

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation, etc.) 179/200

Born and raised in King County, I am the son of Vietnamese refugees, proud father of 3, and the current State Senator for the 34th. Long before getting involved in politics, I have been involved in various organizations working to better our community.

- I serve on the Board of Wellspring Family Services, which serves thousands of families across King County who are experiencing a crisis.
- In 2018 I was honored to be chosen as a Jackson Leadership Fellow, a 9-month intensive leadership fellowship that brings together civic leaders from across the area and seeks to make lasting impact in our communities through values-based approaches to leadership.
- Enraged and appalled by the police murder of Tommy Le in 2017, I have been dedicated to systemic police reform, and dismantling institutional racism at all levels. I currently sit on King County's Community Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight.

Professionally, I have executive experience as a Senior Manager at Microsoft working to provide job training that supports all people with the skills needed to succeed in this rapidly changing, technologically dependent economy.

Please describe your history of involvement (if any), with particular emphasis on the last five years, in local, regional, and/or state politics 107/200

Since my election in 2018, I have been a tireless advocate for working families in my district and across the state, quickly rising in leadership. In the 2021 session I was appointed Assistant Majority Caucus Floor Leader, and currently sit on the Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation, Energy & Technology, Rules, and Transportation committees, and am Vice Chair of the Environment committee. I have been instrumental in the passage of key policies like expansions to TANF, enacting police reform, and righting our regressive tax system. I have also been pushing some of the most progressive policy proposals under consideration, including Healthcare for All, Universal Basic Income, a four day workweek and more. My philosophy of governance is based in community-based leadership, representative government, and commitment to taking action.

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

Pouring over campaign data from the last few years, we know King County voters are hungry for a change and we know exactly who and where these voters are. By focusing our efforts on the progressive heart of Seattle, South King County, and doing outreach to voters on the Eastside, we have enough voters who align with us for victory.

Fundraising wise, Dow is likely close to his fundraising ceiling because he's spent nearly \$700k of his current raised total on a shadow campaign for governor, and many of his top donors and PACs have already maxed out. We have a strong grassroots fundraising plan in place that will bring us to our goals by the primary, with regular house parties and events lined up through our donor base. In 2018, I beat an incumbent despite being outspent 4-1. This year will be no exception.

We've also had a strong earned and social media presence this year, which shows no signs of slowing. Poised to earn the influential endorsement of The Stranger, which brought 6 of their 7 Seattle City Council candidates to victory in 2019, we expect to carry Seattle progressives and earn substantial organic fundraising boost post endorsement.

What issues do you think deserve more attention from the media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected? 164/200

Juvenile justice. Despite widespread media attention on police and criminal justice reform in general, much less is paid to the issue of the treatment and involvement of our youth in these systems. Our legal system in general is broken, but it should be an outrage that our youth are put into jails period. We need to invest in our kids before things become an issue, solving systemic issues of poverty, racial inequities and domestic violence, and providing access to high-quality and trauma-informed education and opportunities.

King County had the opportunity to move away from youth incarceration and invest in more preventative and restorative solutions, but instead, we put over \$200 million into building a new building to jail more of our kids. The truth is: a bigger youth jail should have never been built, and 2025 is too long to wait to shut it down. We're going to use the county's \$12B budget to invest in communities. I plan to make juvenile justice a key part of my campaign platform, and if elected, I will commit to freeing our kids and investing the resources currently used to lock them up into holistic, restorative justice options and evidence-based preventative solutions.

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?

Community-based leadership is core to my governance philosophy. Just as I know firsthand how vital government based services are, I've also seen how so many of our institutions have failed us. Coming from a community who lacks trust in our systems, I understand that trust must be earned, and that the burden lies on those in power to prove they're trustworthy.

As part of the most diverse freshman legislative classes in our state's history, we've seen huge victories this year. But the successes we've seen come out of government aren't because of the actions of politicians, it's because of the communities we come from. Centering communities can't just be a campaign slogan, we must make meaningful change that affects the lives of our most marginalized neighbors by taking action that is sweeping, systemic, and bold.

As Executive, I will engage in the same processes I do now as Senator; listening to community, asking for feedback, and bringing my constituents voices to every table I sit at. But I will do more through my actions. Being the fierce progressive advocate I am speaks volumes more than any tagline, listening session, or statement I could write, and that's how trust is earned.

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?

Despite thinkpieces promoting rosy stock market numbers and “recovery rates”, we know that the pandemic has hurt people differently. For example, while those who make over \$50k/year might have lower unemployment rates than they did pre-pandemic, those who make under \$24k still have record high unemployment.

Before session, I championed gathering public support for a “no austerity budget”, demanding we create a budget that reflects our values, and we largely succeeded. We delivered a budget with record increases in TANF, Capital Gains, a Working Families Tax Credit, and avoided big cuts to social services that were rumored. But despite our state’s economic situation being “not so bad”, we aren’t solving for a budget crisis, we’re solving for helping **people** in crisis.

As Executive, I will double down on my ongoing commitment to working people. This means investing in social services, education, transportation, and community resources. My values have always been clear, and I’ve made it my mission to never let my foot off the gas when it comes to putting those values into action. That won’t change when it comes to leading the people of King County.

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?

