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Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

Q1

Your information

Name	Rod Dembowski
Email Address	rod@vote4rod.com
Phone Number	206.335.0794

Q2**Yes**

I have read instructions at the top of this page

Page 2: ALL CANDIDATES: Campaign Contact Information

Q3

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name	Rod
Candidate last name	Dembowski
Campaign email	rod@vote4rod.com
Campaign website (optional)	www.vote4rod.com

Q4**Respondent skipped this question**

Candidate name pronunciation (optional)

Q5**Respondent skipped this question**

Candidate pronouns (optional)

Q6**Respondent skipped this question**

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Q7

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Treasurer first name	Abbot
Treasurer last name	Taylor
Treasurer email	abbot@abbottaylor.com
Treasurer phone	206.218.3108

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Q11

Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

Twitter	@Rdembowski
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Q12

Respondent skipped this question

URL to Headshot (optional)

Page 3: ALL CANDIDATES: Yes / No Questions

Q13**Yes**

Are you a Democrat?

Q14

Yes/No Questions

	Yes / No / Qualifie d
Have you ever been a member of another political party?	No
Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	No
Do you have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?	Yes
If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?	Yes
Is there anything from your past that might hamper your success as a candidate?	No
Do you support employees of your jurisdiction (e.g. your city's employees, the Port's employees, etc.) exercising their collective bargaining rights without fear of retaliation; including the right to bargain and strike for better working conditions and pay?	Yes
Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implicit bias?	Yes
Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat sexual harassment?	Yes
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate fossil fuel PACs; including Puget Sound Energy and groups that provide natural gas to King County residents?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate pharmaceutical PACs?	Qualifie d
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate health insurance PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate building industry PACs; including the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and National Association of Home Builders?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from police guilds or sheriffs' organizations?	No
Will you denounce contributions that you don't support from companies who support your campaign anyway?	Yes
Have you previously participated or will you be participating in a candidate training program like Institute for a Democratic Future or Emerge?	No

Q15

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

I believe that Nate Miles, who works for Eli Lilly, arranged for an unsolicited contribution to my campaign a couple of years ago. While not from a PAC, I wanted to note this in the interest of transparency. Nate is a longtime mentor and partner with whom I have worked to support programs for young people, particularly for African-American and Black youth. Eli Lilly does not have business before King County government that I am aware of.

Page 4: ALL CANDIDATES: Candidate Background and Free Response**Q16**

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.)

Born in Auburn, I grew up in South King County, raised by my Dad. Our family income was selling socks at the Midway Swap Meet every weekend, work which my brother and I actively participated in during our childhoods.

I attended and graduated from Renton Public Schools (Maplewood Elementary, Dimmitt Middle and Hazen High School). I attended and graduated, with honors, from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. with a Business Management major and a minor in Government. I chaired the Georgetown College Democrats, worked in the United States Senate, the White House, and for the Japanese American Citizens League, working to pass civil rights legislation, the "Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act" which was an effort to restore rights to Filipino, Alaskan Native and other primarily workers of color in the Alaska fish cannery industry.

Following college, I returned home and worked for King County Executive Gary Locke as a policy analyst (1994-1996). I then worked for PACCAR Financial in Bellevue, Washington as an analyst before attending law school at the University of Washington (1998-2001). I clerked for the Washington Attorney General-JW division in 1999. I practiced real estate and municipal law, and was elected an equity partner, at the Foster Pepper law firm in Seattle from 2000 until joining the King County Council in 2013.

I have served on a number of community and civic boards, including Seattle CityClub, API Chaya, JAAC-Eastside, 41st District Democrats (past chair).

Q17

Please describe your history of involvement (if any), with particular emphasis on the last five years, in local, regional, and/or state politics.

My service during the last five years has been on the Metropolitan King County Council, representing the 1st district. I have served as chair of the Mobility and Environment Committee and its predecessor the Transportation, Economy & Environment Committee, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, and Chaired the Council in 2019. I also serve on the Law & Justice committee, Regional Policy Committee, Government Accountability & Oversight Committee, and am Vice-Chair of the Budget & Fiscal Management Committee. I have never missed a vote in committee or at full council during my service, having cast over 5,000 consecutive votes.

I have remained active in the Democratic Party, actively supporting the party and its candidates.

Q18

Please describe the progress of your campaign and goals. How do you plan to win?

