

# Candidate Endorsement Application & Questionnaire for 2024: Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party

The Environment and Climate Caucus (ECC) was founded in 2017. We work with a diverse community of stakeholders including the Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee and its associated caucuses.

The ECC grants endorsements to those candidates running for statewide, congressional, and legislative offices, who have demonstrated through experience and commitment, their support of ECC's mission to advocate for legislation and policy that protects the environment and supports effective responses to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We are delighted that you are seeking ECC's endorsement. Please complete the questionnaire below online or provide to the email address provided below. In fairness to other applicants - incomplete or non-compliant applications, and late submissions, will not be considered.

Your responses will be shared with the ECC voting members who will review your questionnaire and the information provided on your campaign website, social media, and/or literature, with regard to meeting the ECC's stated mission.

If you are endorsed by the ECC during the Primary Election and proceed to the General, the endorsement will stand for the General. Endorsements are for the term of office designated by election.

The respondent's email ([chris4wakids@gmail.com](mailto:chris4wakids@gmail.com)) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email \*

[chris4wakids@gmail.com](mailto:chris4wakids@gmail.com)

Application and Completed Questionnaire for Endorsement Deadlines:

4/14/2024 Eligibility Date

for ECC Membership (30 days before close of voting)

4/25/2024 ECC General

Meeting

**4/27/2024 Candidate**

**Endorsement Questionnaire Due – Primary Election**

5/7 – 5/14/2022 ECC Primary

Election Endorsement Ballot

5/17/2024 Contact endorsed

candidates

8/6/2024 Primary Election

8/18/2024 Eligibility Date

for ECC Membership (30 days before close of voting)

**8/31/2024 Candidate Endorsement**

**Questionnaire Due – General Election**

9/10 – 9/17/2022 ECC

General Election Endorsement Ballot

**9/12/2022 ECC General Meeting – Candidate Forum**

9/20/2024 Contact endorsed

candidates

11/5/2024 General Election

ECC Voting and Results:

Voting occurs electronically among eligible ECC members. The Voting Period takes place over one week following the due date for submission in each election. Results will be announced to those candidates who have received endorsement at the completion of the Voting Period.

Endorsement Rules:

The endorsement process will be according to the ECC's standing 2024 Endorsement Rules (<https://eccwa.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ECC-Endorsement-Rules-2024.pdf>).

Submit questions to:

Jeff Berner, ECC Endorsements – [endorsements@eccwa.org](mailto:endorsements@eccwa.org)

Basic information (essay questions in next section)

Candidate's name \*

Chris Reykdal

Candidate's email address \*

chris4wakids@gmail.com

Candidate's phone number \*

██████████

Office and position sought (e.g. LD 50 legislature, position 2) \*

Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Are you an incumbent running for re-election? \*

Yes

No

Have you ever served in an elected position? If so, what position, and when? \*

Tumwater School Director, non-partisan (2007-2011)

Washington State House of Representatives, 22nd LD, Democrat (2011-2017)

Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Democrat (2017-present)

How many other Democratic candidates are there in your race (at the time you fill this out)? \*

3 or 4

I am a Democrat or I am willing to be identified with the Democratic Party (judicial candidates mark as noted) \*

Yes

No

I am a judicial candidate

Links to your campaign website and/or Facebook or your most informative venue \*

Website: [chrisreykdal.org](http://chrisreykdal.org)

Facebook: Washington State Superintendent Chris Reykdal([facebook.com/chris4wakids](https://facebook.com/chris4wakids))

Instagram & Threads: [@chris4wakids](https://www.instagram.com/chris4wakids)

Twitter/X: [@chrisreykdal](https://twitter.com/chrisreykdal)

Term of office \*

4 years

Campaign manager contact information (name, email, phone number) \*

Name: Samantha Payne

Email: [paynesamantha24@gmail.com](mailto:paynesamantha24@gmail.com)

Phone: 360-918-1716

Campaign consultant contact information (name, email, phone number) \*

Name: John Wyble

Email: [john@winpowerstrategies.com](mailto:john@winpowerstrategies.com)

Phone: 206-321-9890

Essay questions

Please note word limits, and don't forget to answer all questions. Incomplete questionnaires cannot be considered.

Why are you running for this position? What in your background has led you to run? (Not to exceed 150 words) \*

I ran for this position because public education remains the greatest opportunity for equity, democratic principles, a civil society, and economic empowerment – not just for the learner, but society as a whole. I ran to fully fund public education (we've added \$4.5 billion per year, but inflation has recently eroded that, so I want to finish the job!). I ran to build a system that better ensures equitable opportunities for ALL children – we've built record transitional kindergarten enrollments, record high kindergarten readiness numbers, record high dual language enrollments, record high capital and operating budgets, record high dual credit enrollments, and record high graduation rates. There is still a ton of work to do to ensure that each learner gets an individual plan to their post-secondary pathway.

