

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 (gerry@gerrypollet.com) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email *

gerry@gerrypollet.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

Basic information (essay questions in next section)

Candidate's name *

Gerry Pollet

Candidate's email address *

gerry@gerrypollet.com

Candidate's phone number *

██████████

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

46th LD Pos. 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? *

Serving In the House for 46th District Pos. #1 since December 2011.
I was Vice-Chair and Secretary of the 46th District Democrats for 14+ years.

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

none

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 *

<https://www.gerrypollet.com/>

Term of office *

2 years



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

Janet Miller janetmiller98115@gmail.com

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

na

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 office to be a champion for education, protecting our environment and supporting working families.

I'm running to continue to serve because I believe there are important challenges and efforts that I will continue to lead on for the state and 46th District.

I'm one of the few legislators who have a lifetime 100% environmental voting record and 100% working families labor record.

I work hard to develop groundbreaking legislation and tackle difficult challenges. As a champion for the environment, environmental justice, health and equity, I've developed the first state legislation in the nation to ban lead from cookware (passed this year), consider lifecycle methane/GHG emissions for fossil fuel projects, the strongest US legislation protecting children from lead in school water, the first law in the US to address predatory college faculty or sports staff who move to another college after being found to have committed sexual misconduct....

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 don't accept donations from utilities and fossil fuel companies or companies / corporate PACs whose business is harmful to environment or public health. Those companies know where I stand and are not going to try to influence me with their contributions and the word spread quickly that I've refused contributions / returned checks.

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

More important than any one piece of environmental legislation is my year-around work to inspire and train new generations of law, public health and undergraduate students to work as environmental advocates and for environmental justice; and, to involve and mobilize the public to be environmental advocates through my work as Executive Director of Heart of America Northwest (HoANW) for the cleanup of Hanford, the most contaminated area in the Western Hemisphere.

I spend my summers supervising law students in HoANW's "Tribal Environmental Law Externship," which is the only program in the Northwest offering hands-on experience for law students who want to work in Indian Country and/or for environmental advocacy. In developing each summer's program, I collaborate closely with the Yakama and Umatilla Nations.

Combining my legislative role and interest in environmental education, I led the successful effort to develop a plan and funding for the new Environmental Education Resource Center at St. Edward State Park, which will be operated by UW Bothell and opening this spring. I founded Heart of America Northwest (HoANW) after writing and leading the statewide ballot referendum (Referendum 40) to protect our Columbia River from the US Department of Energy nominating Hanford to be the nation's High Level Nuclear Waste Dump. I led the development of HoANW into a regionwide environmental advocacy group with thousands of members in Washington and Oregon, which helped the environmental community on many efforts beyond Hanford, e.g., I was one of the coauthors of our state's Growth Management Act and our state hazardous waste cleanup law, MTCA.

I recently successfully challenged the failure of the US Department of Energy to remove the deadly leakable liquid wastes from Hanford's leaking High Level Nuclear Waste tanks as required by federal and state laws.

I began working regionally and nationally to fight climate change in the 1990's.

I played a major role in negotiations leading to the successful passage of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) to decarbonize our electricity generation in Washington. I worked closely with climate advocates to develop and introduce the legislation to require consideration of the lifecycle emissions of methane and other GHGs for all fossil fuel projects in Washington, which Governor Inslee adopted as an Executive Order and Ecology in rules.

Similarly, I worked with a broad range of environmental justice advocates starting before I was a legislator to develop the first proposal for environmental justice legislation in Washington, and then introduced and prime sponsored the legislation. As mentioned above, I developed and passed the strongest legislation in the US to protect our children from lead in school water and passed (this year) the first legislation in the US to ban lead from pots, pans and other cookware.

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

As Executive Director of Heart of America Northwest, with thousands of members across Washington and Oregon, I was involved in early organization of what has become the Environmental Priorities Coalition; served on the board of Citizens for Balanced Growth which wrote and passed the Growth Management Act; and was on the board and helped write and pass the initiative which adopted the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) for hazardous waste cleanup in Washington (our state "superfund"). I was co-lead for an early environmental caucus within the State Democratic Party.

As a legislator, I worked closely with Columbia Riverkeeper, Sierra and others to oppose coal and fracked gas export terminals along the Columbia River.

I worked closely with climate advocates to develop and introduce the legislation to require consideration of the lifecycle emissions of methane and other GHGs for all fossil fuel projects in Washington, which Governor Inslee adopted as an Executive Order and Ecology in rules.

As a legislator, I remain committed to working closely with climate, environmental and EJ advocates in developing legislation and strategizing, including coordinating closely on budgets.

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 am actively working with Tribal Nations across Washington (including those with ceded lands in Washington) to draft and introduce the first state constitutional amendment recognizing Tribal Sovereignty and creating a duty on all levels of government in Washington to preserve Treaty resources (both environmental and cultural). I co-sponsored and will also continue working towards a state constitutional amendment creating a right to a healthy environment.

I have been the legislative leader seeking to protect our children from exposure to toxic exposures in schools. For 2025, I will continue to champion removing the unconscionable restriction on the State Board of Health from adopting rules that protect children from environmental exposures in schools as well as programs to remove PCB and mercury and assess arsenic and lead; and, to establish standards that are based on the much greater risk to children from exposure to smoke.

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?

First, I will be working to ensure that voters do not repeal the Climate Commitment Act. I will work closely with advocates to prioritize investing CCA funds in programs that are effective in reducing GHG emissions while advancing equity. We should have a clear accounting for how each investment of CCA funds will reduce emissions and on what timeline. We know the sources of GHG emissions in Washington and which ones have risen or not been reduced. We need to target those, including transportation. To meet transportation goals, we will need to increase sales of EVs (including government fleets and delivery trucks) along with investment in charging. To reduce gas use in homes and apartments, we need to utilize CCA funds to enable residents to be able to convert and install heat pumps and distributed renewables.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms