

25th Legislative District Democrats

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

Full Name (as shown on ballot) _____ Jamie Smith _____

Office Sought: ___ State Representative, Position 1 _____ Today's Date:
_____ 3/18/18 _____

Years in the district that you want to represent: ___ 13_

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: ___ Vote Jamie Smith___ Campaign Manager: ___ Pending___

Campaign Address: ___ Vote Jamie Smith, P.O. Box 1342, Puyallup, WA 98371 _____

Campaign Phone: ___ 253-230-4828___ Email: ___ votejamiesmith@gmail.com

Website: ___ VoteJamieSmith.com _____

Social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/votejamiesmith/> Twitter: @votejamiesmith

What is your win number? 30-35,000

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? 100,000 How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? 0-2500 How much have you raised so far? 1000

How many volunteers do you expect to have supporting your campaign? 45-60

How many volunteers have you recruited so far? 15

Party Affiliation: Democratic

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 have had experience working with diverse populations within my community. As a teacher, coach, adviser, and union representative I have experience working with all stakeholders to build coalitions between the schools, administration, and the community. I have defused tensions in situations with parents/students/staff. I know what hard work is and often put in 60-80 hour weeks and I'm not afraid to stand up for the marginalized. I know that unions are important, must be supported, and will fight against any so called "Right to Work" legislation.

Why do you seek this office?

I am running for the legislature because our state faces many tough choices. Our schools desperately need support to provide the best education to our children to prepare them socially, emotionally, and intellectually to reach the dreams they have for themselves. Wages have stagnated and we need more living wage jobs. Small businesses need support to compete in the 21st century economy. We must take action to protect our environment from the ravages of climate change. I want to advocate for the people of our community. We need leaders who care about our needs. I am the advocate who will make sure every child in our state gets a high quality education. I will fight for workers and help Washington grow.

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

I have run for, but not held public office.

Have you run for office before? Please give details:

2016 Campaign for State Representative, Position 1, knocked on 10,000 doors, received 22,000 votes, sent out a mailer, received 18+endorsements, raised almost \$60,000, created a website, had 30+ volunteers come out to knock on doors and make phone calls.

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

No

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

Education, homelessness, and transportation are currently top issues within my district. As a teacher at Puyallup High School I have taught classes of 42 and of 22 and can tell you that the class with 22 got more done, had higher grades, and worked together better. Large class sizes are detrimental to student success and we must work to lower class sizes across the state. The district is currently running secondary numbers starting at 38 students per class.

Homelessness is on the rise in my areas and I have had multiple students that were living with their families in hotels or out of their cars. There are growing numbers of homeless due to lack of affordable housing, mental health issues, and addictions. This issue is not going away and we can't just bury our heads in the sand or do stop-gap measures, but must plan for long-term help/ investments.

The transportation issues in the area are significant and getting worse. We have a lack of public transportation in the areas that need it the most, the congestion is bad for our environment and people's physical health, and takes precious time away from family and friends.

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

It is up to the legislature to pass bills to help the people of Washington, the economy, and preserve it for future generations. It is the legislature's job to support and enforce the initiatives that the people pass. As a legislator I will work night and day to stand up for our residents' concerns, promote economic growth, environmental protection, and make Washington work for all residents. For those bills that groups put up for referendum to remove, for examples those that Eyman tries to remove, it is up to the people to vote in their best interest, and for lawmakers to make sure they inform their constituents.

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.

- Support more public transportation in order to remove vehicles from the road and make transportation faster.
- Create a short rail transport system to get items from the Eastern and Western portions of the state faster, cheaper, and cleaner than having to take each item by truck.
- I support Inslee's taxes on oil pipelines as well as oil trains and vessels to help pay for environmental clean up and protection.
- Work on reducing toxics in consumer goods and the waterways.

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

- Continuing to fund education- making sure that the state initiative to lower class sizes is actually enforced, as the Puyallup District is currently running secondary class numbers at 38.
- Promote resources for the mental and physical health of residents- we have a shortage of mental health professionals and need to incentivize their location throughout the state and not just King County, work towards a single-payer health system, and make sure that there are family practice doctors can afford to work throughout the state as the rural areas are seeing a sharp decline in available professionals. Single payers will also benefit the businesses of the state.
- Improve the transportation by adding more public transportation, light rail, finish 167 sooner, the 167-410 exit, and the bridge from Levy to River Road for faster transportation. These areas add significant time to the commute taking away valuable time away from their families, costs more money, and hurts the environment.

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?

We must make sure that women maintain the right to choose what is best for their health and that their medical decisions are between them and their doctors. Birth control needs to remain free to help prevent pregnancies and the need for abortions (which have gone down significantly since the Affordable Care Act was put into place and will rise again if birth control is not easily accessible). We can not allow secular businesses to force the religion of the owner/ manager on their workers. Their medical care should be between them and their doctor, not their boss. Working towards single-payer health care will help prevent many of these issues for when health care is provided by the state businesses will no longer be allowed to opt out of providing full services.

What legislation will you pursue to address gender disparities?

- We need to include more CTE (Career and Tech Education) classes into high schools to allow more women, and men, to experience career paths that they might not have thought of that are family wage jobs- ex: welding, auto, culinary, robotics, electrical, etc).
- Prices for goods and services should be based on the labor, materials, taxes, and gender neutral reasons and businesses should not be charging customers more for substantially similar produces from the same brand simply because they are pink, yet share the same function, components, and materials.
- I support the new Washington State Gender Pay Equity Bill that was just signed as it bans asking about past pay. Since women tend to make lower pay, and when a job offer is based upon the last pay, instead of the job itself, it tends to replicate the pay gap.

Do you support I-1600 for universal healthcare for Washington State? Why or why not? Yes and no. I support the idea and want to move to a single-payer system, but not the plan for financing. It will create an income tax on everything over 1500/month. Not only has the income tax been repeatedly shot down by the people of the state, but this is another tax on the poor and middle class that they can't afford. It shifts the responsibility from the businesses and onto the people. The businesses will save a lot of money, but there is no guarantee that that will trickle down to the workers, but instead is another tax on workers. The state has funded a financial study that we need to look at, as we may not need to add another tax, or look into continuing to have businesses continuing to fund healthcare by paying into a state fund, with exceptions for small businesses and start-ups that do not currently provide healthcare because of cost.

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? Minimum wage should be the minimum amount needed for an individual to pay for housing, food, transportation, and healthcare. For most of the state \$13.50 will not be enough. I would need to talk to the state economists to have a better idea of the number, and that number will vary around the state.

Should cities and counties be able to establish minimum wages higher than the state minimum wage? Yes. People who work full time in an area should be able to afford to live there.

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? Yes, and I will fight to protect union rights to organize and represent the members. A big threat to unions is currently being decided by the Supreme Court in Janus vs. AFSCME. Their ruling could be a huge blow to all unions across the US. We know that over and over workers make more with unions than without them. Unions preserve higher wages, protect our medical and retirement benefits, maintain safe work environments, sick leave, overtime pay, etc. No matter which way the Janus ruling goes we must strengthen state protections of our unions in Washington, for we know more cases are heading to the Supreme Court after Janus.

Do you support the creation of a Washington State bank? Yes From what I know of the bank it will save money for Washington, provide finances to support more public projects, and overall benefit the state. The people of North Dakota love their bank and have seen significant benefits from it. I will need to talk with more individuals experienced in this area to fully elaborate on the topics below, but currently I believe the bank should be allowed to support them. Having our own bank will save the state the fees that the large for profit banks charge saving the residents of Washington money. I would need more information on what voting stock it holds in publicly traded corporations to make sure they are sound investments of the public money. Banking services to individuals and payday lenders would likely come later after the bank is safely established, secure, and safe for both the individual lenders and our tax dollars.

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?
- Providing banking services to local governments that choose to participate?
- Holding voting stock of publicly traded corporations as part of the bank's investment portfolio?
- Issuing loans to local governments?
- Providing banking services to individuals, organizations, and businesses?
- Issuing short-term consumer loans to protect Washingtonians from predatory private payday lenders?

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.

We need to look at our state laws as currently the requirements for insurance companies means that there are only two companies that will ensure multi-family units in the state and this limits the amount of housing the companies can afford to create.

Incentives for building need to include affordable housing.

Right now the state bans rent control and that needs to be looked into and cities should be able to make their own decisions about it. This is a tough and sensitive issue as it can put business interests in competition with residents, but by working

with community leaders, businesses, urban planners we can create legislation that will allow for profit and changing of rent when owners change (causing the businesses monthly payments to change) so businesses do not lose money when they purchase properties, but also protect the renters rights and abilities to afford housing.

- We should also look at areas of the country that have worked on this issues that have been successful to see what can be adapted for Washington. Fremont California, for instance has a plan to provide more affordable housing with multiple options that the developers. I like the idea of multiple options as often one size does not fit all.

Please give brief thoughts on the following proposals:

- **Providing state funding to match local support for public transit:** I support the increase in public transit throughout all Washington to improve transportation speed, decrease fuel consumption and pollution, and provide better access. I would need to know where the state funding was to come from to determine its impact on taxpayers and businesses.
- **A state capital gains tax as described in HB 1730** I support a capital gains tax to improve the fairness of Washington's tax system, which is the 50th most regressive in the nation. It will create a fairer system, provide more revenue, and create funding for an education legacy trust.
- **Public funding for charter schools**
- Schools getting public funds must be accountable to the same standards that public schools are. The same graduation qualifications, teacher qualifications, testing, accountability need to be in place. Allowing charter schools to skirt the requirements all other schools and students must meet is an unfair advantage. Often people promote smaller class sizes of charter schools, but all students deserve smaller class sizes, not just those in charter schools.
- **A 60 mph statewide maximum speed limit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** I need more information on how this would help, but it seems like keeping cars on the road longer each day would not have the benefits this would want.
- **Cessation of registration of new Internal-Combustion Engine vehicles starting in 2030** I don't believe our technology and state are in a position to support this currently. While electric vehicles are increasing their range many still require internal-combustion engines to go farther and traverse the state. Rural areas aren't likely to have access to funds for the charging stations, and this will likely create conflict between the more republican areas of the state when the technology is not up to what is needed to enforce this. This would also cause problems for those that move into the state with cars purchased after 2030, especially the military.
- **Allowing teachers to carry loaded firearms in schools** I don't know of any teachers in the area that support this. If we can afford guns and training for teachers we should reinvest those funds into the kids not guns. To many questions remain to be answered that just guns- Would a teacher be given amnesty if they accidentally shoot and kill an innocent student when they fire at the bad guy? Will teachers be required to run towards the bullets? If they don't will they be punished? Where will the guns be kept?... Teachers have been trained to teach, not to stop bullets.
- **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 would want more information on the liability insurance and the costs but I believe guns should be registered to the owners and they should be trained to safely operate them. In Texas when someone gets a concealed weapons permit it is connected to their license and I think looking into something similar would work for Washington.

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: Jamie Smith Today's Date: 3.22.18

Please return your completed questionnaire to edwherde@gmail.com