

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Nomination/Endorsement Request (25th LD State Representative)

Full Name (as shown on ballot) Brian Duthie

Office Sought: State Representative, 25th. Pos. 2 Today's Date:
3/26/2018

Years in the district that you want to represent: 20

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Citizens for Brian Duthie Campaign Manager: None Yet

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 73816, Puyallup WA 98373

Campaign Phone: (253) 304-2159 Email: brian@brianduthie.com

Website: brianduthie.com

Social media: Facebook, Twitter

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VoteBrianDuthie/ Twitter: @brian_duthie Other:
none

What is your win number? 14,099 primary, 23,407 General

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? \$300,000 How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? I am willing to invest as needed in this campaign How much have you raised so far? \$20,000

How many volunteers do you expect to have supporting your campaign? 30-40

How many volunteers have you recruited so far? 10

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 a Puyallup native and veteran of the Air Force Reserves, through which I served my country for ten years. Growing up in Washington, I learned first hand the challenges of our public education system when I was forced to graduate late after falling through the cracks of my local school district. Now, as a firefighter with the Everett Fire Department, I experience firsthand the effects of state policies and budgets on the ground as I respond to opioid and mental health calls, treat residents experiencing homelessness, navigate our outdated infrastructure, and see veterans and seniors in need. I am a public servant through and through, and I want to put my commitment to my community to work to improve opportunity for all.

Why do you seek this office?

We need a new approach and new perspectives to address growth and affordability, fund our schools, and serve our veterans, seniors and neighbors in need. We can't keep electing the same politicians and expect different results - we need new leadership committed to listening to the needs of our community and working tirelessly to address them.

I've never been afraid to take on a challenge and do my part to improve the lives of others, at home or overseas. We face real challenges here in our communities that simply aren't being addressed by politicians in Olympia. Mental health and addiction crises are not partisan problems. Neither is traffic congestion. But instead of common sense solutions, we get gridlock. I want to change that by bringing an independent spirit and proven commitment to service to the legislature.

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

I am a first-time candidate that has studied the political process from the sidelines. I have volunteered on Democratic campaigns, donated and attended events in the previous years.

Have you run for office before? Please give details:

No.

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

First-time candidate.

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

Growth, Traffic and Affordability
Mental Health and Addiction Crisis
Investing in our Communities

Whom will your campaign hold accountable for the lack of progress on these issues?

The current officeholder, Representative McDonald, did not do an appropriate job in advancing these issues that are hurting constituents in the 25th.

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

Climate change in the Pacific Northwest will involve a multi-pronged effort to protect against decreased snowpack supply (winter flooding), change in salmon migration, prolonged summer droughts, and a rise in sea level. Yes, anyone can just google this, but the impacts of this change won't be strenuously felt for a couple more decades. It's easy to dismiss it as tomorrow's problem, but we need to adopt a more proactive legislative approach.

1. Buff up the emergency fund to account for sea level displacement and potential infrastructure failure.
2. Establish a non-discretionary budget for clean energy workforce training, a free or minimal cost program to retrain those in fields at risk for automation.
3. Resolution with teeth that will seek to implement and fund a 20-year carbon and methane emission reduction goal with Improved energy efficiency, 50% adoption rate of clean energy technologies statewide, and forces accountability through an annual progress assessment.
4. Involve local indigenous communities and their leaders in respectful discussion and decision-making on resource management and conservation practices.

What are your three top budget priorities? Give some examples of budget items that you will fight for.

- Mental health and addiction treatment; case workers with first responders, affordable treatment programs.
- Veteran services; proper medical and psychiatric attention.
- Public schools; free or reduced cost meals.

Do you support Public Campaign Financing for:

(1) Local government offices? Yes

- (2) State government offices? Yes
- (3) Federal offices? Yes
- (4) Judicial offices? Yes

What legislation will you pursue to support comprehensive family planning?

I believe that medical procedures involving one's own choices should be covered under healthcare, whether private or public, and I will vote in accordance with those values.

What legislation will you pursue to address gender disparities?

There are small things we can do to correct gender imbalances; exempting women's sanitary products from being taxed is the first thing we should get out of the way. Following that, I'd like to work with our public university system in promoting women in STEM. Our region has a dearth of marine engineering despite being a coastal state, and the technology industry is booming and providing individuals with a path to a comfortable, middle-class career. Providing research grants for women, or funding education programs from middle-school and beyond to encourage interest in these subjects.

Of course, what does this all mean if there's a gender pay gap at the start of your career? Cranking down on harmful workplace policies like pay secrecy, and empowering our Department of Labor to follow through on these complaints is a critical first step. I want to fight for women's rights not just because of my daughter, but because it's simply the right thing to do.