I view my campaign for re-election as a referendum on the work I have done in the job to date. I have been committed to being in community, partnering with fellow leaders, governments and organizations to improve the quality of life for King County residents across a broad spectrum of policy areas - from Human Services, to real, contemporary public safety, transit, public health and environmental protection and enhancement. I will share accomplishments in these areas with my constituents during the campaign, dialogue with them on their interests, desires and goals, and take those messages to the dais to advance policy.

Q19

What issues do you think deserve more attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

I believe that our national income and wealth inequality is a fundamental challenge to opportunity for everyone to achieve their full potential. I fear that King County is becoming a "tale of two counties" - where some have much, and many have little. This ramifications of this growing inequality, rooted to a large degree in institutional racism, are enormous. King County has the opportunity to help address these issues with our programs and policies. I'm proud to have led across a range of policy areas, initiatives to address this, including

- (1) writing the Youth Action Plan, our foundational children and youth policy document;
- (2) supporting the Best Starts for Kids levy, to fund its policy recommendations,
- (3) supporting expansion of the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy,
- (4) taking a leading role in building the next generation hospital at Harborview, where I championed the Behavioral Health Institute and on-campus shelter for 100 individuals, and a large respite bed expansion;
- (5) leading in the area of law enforcement reform - from police, to jails, to insuring we have one of the strongest, independent public defense system in America to protect individuals' civil rights so that they can obtain employment and housing.
- (6) growing our transit system, and greening it, to stop polluting in economically-challenged communities, where health disparities are the greatest.
- (7) Fighting against funding pro-sports stadiums, and instead advocating to use those funds for housing investments. I was the first to introduce legislation to impose the tax that now funds the Health Through Housing initiative, three years ago. I was the prime sponsor of the budget amendment that started the JustCare Program and have worked to keep it funded in the face of opposition to housing our most vulnerable neighbors.

All of these initiatives are part of the toolkit that King County brings to the issue of economic inequality. While King County has limited revenue tools, I am a strong supporter of fixing our upside down tax system, and reducing reliance on sales and other regressive taxes.

Q20

How do you plan to involve all residents and engage all communities in the decision making process? How would you work with people who lack trust in our institutions?

Our office makes a proactive, intentional effort to seek out input from stakeholders who are often excluded from the decision-making process. We listen to and support recommendations from community-led organizations and we empower them by bringing them into the decision-making process at the County.

I wrote legislation to create the County's Immigrant and Refugee Commission.

My Youth Action Plan legislation created the Children & Youth Advisory Board.

I regularly work with our Women's Advisory Board on policy ideas.

Building - and rebuilding trust when broken - takes time, effort, and integrity to advance community-led proposals and ideas.

Q21

COVID has increased existing inequities. How will you use your office to support the most vulnerable? How would you promote an equitable recovery and create opportunity for all?

As Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, using our federal dollars to advance equity in the recovery has been a priority. This means funding community groups to lead on housing assistance, supporting community in its work to advance a more equitable recovery, and taking the opportunity to fundamentally transform how we serve community.

I believe that we have a once-in-a-generation chance to make a real impact on addressing the crisis of neighbors living unsheltered. We have the know-how, we have the reformed structures, and we have the funding and will-power to make big progress. That is a primary focus for me in this area.

Q22

If elected, how will you use your position to address racial inequality, and advance an anti-racist agenda? How specifically would you support the Black Lives Matter movement?

It is my practice to demand that all policy work at the county council, include express, written and presented analysis using our equity and social justice lens and tools.

I actively participated in, and supported community during the 2020 BLM movement, attending marches, and working with community to advance law enforcement reform. I sponsored key Charter amendments, including strengthening our Office of Law Enforcement Oversight, and led the effort to change back to an appointed Sheriff model. These are major reforms that will have real impacts in the law enforcement area.

I was also proud to introduce legislation to make Juneteenth an official, paid county holiday and to support a statewide law to do the same. This legislation was opposed at the county, and I worked to fund it as a budget priority to bring it to life. I view this as far more than a symbolic "win" in that it acknowledges publicly, annually, that our nation was founded upon the enslavement of black people and that our institutions and economy are built upon that fundamental fact. Celebrating Juneteenth ensures that we acknowledge this history, think about it, and work to deconstruct the systems and reform the institutions that have resulted.

Finally, when I served as Chair of the Board of Health, I advanced a work program that centered on addressing health disparities across racial and ethnic lines. I felt it was important to bring this issue forward and have our health department's work, and the Board's policy work, focused on it.

Page 5: ALL CANDIDATES: Jurisdiction and Position

Q23**County Council**

Position Sought

Q24**King County**

Jurisdiction

Q25**1**

Position number

Page 6: KING COUNTY OFFICES ONLY: Questions for King County Executive and King County Council

Q26

Yes/No Questions for King County

	Yes / No / Qualified
Do you support the Growth Management Act's goals of focusing development and population growth in existing urban centers in order to protect rural land use in rural King County?	Yes
Do you support increased funding for the King County District Court Regional Mental Health Court?	Yes
Do you support requiring King County Sheriff's deputies to wear body cameras?	Qualified
Do you support the repeal of Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax increases to 1% per year, regardless of population growth, inflation, or need?	Yes
Have you made any non-trivial donations to Democratic candidates or Democratic party organizations since January 2016?	Yes
Have you knowingly made any donations to Republican candidates or Republican party organizations since 2000?	No
Do you support reduction of police budgets in favor of social services?	Yes
Would you advocate for the use of harm reduction models in the County's criminal legal system?	Yes

Q27

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Regarding body cameras: I believe that this should be done, but I am curious to learn more about why our Citizens Advisory Committee at the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight, has suggested that we proceed carefully. We are working to implement a pilot, but issues around privacy, data collection, and how the program is implemented deserve attention. I will listen to experts from the community, and civil rights organizations as this work goes forward.

On police budgets vs. social services, I will strongly favor more investments in health, prevention and human services programs, in a zero-sum choice and have helped write many budgets that do exactly that. I do believe that reforming law enforcement will cost more money, not less, for better recruitment, training, and oversight. Given a head-to-head choice, I will choose and have regularly chosen, investing in human services.

Q28

How have you worked to combat climate change and promote climate justice? How would you use your elected office to ensure King County drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

I have sponsored and led efforts to adopt King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan. When the draft plan did not propose achieving net zero emissions, I pushed the executive branch to achieve that goal.

I have written legislation to require our county solid waste and wastewater utilities to achieve carbon neutrality.

I led the efforts and wrote the legislation to convert our transit fleet to a zero-emission fleet, and have fought in the years since to keep on that path, and fund it, in the face of occasional efforts to change course.

I have been a strong supporter of our Land Conservation Initiative.

Each of these efforts centers equity, and are now driven by equity cabinets of community leaders.

Finally, goals and plans are needed, but we must act and we must fund these efforts. I believe we should pass a Climate Bond in King County to accelerate our program to green the transit fleet, preserve the last great lands in King County, which are excellent carbon sinks, and to decarbonize our built environment. I am in active discussions with community now on this idea.

Q29

King County plays an important role in providing many health and human services, as evidenced in the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. What has King County done well in its response to COVID? What would you continue, expand, and change? Do you support increased funding for many health and human services? How would you fund those services - even after the pandemic is over?

As Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, I have worked in close partnership with our budget chair and the executive on each of the Covid budgets. We are now working on the 7th such budget. We have, correctly in my view, prioritized the following areas for support: (1)public health response - testing and vaccinations, (2) housing - shelter de-intensification and rent support, (3) food security, (4) behavioral health support, (5) economic recovery for workers and small business, with an added focus on child care and disproportionate impact on women and people of color, and(6) criminal legal system reform and support.

I think we have prioritized the right areas in our response. The data show that we have the best record in the nation with respect to COVID infection and death rates, except for Hawaii.

I think we need to seize this opportunity to address the crisis of unhoused neighbors. It is a human rights issue, a health issue, and important to the general recovery post-pandemic.

Fundamental state-level tax reform is essential to building the robust human services system we deserve. In the meantime, I support using our existing tools - property and sales taxes to fund this essential work going forward.

Q30

How would you advocate for alternatives to incarceration in the County's criminal legal system? How would you make zero youth incarceration a reality in King County?

I was the only member of the council to change course, and publicly oppose construction of the new youth jail. I did this because I listened to community, and then engaged with experts (TeamChild, UW Medicine) and it became clear that building a new youth jail, with 140 cells, that will last for 50-plus years, was absolutely the wrong thing to do. Unfortunately, I could not, at the time, get support from the executive or colleagues, and we spent \$250 million to build a new jail that is harmful to youth. We could have and should have spent that money instead building a modern, trauma-informed, medically- based support and recovery system for justice-involved youth. I worked legislatively to alter our course, and chart a new path. We are now on that course, but it will take longer, and new funding will have to be sought to achieve the vision.

We need to look worldwide to other models, but we have shown that we can dramatically reduce incarceration of young people, ensure public safety, ensure the health and safety of youth, and secure better outcomes.