Please limit your answers to the next five questions to 1000 words total

Please explain how your campaign will address donations from utilities, fossil fuel companies, and corporate PACs? \*

I do not accept donations from the fossil fuel industry, the gun lobby, or businesses and individuals who seek to privatize our system through charters, vouchers, and other schemes that send taxpayer money to private organizations for the delivery of basic education. I accept some business contributions where we have built shared interests in advancing career and technical education opportunities, and other post-secondary pathways for students. Over 98% of my contributions come from in-state supporters – mostly individuals, labor, tribes, social and economic justice organizations and some Washington-based business support. The biggest worry for Democrats should be those who say they don't take corporate money or charter school money, but then rake in piles of money from out-of-state CEOs and neo-liberal individuals who do support the privatization continuum. I would rather earn a contribution from a labor union, tribe, or business that is fully disclosable on the PDC with a clear understanding of who the group is, than to take individual private donations from people who absolutely have charter and privatization interests, but you don't know who they really are without an extensive search process. There is a lot of out-of-state money coming into this race, and many of the "social entrepreneurs" are really just charter advocates and school privatization leaders in other states.

What are your most significant accomplishments either as an individual, member of a group, or elected official on environment and climate change? \*

As a legislator, I had a 100% environmental voting record, and I co-sponsored legislation on oil-spill mitigation, clean air, setting emissions standards, and establishing the Puget Sound Corp. As Superintendent, I have led the charge on establishing LEED building expectations with our districts, building a grant program for clean water in our schools, and clean air in our schools (with a special focus on air quality near airports). We have rebuilt our science learning standards to include an emphasis on climate change, and we have built our science team to support climate science education, outdoor education, and more. And of course, we are now moving toward electric school buses. I support a mandate, but due to limited CCA dollars, the Legislature settled on a grant program for charging infrastructure and some initial bus conversions. And I am most proud of calling for a total transformation of how the Department of Natural Resources approaches timber harvests in structurally complex, naturally regenerating, older forests. We cannot use "the kids" to justify these harvests any longer. As a BNR member, I have created an outline for better governance and decision making related to our trust lands.

Briefly list organizations, events, rallies, canvassing, referendums, petitions, or policies and legislation you have engaged in to advocate for environmental protections. \*

My track record in the Legislature along with direct environmental policy and budget requests via my budget request authority at OSPI are the clearest evidence of my advocacy. I have advocated for and used my role to publicly lift up the CCA (and defend it at the ballot). I actively opposed Eyman's I-976 in 2019 (it passed, but we won in court). I supported and advocated publicly for I-1631 (carbon fee) in 2018. And as a Legislator I pushed for a carbon tax on fossil fuels that would become I-732. Again, the fossil fuel industry defeated it, but here we are with the CCA, and we MUST defend it at the ballot in November. I was also a named-plaintiff in the State Supreme Court case to overturn Eyman's 2/3rds tax requirement which has allowed us to pass CCA, capital gains, and much more.

If elected or re-elected what specific environment, climate change, biodiversity, transportation, building and land use, growth management, and/or environmental justice legislation will you prioritize and champion? \*

I will prioritize and champion more environmentally conscious modes of student transportation, robust outdoor education opportunities for all students, and additional funding for clean air and water for our students. Additionally, I strongly feel that advocating for thriving wages for public employees contributes to a healthier environment, as we are giving them more buying power to make greener and more ethical choices when it comes to clothing, food, appliances, and more. Progressive labor, tax, education, and economic policy is generally good environmental policy when we focus on long-term sustainability over short-term benefits. Finally, I will keep pushing until we get a Board of Natural Resources that considers the entire state population as the direct beneficiaries of our trust lands.

Washington State law sets a target of 90.5 million metric tons (MMT) carbon pollution by 2020, but greenhouse gas emissions rose last year to 102 MMT (Department of Ecology). The state is not on-track. For state office positions, what action will you take to accelerate efforts towards Washington State's 2030 Climate goals, specifically a 45% reduction of carbon pollution below 1990 levels?

In my role, I will advocate wherever the environmental community needs me. More specifically, I will push for an electric bus conversion system that is sustainable and fully funded, additional grant programs for our energy retrofits in our schools, and solar expansion. I will also continue to work on strategies at BNR that sets clearer goals for carbon storage by way of our public lands via naturally occurring storage solutions and fire mitigation strategies.

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