubs or Community Organizations You Have Been Involved With?

_____Pierce County Young Democrats, where I am the Outreach Organizer, and the Pierce County Democrats._____

Questionnaire

Please keep your answers brief.

If you need more room, attach a separate page at the end and mark "see attached" on the questionnaire.

Please list your qualifications for seeking office:

Political experience: I have taken an executive roll in the Pierce County Young Democrats as the acting outreach organizer. Through this role I have created a strategy to increase memberships of the Pierce County Young Democrats to both fuel our organizations volunteer pool, and to give more resources to the county party. I have also been taking minutes, working on both the PCYD and Young Democrats of Washington State constitutions, and helping to create agendas for meetings. *Age:* I will be the only representative of the Puyallup youth voice on the City Council. Mobilizing and sparking civic participation among young people, and among young voters, is something I am passionate about. I was raised in Puyallup and understand the needs of the young people in our town. *Open-door policy:* I will be the first to admit I am not an expert about everything and not every policy that I consider will directly affect me. That is why I will have an open-door policy, with priority given to those that have a stake in policies being considered. On top of that, I will continue to seek out advice from the people who are the most effected by policies being considered. *Studies:* At the University of Washington Tacoma, I am learning about politics, but more specifically, I am studying government, contemporary national and international politics, and the science of campaigns, elections, and voter turnout.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

The current Puyallup City Council has plenty of independents and moderates who have failed to establish a policy to assist homeless in Puyallup. In fact, there is even a moratorium on the establishment of any new privately run homeless assistance program. This is because there are fears a “bird feeder effect.” Although the churches that run the homeless shelters have agreed to moving them, they have not been given permission from the city. City Council refuses to decide. When I join City Council, I will push this issue and lobby my fellow elected officials to listen to the experts on the location, and allow them to move the shelter there. Additionally, I will continually advocate for an establishment of a fund specifically to assist homeless populations on the condition of there being support for such a fund by my constituents. And, I would push for a lift on the moratorium on the establishment of new homeless shelters. I also believe that Puyallup should establish an ethics commission for accountability reasons. Lastly, I saw a race that had no democrats in it, and I was never satisfied with the incumbent, and so I saw the need for a progressive voice in Puyallup, and my plan is to satisfy that need.

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

Yes, I am the Outreach Organizer for the Pierce County Young Democrats, where I focus on recruiting new membership to the organization.

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

No public office, no.

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

No public office, no. I have held the positions of Speech Captain for the Puyallup High School Speech and Debate Team, Outreach organizer for the Pierce County Young Democrats, and Public Relations officer for the University of Washington Debate Union.

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

1. Homelessness: Homelessness is the most important issue for Puyallup to work on. In addition to what I said above, I believe that we need to coordinate with Tacoma and the county to solve homelessness in our region. Otherwise, I am going to find out what, if anything else, they want to see change in this city while canvassing. Homelessness is not just a Puyallup problem, it is a regional problem, and it should be treated as such. **2. Youth Rights:** The Puyallup youth have not been listened to in the last few years, and we have seen this bubble up in to protests in Puyallup High Schools. I want to be an advocate for the youth voice on the City Council, but on top of that, I am in the preliminary planning stages on leading efforts to establish a youth commission in Puyallup. **3. Smart Business Development:** New developments are important in Puyallup, but we need to make sure these developments are both sustainable and that they don't significantly and negatively impact our city.

When elected, how would you make sure that you and your fellow elected officials continue to be accessible to constituents and their concerns and open to public input?

Establish an open-door policy and consult affected groups, or stakeholders, and incorporate their voice in to decision making on proposed policies. As I stated earlier, in any policy decision it is the stakeholders whose voice needs to be the loudest, because they are who are most affected by the bill.

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

I am the only candidate to seek out the Pierce County Democrats endorsement, and am the only candidate in all of Puyallup to receive an endorsement from the Pierce County Democrats. Otherwise, I am by far the most progressive candidate in the race.

What strategies would you propose to solve the homelessness crisis?

First in consultation of experts and community leaders. The Puyallup City Council needs to open up dialogue and cooperation with local organizations like Freezing Nights and New Hope. These organizations are doing good work in our community, and City Council's moves to make it harder for them to provide services will only worsen the situation for people experiencing homelessness. Second, we must recognize that local support is vital to establishing policies to assist homelessness. In order to get local support, there must be an avenue for education that teaches community members the truth of homelessness. They aren't bad people, and more often than not, it wasn't reasonably their fault they became homeless. It is easier than one would suspect. Too often people get laid off from their job, can't find a new job, can't make rent, gets evicted, and then can't get a new apartment because they have an eviction on their record, and has no other option for affordable housing, and ends up in their car. Too often does this situation happen, but many in Puyallup are not familiar with the commonality of this situation. Third, as a regional problem, our entire county must work together to assist people experiencing homelessness. I would urge the City Council to establish avenues of communication between our city and neighboring cities like Fife and Sumner. This regional cooperation is key to resource management between our cities.

What would you do to encourage economic development in your city?

Because of the regional nature of the job market, Puyallupites would rather preserve farmland than add jobs that replace farmland. We need further creativity to find other economic development options

What would you do to address the transportation/transit challenges facing your city?

I strictly commute by public transit, so I know what it is like to have to rely on buses to get places. I have ridden the 400 from Puyallup to Tacoma countless times. There are others, but the biggest transit issue in Puyallup is getting people to the train

station without clogging up Puyallup roads.

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

Thank you for your consideration, and feel free to email me at KeananTaute@gmail.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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: _____ KEANAN TAUTE _____ Today's Date: _____ 6/2/17 _____

Please save this form as a PDF and return your completed questionnaire to eherde@earthlink.net