

# 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 ([eric@electricpickens.com](mailto:eric@electricpickens.com)) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email \*

[eric@electricpickens.com](mailto:eric@electricpickens.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 \*

Eric Pickens

Candidate's email address \*

eric@electricpickens.com

Candidate's phone number \*

██████████

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

LD 24 State House, Position 1

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

Yes

No

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

Sequim School Board 2019 - present, Sequim School Board President 2021 - present

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

2

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 \*

electricpickens.com;  
facebook.com/electricpickens

Term of office \*

2 years

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

Christopher Mair, info@electricpickens.com, (360) 477-3771

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

Michael Fertakis, fertakis@ulstrategies.com, (206) 941-4075

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 am running for State Representative because, as a teacher and a working parent, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of policy failures on families in our community. Our schools, families, workers and natural world are facing challenges that demand thoughtful, effective solutions. I believe that my experiences as a teacher, father, and proud union member uniquely position me to understand and address these issues. We need more legislators in Olympia who will prioritize families, workers' rights, addressing climate change, and competence in state government. I am committed to ensuring the voices of our community are heard and represented in the legislature.

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 not accepting donations from utilities, fossil fuel companies or corporate PACs.

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

Most of my activism has been focused on labor and union advocacy. With that being said, I have always been a champion of policies and resolutions within the organizations that I serve to ensure that we are prioritizing the environment and addressing climate change. Though this may not count as significant, I made the switch to an electric vehicle in 2021.

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

As a Sequim Farmers Market Board member, I am proud to support and advocate for local agriculture and producers. As a member of the 24th Legislative District Democrats, I have supported resolutions to address climate change and reduce environmental impacts. As part of the Washington Education Association, I supported resolution I-2 which calls for the teaching of climate change issues and impacts at all grade levels, through the lenses of science, social justice, civic duty and critical thought in other subjects. This resolution recognizes that climate impacts are disproportionately felt by disadvantaged communities and communities of color.

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? \*

Being from the Olympic Peninsula, I know the importance that our local forests have in carbon stores that must be protected. Multiple groups, such as Elwha Legacy Forests and the Center for Responsible Forestry, are working towards improved land use policies. I do not support harvesting timber as a method of supplemental funding for education. We should preserve legacy forests and decouple junior tax districts from tracts of land. I would be a champion of these and similar measures in the Legislature, and I am eager to work with other advocates and agencies to identify smart land use investments, as well as change policies to promote long-term resiliency.

In addition, local governments have drafted climate resiliency plans and will need assistance to see those plans through, so I will work with stakeholders to find funding for climate resiliency measures. Although I'm hopeful that the Climate Commitment Act repeal initiative will fail, I will continue to advocate for its importance and expansion within our state.

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?

As far as I understand, there is currently no viable industrial carbon capture technology, so we have to support and lift up the scientists and stakeholders who are working for solutions that are not motivated by profit, and call out those loud voices that wish to destroy our working and natural lands to enrich shareholders at the expense of climate mitigation. Protecting carbon-storing forest lands would help with decreasing the amount of carbon in our atmosphere, and from there we can work on both holding companies accountable for current pollution and researching ways to reduce both private and public carbon pollution.

Additionally, I would sponsor and support measures promoting housing density, improving public transportation, and advancing walkability and bicycle infrastructure in cities and towns of all sizes. I look forward to conversations with advocacy groups and stakeholders on how best to reach the state's climate pollution targets.