Our solutions must be both active and proactive. Performative justice and changing street and building names to honor past civil rights leaders isn’t enough. Racism is a series of systemic inequities entrenched in every single one of our institutions. As electeds, we have the power to change these systems, and the responsibility to do so.

Building an anti-racist society begins with early and accurate racial equity education in K-12. We need to have a reckoning with our past in order for our society to understand our present, and what it will take to undo our systemic racism. Right now, Black communities are facing generations of families torn apart through the systematic blockage of economic opportunity. We combat this through investing in basic needs that serve the Black community. We need robust social services, childcare, education, and economic and environmental justice.

We also need to address the ways our criminal justice system is used to criminalize and systematically oppress the Black community. Of the remaining kids in King County's youth jail, half are Black. The role of KC Executive is primed to make real change in how we address these issues, and will be one of my top priorities in office.

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?

Yes

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

28. 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?

In WA, 44% of our emissions are transportation based. We must get our population out of cars and into multi-modal forms of transportation by:

- Investing in local public transit systems

- Ensure they are efficient, fully-funded, + well-connected
- Provide free transit for all

As I'm writing this I have just submitted an amendment to our transportation budget that would add:

- \$50 million toward funding a Connecting Communities grant program
- An additional \$50 million toward a Transit Access fund

I've also sponsored and passed legislation to:

- Strengthen our emission standards
- Put WA on track to phase out new ICE vehicles by 2035
- Invest in the infrastructure necessary to prepare for the electrification of vehicles

Our 2nd biggest emissions driver are buildings. Beyond making their energy use more efficient, 50% of building emissions comes during construction. We need to build smarter with tools like:

- Cross laminated timber
- Incentivize 0 emission and renewable options
- Work with zoning laws + union labor to create a robust green building industry

All of this must be done with an eye toward environmental justice. We know that lower income and communities of color are most impacted by climate change. Climate policy must center the experiences of historically impacted communities.

29. 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?

The County's COVID response reflected much of the County's processes in general. If you benefit from our current systems (have access to healthcare, speak english, etc.) you have benefitted from the recovery response. This is most evident in our vaccine distribution. While our most well connected neighbors have been able to navigate these systems, our most marginalized communities have not. Our process must go beyond just translating materials into different languages, we must intentionally and carefully build trust with communities who don't trust our systems. We have trusted messengers in these communities who could have been activated to do this work, but they needed to be integrated into the process.

Funding is simple: you must prioritize it. This pandemic has illustrated how our wellness is our neighbors' wellness. Providing robust health and human services, especially to our most marginalized communities, benefits us all. As Vice Chair of the Human Services Committee, I've shown up and done the work. But despite the County's reliance on the state, I've never seen the

County engage at the state level, and that needs to change. As a leader, you must be active and engaged in advocating for these programs, and that's exactly what I intend to do in office.

30. 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?

As one of my biggest priorities, I will be a fierce advocate for investing in alternatives and speeding up our path to zero youth detention. In fact, my first bill as Senator was to allow cops to divert youth they encountered away from detention. We know the underlying issues of youth detention. We know why kids get into trouble, how and why certain kids (namely low income, BIPOC kids) get caught in the system. Cycles of poverty, systemic inequities, and home life are some of the most common root causes of crime. Our solutions must involve investing heavily in basic needs programs to solve economic insecurities.

Incarcerating kids is not only inhumane, it's also arguably the least effective form of justice, both in recidivism rates and accountability practices. Half of the King County budget goes to jails and courts, and we're using that to criminalize poverty, Blackness, mental health crises, and addiction. True reform requires community-centered leaders to think beyond our self-fulfilling cycles of punishment and invest in preventative solutions, and with the political courage to build a new status quo; while true representation is about the people impacted most by policies leading the way on changing them.

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

This is an issue dear to my heart. My first year, I worked on I-1000, appealing affirmative action. While it didn't pass, there are impactful changes we can still make at the County level to make a real difference. Most importantly, we need to end discriminatory language in contracting. Too often, we find language that King County can only contract with businesses that they've done business with before, that have a certain amount of assets, and other parameters that keep people out. Talent is universal. Opportunity is not.

In general, we need to invest in these businesses as a whole. While we have state level programs like the Women and Minority Owned Business offices, they have little funding for certification and training. As a County, we should partner with them to expand their reach and impact. Much of the opportunity gap lies in not having access to a safety net. If something goes wrong, businesses need funds to turn to that are bonded and insured to help them recover. Additionally, we should be asking the Council to put forward legislation to provide more contracts specifically for women + minority owned businesses.

32. "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?

Part of acknowledging our country's past allows us to understand why and how our systems are designed the way they are, and who they end up hurting the most. Examining each issue with this lens is essential for good governing. Land use policies in particular are a great example of this dynamic. Much of our land is zoned as single family, which disproportionately excludes communities of color, low income, and young people from living in these neighborhoods. While it's less explicit than our historic redlining, it acts as a continuation of that legacy by keeping certain communities out. As the County grows and plans for future growth, we need to be bold with how we think about zoning. Especially as our County trends toward unaffordability, we have to be explicit in our future policies to ensure our neighborhoods are open to all. Upzoning and building affordable housing should always go hand in hand, and partnering with community groups to ensure our policies are just, comprehensive, and inclusive is key to undoing the harms of our current systems.