



Timestamp
5/25/2024 18:36:03
Candidate's name
Victoria Hunt
Candidate's email address
victoria@victoriahunt.com
Candidate's phone number
(425) 331-9814
Office and position sought (e.g. LD 50 legislature, position 2)
State Representative, 5th LD, Position 1
Are you an incumbent running for re-election?
No
Have you ever served in an elected position? If so, what position, and when?
I currently serve on the Issaquah City Council. I was appointed to the Council in early 2018 and have since been elected and re-elected in 2019 and 2023. I was City Council President in 2020 and 2021. I am currently Chair of the Planning, Development, and Environment Committee of the City Council. I am also an elected Democratic Precinct Committee Officer in the 5th Legislative District.
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
Links to your campaign website and/or Facebook or your most informative venue
https://victoriahunt.com/
Term of office
2 years
Campaign manager contact information (name, email, phone number)
I do not have a campaign manager.
Campaign consultant contact information (name, email, phone number)
Erin Schultz at NWP Consulting, erin@nwpcconsulting.com 323-384-8683
Why are you running for this position? What in your background has led you to run? (Not to exceed 150 words)
I love this region, and want to use my expertise in urban planning and ecology to protect the beautiful natural environment and quality of life that we enjoy here. I am currently serving my third term on Issaquah City Council. We face challenges that I'd be honored to continue working on including housing affordability and lack of public transportation. I have also been motivated to serve by my work; I am Chief Data Officer for a company that provides guidance for local governments to take climate action, and previously was a data scientist for Breakthrough Energy modeling the US electric grid and the clean energy transition. I have a PhD in ecology, and previously worked in the Urban Ecology Lab at the University of Washington in the Urban Design and Planning Department. I want to ensure we take care of our environment for current and future generations through data-driven policy.

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

I will NOT take any money from fossil fuel companies or associated industries or PACs. I am entering this race with an experienced campaign team, a long list of endorsers, and early fundraising success. I am endorsed by Representative Bill Ramos and Lisa Callan, among many others. I have raised the most money of my opponents (around \$40,000), largely from small-dollar donors, and I plan to continue doing so by leveraging my broad array of support throughout the 5th LD. As an ecologist and someone who fights every day to get the money of bad climate actors out of politics, I'm well researched and diligent about not letting their money into my campaign. I instead rely on the power of people whose values I share. With the help of organizations like yours, I will be an environmental champion for our communities in Olympia.

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

One of my most satisfying environmental accomplishment has been championing the acquisition of 46 acres of forested open space on Cougar Mountain, called the Bergsma Property (<https://www.issaquahreporter.com/news/issaquah-city-council-approves-purchase-of-46-acre-bergsma-property-for-open-space/>). I am also very proud of the fact that the Issaquah City Council adopted our Climate Action Plan when I was Council President in 2021. To continue to advance climate action and improve environmental stewardship, I will factor climate and environmental impacts into all decisions I make including policies around land use, zoning, building policy, housing, and more.

I am also Chief Data Officer for a company called Crosswalk Labs which provides climate action planning support to cities, counties and local governments across the United States. One of the accomplishments I am most proud of from this role is contracting with Climate Mayors, a coalition of more than 400 cities at the forefront of climate action, and providing them with greenhouse gas emissions inventory data so that they can better mitigate their climate impacts and can make policies that will have maximal impact.

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

For multiple years until it was passed into law, I lobbied for the Clean Fuels Standard and went to Olympia to testify, participated in events in support with local businesses such as circular restaurant week celebrations, wrote to my state legislators as council president, and I wrote an op-ed in our local paper: <https://www.issaquahreporter.com/opinion/guest-column-issaquah-leaders-support-a-clean-fuel-standard/>

I have advocated for clean energy at the state level, for example in this op-ed: <https://www.valleyrecord.com/opinion/no-time-to-lose-on-transitioning-to-clean-energy-guest-column/>.

I also advocate for regional salmon conservation. I currently serve on three regional boards: the Salmon Recovery Council of WRIA8, the Kokanee Interlocal Agreement Management Committee, and the Public Issues Committee of the Sound Cities Association as an alternate member. I have spent my entire career advocating for environmental protections as an ecologist and as a public servant.

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?

One of my top priorities is to build communities where every Washingtonian is healthy and able to achieve their full potential. My experience in environmental and ecological science has taught me that climate action is a crucial part of healthcare, especially as we know pollution and extreme weather events (such as extremely hot weather) disproportionately impacts communities of color, resulting in adverse health outcomes. I am committed to addressing this issue head-on and prioritizing the voices of those most-impacted. Some of the policy positions I support include policies for building electrification that provide assistance for low income families, policies that would require transparency for oil companies to be clear about how they set prices and their profits, policies to continue to decarbonize our transportation system (big progress was made on this with electric school buses in 2024! But there is more to do), policies to increase manufacturer responsibility for waste in packaging, and policies to build out clean energy infrastructure that we need to achieve our climate action goals as a state.

I understand that those closest to the problem are closest to the solution, I am also committed to meeting people where they are. While I have been on the Issaquah City Council, we have been doing community listening sessions in apartment complexes and meeting places across the city, bringing the conversation to the people where they are. I will expand such outreach to the whole 5th LD as a State Representative so that we have more voices in our conversations, which is crucial to ensure our green transition is a just one.

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 a scientist working for a company that prepares greenhouse gas inventories for local governments I have a deep appreciation for the need to keep our carbon pollution low and to continue to be a leader in the nation on this front. I will advocate for clean energy infrastructure, including all forms of zero carbon energy sources including nuclear energy. Across the 5th Legislative District, one of the distinguishing features of our lands is our amazing forests, which are extremely important carbon sinks; if forests are stewarded wisely and cared for, the carbon in trees in forests can be sequestered for decades or even longer. I am supportive of improving our urban forestry practices, and am supportive of working forests where science-based best practices are applied. Maintaining healthy forests is also extremely critical as we see our climate changing and the risk of wildfire at the urban wildland interface increasing, which is already an increasingly important threat in the 5th legislative district. I also served for many years on the King Conservation District Advisory Board and have a deep appreciation for our region's farms and the benefits they provide to the community. Support for our local farms and sustainable agriculture is one way we can reduce our carbon footprint by avoiding supply chain emissions by making healthy foods easily accessible to people where they live.