

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Endorsement Request (*Puyallup City Council*)

Office Sought: ___Puyallup City Council, District 1, Position 1___ Today's Date: June 26, 2019

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Re-elect Robin Farris Campaign Manager: Vacant

Campaign Address: 412 2nd St NW, Puyallup, WA 98371

Campaign Phone: 253-905-2451 Email: robin@robinfarris.com

Website: www.robinfarris.com

Social media:

Facebook: Councilmember Robin Farris Twitter: _____ Other: _____

What is your win number? 1250

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? _____

How many volunteers do you expect to have supporting your campaign? 25

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

Personal Information:

Full Name (as shown on ballot): Robin Farris

Address: Same as above

Years at this address: 14 Legislative District: 25th LDD Precinct: _____

Years in the city of Puyallup: 35 total

Education (Please indicate highest level attained)

Degree (specify):_MBA

School: _____Western Governors University

Previous Public Service

Office/Position Held: Puyallup City Council Dates: 2016-present

Nature of Organization: City Government

Duties: Budget, Hire/fire city manager, set policy

Office/Position Held: Chair Dates: 2010-2011

Nature of Organization: Recall Dale Washam

Duties: Speaking, Collecting signatures, fundraising

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Current Job Information

Employer: City of Puyallup Title: _____

Supervisor: _____ E-mail Address: rfarris@ci.puyallup.wa.us

Work Phone: 253-213-3174

Major Civic Interests

American Legion, League of Women Voters

Civic Clubs or Community Organizations You Have Been Involved With?

American Legion, League of Women Voters

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:

Education, exceptional work ethic, and a commitment to service.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

1. *Council must act in an ethical manner*
2. *I love to help people*
3. *We are losing our soul.*

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

I have doorbelled for Dem (Door, Edmonds, Lindquist) candidates when I am not in office.

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

Only the office I currently hold.

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

Only the office I currently hold and the Chair of the Recall Washam campaign.

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

Issue 1 - Homelessness: *For the past four years, I have stressed the need to develop a strategic plan to address homelessness and the impacts from homelessness. This year, this initiative was outvoted to appear on our workplan for 2019.*

Homelessness and the effects of homelessness cannot be addressed with sweeping legislation. Currently, both ordinances we passed for homelessness impacts are in litigation. This is the reason I voted against the Homelessness Services Ordinance – it would not hold up if challenged in court.

To complicate matters, the Ninth District Court of Appeals ruled in September 2018 that cities can't make it a crime to sleep on a public street or sidewalk when no homeless shelters are available.

The way forward:

1. *Establish a sensible general business nuisance ordinance for all businesses.*
2. *Establish a framework for providing shelter and for the impacts of those not seeking shelter.*
3. *Work with all stakeholders (business, first responders, etc.) to develop a workable strategy.*

Issue 2 – Ethical Leadership: *The Puyallup City Council majority is driving the city to increased expenses, causing staff turnover and an uncertain future due to their capricious behavior and authoritarian leadership style. They are emboldened by the political realities at the National level.*

I have 23 years of government organizational leadership experience. I started out on the bottom and rose to a mid-level executive. I lead sailors in technical fields, very similar to the employees we have at the city. Very competent and smart. I want to be the voice of reason and continue to provide cover for our employees.

Issue 3 – Litigation Mitigation: *The Recall Dale Washam campaign I lead was in litigation with the PDC from 2011 to 2015. Even with Pro Bono attorneys, litigation, especially completely preventable litigation, is like an anchor for the entire*

organization. I have argued against all litigation except for the Conway case. Conway is a contractor who was sighted by the L&I during the construction of a roadway in Puyallup. The contractor put his workers and the citizens of Puyallup at risk. I will stand fast on that litigation in order to disqualify this contractor from bidding on government contracts. If the name sounds familiar, Conway was the contractor who started the fire in Eastern Washington.

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?

I would continue to do what I have been doing. Not sure what this question is asking. I listen to all input (sometimes over and over) attempt to talk through and resolve issues at the lowest level.

What makes you the candidate that the 25th LDD should support over the others in the race?

Both of my opponents are republicans. Cuyle's judgement makes him unqualified. Thiel is more interested in being on council rather than a platform.

