

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 (dave@upthegrove.org) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email *

dave@upthegrove.org

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

Basic information (essay questions in next section)

Candidate's name *

Dave Upthegrove

Candidate's email address *

dave@upthegrove.org

Candidate's phone number *

██████████

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

Commissioner of Public Lands

Are you an incumbent running for re-election? *

Yes

No

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

PCO, Democratic Party, 33rd District

Washington State Representative, 33rd District (2001-2013)

King County Councilmember, 5th District (2013-present)

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

3

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 *

Campaign website

<https://upthegrove.org>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ElectUpthegrove/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/daveupthegrove/>

X/Twitter

<https://twitter.com/DaveUpthegrove>

Term of office *

4 years



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

Emma Mudd, manager@upthegrove.org, 206-303-0531

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

Sandeep Kaushik, sandeep@soundviewstrategies.biz, (206) 355-9230

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) *

Our world is changing. We are experiencing the impacts of climate change all around us. We are seeing a rapid loss of biodiversity. I'm running to improve the management of our public lands to meet these realities of today. This is the culmination of a life and career focused on natural resource issues.

I spent my summers in high school and college teaching conservation out on the Hood Canal and leading backpacking treks through the North Cascades.

My interest in politics developed as an environmental activist at the University of Colorado where I earned a degree in Environmental Conservation and Biology— later a graduate certificate in Energy Policy from University of Idaho.

During twelve years in the Legislature, I served as chair of the Select Committee on Puget Sound, and later, the House Environment Committee. Now, as King County Council Chair, I'm leading local efforts to manage growth, public lands, parks and recreation.

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 am the only candidate not accepting contributions from the timber industry, their corporate executives or lobbyists. Despite that, I am leading all candidates in fundraising by running a people-powered grassroots campaign.

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

As Chair of the House Select Committee on Puget Sound, I worked with then-Governor Gregoire to create the Puget Sound Partnership to protect our state's crown jewel.

As Chair of the House Environment, I managed the legislation in the House that shut down our state's last polluting coal plant— and did so in a way that provided a just transition for the workers and the community.

As a member of the King County Council, I sponsored legislation that successfully banned coal mining and prohibited (to the extent allowed under federal law) any new fossil fuel infrastructure. And as King County Council Chair, I was able to get policies adopted in King County to oppose the destruction of mature legacy forests and to support state funding for the Natural Climate Solutions program.

I'm proud of my work as the Chair of the King County Flood Control District to implement major reforms to better protect our region's rivers by doubling funding for salmon recovery, strengthening tribal engagement, and prioritizing multi-benefit projects and integrated floodplain management.

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

Through a long career of environmental activism and leadership, there are too many to remember. Some work I am most proud of includes serving as a leader of the "Blue-Green Alliance"-- a group of pro-labor, pro-environment legislators who rejected the false choice between jobs and the environment and instead worked together to advance a sustainable economic agenda. I'm proud of my long association with WA Conservation Action (previously WA Conservation Voters). They put me through campaign school 23 years ago as a young first-time candidate, honored me as their legislator of the year in 2008, and have given me their sole endorsement in this campaign for State Lands Commissioner.

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?

My top priorities will be to (1) protect our clean air, clean water and habitat; (2) improve wildfire prevention and response; and (3) expand recreational opportunities on state lands (particularly for those who have not historically had those opportunities). Environmental justice and tribal sovereignty need to be institutionalized into all of the work of the department and implementation of these priorities.

Expanding on priority (1): On day one as your next Lands Commissioner I will sign a mature forest policy that ends the destruction of our mature legacy forests. These naturally regenerated, structurally diverse forests store the most carbon and have the most biodiversity. They make up only 3% of our state-owned timberlands but have an outsize impact on our climate. The good news is that we can do this and still nurture rural economies, create jobs and fund public services. How? In the short term, the state simply has other parcels that can be harvested. In the long-term, we can use existing state funding streams, like Natural Climate Solutions funding or in some cases, the Trust Land Transfer Program, to acquire replacement timber lands--particularly private timberlands at risk of conversion. 70% of forestry activity takes place on private timber lands. With the post-COVID population shifts due to zoom and other technologies, we are seeing increased pressure in some rural areas to convert timberlands to development and sprawl. This creates a great opportunity for a win-win for the State Department of Natural Resources to purchase these lands, and replant them as tree farms to be harvested in the future in lieu of our carbon-dense biodiverse legacy forests.

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?

The Department of Natural Resources has an important role to play in reducing carbon pollution. Pacific NW forests are some of the greatest carbon sinks in the world. The State Supreme Court, in Conservation NW vs. Franz, has given us the opportunity to make important changes to our forestry practices in order to store more carbon. I will set ambitious carbon storage and sequestration goals for the next sustainable harvest calculation. I will preserve our legacy forests (they're only 3% of our state timberlands but have an outsize impact on climate.) I will re-evaluate how and how often we harvest, and will institute honest carbon accounting as part of the analysis of proposed timber sales. Finally, I will help facilitate better upfront planning for the use of state-owned lands for clean energy infrastructure-- both generation and transmission-- to help us meet our state clean energy goals while respecting sacred tribal spaces and minimizing ecological impacts, particularly on shrub steppe habitat, and other local conflicts.

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