We have also dramatically lowered our adult population in the jail without risking public safety. We've shown it is possible. I have strongly advocated for and funded programs like LEAD, bail reform (securing funding for this in the 2019-2020 budget) and reform to our criminal drug laws - believing we must shift to a diversion and care model, and away from an arrest-prosecute-jail model. The latter is obscenely expensive with terrible outcomes.

Q31

What would you do to ensure that businesses owned by people of color have a fair shot at County contracts?

I have worked to ensure that our capital construction programs include strong priority hire (people of color, women, youth) and small contractor and supplier provisions (wrote and passed legislation to achieve this), and that we offer and fund technical assistance programs to help small and BIPOC-owned businesses successfully secure these contracts.

In our Covid ecumenic recovery funding, we have focused on small and BIPOC-owned businesses, by limiting revenue and employee size and prioritizing outreach to communities that have historically been underserved.

Q32

"Structural racism is not always caused by racist actors – it is caused by institutional arrangements overlaid on historical policies that continue to perpetuate racialized outcomes." - Stephen Menendian How would you use your position to work to dismantle these arrangements including, but not limited to, exclusionary land use policies?

I agree strongly with the statement - it is fact. One initiative that I would highlight in response is my legislation to restore the strength and independence of our Civil Rights Commission. It has been allowed to languish and has been defunded and de-staffed to just one staffer now.

With former Councilmember Gossett, I wrote and passed a new law to establish a strong, broadly-charged, and independent Human and Civil Rights Commission. Its effective date was delayed a year due to institutional and Republican-led opposition. I am now working to bring it to life this Spring. This is important because I believe we must have dedicated, independent, mission-focused institutions to identify, call out and push to reform our own structures that perpetuation racist policy outcomes. A strong, independent Human and Civil Rights Commission at Martin Luther King County will help.

Regarding land use, I think we must be cognizant of the history of redlining, and policies that too often lead forced relocation, gentrification, and the resulting dismantling of and harm to communities of color. Government land use practices must account for this history, and ensure that we don't, while seeking to promote dense, livable communities, exclude and force out people of color who have built lives and neighborhoods rich in history and culture. This means bringing public dollars to ensure housing options for all, investing in community infrastructure, and supporting educational, health and economic opportunity, in community, for those most often excluded.

Page 7: MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES ONLY: Questions for ALL Mayor, City Council, and City Attorney Candidates

Q33

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for municipal candidates

Q34

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q35

Respondent skipped this question

Our region is growing quickly. How will you ensure that existing residents and newcomers alike have equitable access to affordable housing, public transit, and neighborhood amenities such as parks and schools? How will you protect current residents, and especially our most vulnerable communities, from displacement caused by this growth? How will you provide for and protect those displaced?

Q36

Respondent skipped this question

How have you worked to combat climate change? How would you use your elected office to ensure your region drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

Q37

Respondent skipped this question

What specific actions will you take to address the homelessness crisis in King County, both in the short term and long term? How do you plan to implement these solutions?

Q38

Respondent skipped this question

"Structural racism is not always caused by racist actors – it is caused by institutional arrangements overlaid on historical policies that continue to perpetuate racialized outcomes." - Stephen Menendian How would you use your position to work to dismantle these arrangements including, but not limited to, exclusionary land use policies?

Q39

Respondent skipped this question

Jurisdiction Check

Page 8: SEATTLE-ONLY: Questions for SEATTLE-ONLY municipal candidates

Q40

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for Seattle municipal candidates

Q41

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q42

Respondent skipped this question

What actions would you take to address homelessness? Please consider addressing land use, revenue, regional collaboration, the role of social services, the role of the police and justice system.

Q43

Respondent skipped this question

Seattleites are divided on how to fund and what to fund within police work and public safety. How would you help bring the community together and adjust the Seattle Police Department (SPD) budget as needed? By approximately what % would you adjust the SPD budget?

Q44

Respondent skipped this question

How will you prioritize transportation infrastructure for biking, pedestrians, transit, commercial vehicles, and cars? Which do you view as most important to prioritize funds for?

Q45

Respondent skipped this question

Do you support utilizing Seattle's newly granted authority to implement a 1% flat income tax?

Page 9: PORT ONLY: Questions for PORT Candidates

Q46

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for port candidates

Q47

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q48

Respondent skipped this question

As the Port recovers from the economic impact of the pandemic, how will you use your position to ensure that future growth and activity among tenant operations is inline with limiting climate impacts and encourage environmental stewardship to be a good neighbor and steward of our environment? How would help alleviate today's present and real issues, specifically homelessness?