Is homelessness a city, county, state, or national problem? Explain.

Homelessness is a national issue with a local solution.

Which of the following affordable housing proposals do you support:

- a) Reduction in impact fees for Accessory Dwelling Units? If so, the full 80% reduction allowed by law, or less?

YES

- b) Tiny Homes? If so, in all residential zones, or in certain designated areas or situations?

YES

- c) Cottage Housing? If so, in all residential zones, or in certain designated areas or situations?

YES

- d) What other affordable housing proposals do you support?

Streamlined process for single family home conversion to multiple family homes.

Do you support the continuation of the city's defense of its High Impact Business License imposed on the New Hope Resource Center? If so, how much tax money should be spent to defend it?

NO!

Do you support the dedication of city revenue to help create a shelter for single homeless adults? YES

Do you support zoning an area within city limits where a business or non-profit agency could locate a managed campground?
I would be open to discussing it.

Do you believe that crime has increased or decreased in Puyallup in recent years, and what evidence do you have for your position?

I don't think there has been a huge shift one way or another. We continue to be a rich target for small property crime and low capital crimes. I once asked the former King County Sheriff when I managed his election why does crime fluctuate? He

said there is no causal indicators for crime. City residents see crime as increasing because we have more access to information about crime and the story gets bigger the more it's retold.

Do you support putting a bond to city residents to build a new Public Safety Building? If so, the full proposed \$100 million including a 96-bed jail, or a lesser amount with fewer municipal court and police department amenities?

I think the decision on the Public Safety Building rests with the voters. Until we go out for a bond, we don't know what they want.

Do you support a change in the form of city government to the mayor-council model?

NO!

Would you pledge to not create Requests For Proposals except for new or existing events/projects that are in clear legal ownership of the City of Puyallup?

YES!

Would you take leadership to create a City Ethics Commission, or to propose changing the job description of the Assistant City Manager to City Ombudsman for greater accountability on citizen concerns? If not, what would you propose to handle ethics issues?

I have taken leadership on an Ethics Policy and I did not have a single councilmember support me – so I was unable to even get the item on the agenda. I surveyed other cities in the state and did not see a single instance of a City Ethics Commission. The policy I developed was decided by a hearing examiner to avoid politicizing ethics. As we have seen on the Planning commission several years ago, commissions tend to be stacked if the Ad Hoc committee members are bullies.

This budget season, I am going to propose starting a pilot project for mediating conflicts between neighbors.

I don't support designation of the Asst City manager to an Ombudsman because of some of the high-maintenance councilmembers we currently have.

In order of importance, what issues/initiatives do you believe are most important for city council to focus on?

1. HOMELESSNESS
2. Real infrastructure maintenance/repair schedule
3. Improvements in the permitting process
4. Economic Development
5. Adequate Staff

As a way to have a broader representation from throughout the city, what would be an appropriate salary so all citizens could afford to take the time to serve on city council?

We have a Salary Review Board and believe we did get a slight raise in the past year. They review comps from cities with the same population and services.

What I consider:

- *We have incredible health benefits that would cost \$30-40,000 in premiums for the average person.*
- *We have a range of effort by councilmembers. Some of our members would live on the city salary while they campaign for office if it is a full-pay job.*
- *Full-time Councilmembers would generate 7 times the amount of work for the FTE we currently have on staff.*
- *If we could ever stabilize the political environment in our city, more people would be willing to run, regardless of the pay.*

What will you do to support union organizing in your city?

Yes, but I think all employees are covered under a union.

What else would you do to support more living wage jobs in your city?

*We need to:
Stabilize the council...again...
Make the city attractive to business (permitting process, smart city, etc.)
Encourage development of transportation options.*

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

I serve on the Pierce Transit board and have recommended looking at a long-range plan that includes multi-modal options to expand service, such as scooters, bike rentals, lyft options.

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

My motivation for running this year is because of the people sitting in this room who asked me to serve. I lived my first 45 years in service and feel a bit out of kilter when I am not being of service. This group supported me with their full weight during my recall effort. I will always attempt to be supportive of you.

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 Democratic values 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: _____ Robin Farris _____ Today's Date: June 27, 2019 _____

Please save this form as a PDF and return your completed questionnaire to edwherde@gmail.com