Do you support I-1600 for universal healthcare for Washington State? Why or why not?

Absolutely. I think it only makes fiscal sense for the government to provide healthcare. The effects of healthcare privatization is costly, damaging, and unforgivably corrupt. And at the end of it, it doesn't even meet our coverage needs! That's when overworked first responders like me are charged with picking up the slack. The opioid crisis, people dying of preventable diseases, and deferred treatment which turns into bloated late-stage care, is just so inefficient. By spreading the cost and risk, we can provide affordable healthcare for every level of need, regardless of citizenship status. A healthy populace is the first step to a viable society; otherwise, mortality rates and debt levels will continue deteriorating.

Do you feel the currently scheduled Washington State minimum wage of \$13.50 will be sufficient in 2020? If not, what do you believe the minimum wage needs to be in the year 2020?

I think there needs to be a more reasonable cost of living adjustment by county. Some rural counties and small businesses may suffer as their margins were thin to begin with, and I don't think there is enough commercial investment to justify this cost. However, I do support a minimum wage that can meet one's basic needs, adjusted to whatever the affordability index is by county.

Should cities and counties be able to establish minimum wages higher than the state minimum wage?

Yes, absolutely.

Would you support a state law requiring non-union-members who directly benefit from a union contract to pay fare share representation fees, even if the U.S. Supreme Court declares such laws to be unconstitutional?

As a union member, I know the trait of a strong union is in the will of its membership. I believe collective bargaining predicates a large percentage of membership for negotiation leverage. However, I am against forcing non-union members to pay fees. Rather, the union should present the benefits of joining strongly enough to entice new membership. Without this incentive, unions can become corrupt, or simply ineffective agents cowed by a fear of change.

Do you support the creation of a Washington State bank?

Yes.

If so, which of the following activities should be allowed by the charter of the state bank:

- Holding all State government deposits and handling all of the State government's banking business?
Yes
- Providing banking services to local governments that choose to participate? Yes

- Holding voting stock of publicly traded corporations as part of the bank's investment portfolio? With some accountability as to what they invest in, sure.
- Issuing loans to local governments? No
- Providing banking services to individuals, organizations, and businesses? Yes.
- Issuing short-term consumer loans to protect Washingtonians from predatory private payday lenders? Issuing loans with better terms to cover other loans? I am not sure.

Regarding the increasingly unaffordable housing costs in Pierce and neighboring counties please either state a policy you would support in the Legislature to address the problem, or if you do not have a policy solution to propose, describe how you would develop or obtain a policy. If you have a policy in mind, also describe how you developed or discovered your proposed policy.

Well, recently the legislature approved a tax credit for developers to build affordable housing and increase our supply. A mix of developer incentives, some public housing options, a few mandatory inclusionary zoning changes, and stronger tenant protections against opportunistic rent increases are necessary to address this major concern. I base my ideas on housing affordability studies that pierce county has published in the past.

Please give brief thoughts on the following proposals:

- Providing state funding to match local support for public transit

Public transit is necessary for commercial and economic flow. I think state funding should be matched with need first, support second.

- A state capital gains tax as described in HB 1730

Our tax code as it exists is terribly regressive, and we keep having to levy ourselves into displacement to fund for basic services. This nickel-and-diming pattern is not sustainable. We need progressive revenue generation.

- Public funding for charter schools

Charter schools can be a mixed bag, but generally, I don't support public funds for private educational interests.

- A 60 mph statewide maximum speed limit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

That would be like unplugging your lamp to save on energy costs. Yes, it will decrease it some, but maybe a bigger priority should be replacing your bulbs with more energy-efficient options? Or perhaps, capping carbon emissions from the oil and gas industries.

- Cessation of registration of new Internal-Combustion Engine vehicles starting in 2030

This would make an excellent goal. I'd prefer to see yearly aggressive installments of elevated standards to give us time to upgrade infrastructure needs, such as an adequate number of charging stations statewide.

- Allowing teachers to carry loaded firearms in schools

This is bizarre and unacceptable.

- Treating guns as we do cars in that they must be registered, the operator must pass a test and receive a license to operate the weapon, and requiring liability insurance on each weapon to cover the costs of any injuries and/or damage from that weapon

I am in favor of gun control legislation, but I am unsure if insurance requirements are really necessary.

Are there any additional comments you would like to share with 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 non-partisan 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: _____ Brian Duthie _____ Today's Date: 3/27/2018 _____

Please return your completed questionnaire to edwherde@gmail.com