Q49

Respondent skipped this question

Since the pandemic and recent trade tariffs, the Seaport and Airport revenue and user statistics have plummeted. However, their capital investment was based on previous growth trends. As Port Commissioner, how will you help the Port to address these new economic realities?

Q50

Respondent skipped this question

The Port has operations and activities on tribal and indigenous land. How would you use your position to elevate indigenous people and encourage more equity and opportunity for BIPOC Communities? Give us some specific examples of your plans in this aspect. How would you handle your approach to women-and minority-owned businesses.

Q51

Respondent skipped this question

Considering the health impacts and socio-economic ramifications of increased airport activity, how would you balance the future growth of SeaTac airport with the interests of the residents of airport-adjacent communities?

Page 10: SCHOOL BOARD ONLY: Questions for SCHOOL BOARD Candidates

Q52

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for school board candidates

Q53

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q54

Respondent skipped this question

How has the pandemic changed your perspective on educational equity? What will you propose to address the educational consequences of the COVID pandemic? What specific policies will you seek to ensure that all staff and students can safely return to in-person school safely during the COVID pandemic? How will you work to bridge the digital divide both now and after return to in-person education?

Q55

Respondent skipped this question

What policies or changes will you seek to ensure that all students—regardless of their gender, race, class, disability, or ethnicity—receive an education that enables them to reach their fullest potential? What would you do to advance anti-racist and indigenous curriculum? What do you see as your role in disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline?

Q56

Respondent skipped this question

What should schools and school districts do to support the physical and mental health of all students; including LGBTQ+ students and students with disabilities? Please provide specific examples. Also, what actions would you take to remedy student access to and pay inequity among school nurses, paraeducators, and school office staff?

Q57

Respondent skipped this question

What would you do to advocate for ample and equitable funding for k-12 education including special education, school nurses, counselors, mental health professionals, and paraeducators?

Q58

Respondent skipped this question

Has the disruption of regular schooling and introduction of distance learning in the last year caused you to re-evaluate any aspect of traditional instruction and the structure of schooling? Are there changes you would like to see implemented?

Page 11: JUDICIAL ONLY: Questions for JUDICIAL Candidates

Q59

Respondent skipped this question

Have you served full-time or pro-tem as a judge or justice? What did you learn from that experience and how will you use that learning to help improve equity and fairness in the justice system?

Q60

Respondent skipped this question

How have you helped tackle climate change issues from within your courtroom daily activities to an overall sustainable plan?

Q61

Respondent skipped this question

How has COVID-19 experience changed your perspective/behavior/actions on access to justice within your courtroom?

Q62

Respondent skipped this question

How would you advocate for more equity in our State's justice system? How can we make it more open, transparent and responsive?

Q63

Respondent skipped this question

How are you going to make sure you don't allow bias (including, but not limited to, racial bias) while serving on the bench and/or in the courtroom?

Q64

Respondent skipped this question

Do you believe judges can be biased and if so in what ways, please provide examples?

Q65

Respondent skipped this question

Do you see addressing bias and racial disparity in the court system as activism? Why or why not?

Q66

Respondent skipped this question

Do you think that judicial training focused on racial competency is activism? Why or why not?

Q67

Respondent skipped this question

Do you think racial disparity exists in the court system and more specifically on the bench?

Q68

Respondent skipped this question

What will you do as a judge to eliminate and mitigate bias on the bench?

Q69

Respondent skipped this question

What committees, commissions, workgroups do you currently or have previously served on?

Q70

Respondent skipped this question

Have you received or are you seeking political or financial support from any police officer, police guild/union or elected law enforcement official?

Q71

I, candidate, affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Candidate full name (as signature)

Rod Dembowski

Date

3/26/2021**Q72****Candidate**

Information in this questionnaire was input by:

Q73**Respondent skipped this question**

(If information input by someone other than candidate) I affirm that all responses were reviewed and approved by the candidate. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Q74

Share with King County Democrats

King County Democrats may post this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by King County Democrats Endorsements Committee members and Executive Board.**Q75**

Share with LD Dems and YD Endorsement Committee members

King County Democrats may share this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by members of the Endorsements Committees of Legislative District (LD) Democratic organizations and Young Democrats (YD) organizations.**Q76**

Email Copy

Please email a copy of my completed submission to the campaign email address