

#267

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Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

Q1

Your information

Name	Laura Marie Rivera
Email Address	LauraMarieRivera2021@gmail.com
Phone Number	6465223359

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	Laura Marie
Candidate last name	Rivera
Campaign email	LauraMarieRivera2021@gmail.com
Campaign phone (optional)	(646)522-3359
Campaign website (optional)	LauraMarie4SeattleSchools.com

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

Candidate name pronunciation (optional)

Q5

Candidate pronouns (optional)

she/her/hers

Q6 Respondent skipped this question
Campaign Manager information (optional)

Q7 Respondent skipped this question
Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Q8
Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Consultant first name	John
Consultant last name	Persak
Consultant email	john.m.persak@gmail.com
Consultant phone	2062915411

Q9 Respondent skipped this question
Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

Q10 Respondent skipped this question
Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Q11 Respondent skipped this question
Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

Q12 Use Facebook Profile Picture
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?	Yes
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?	No
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?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate pharmaceutical PACs?	No
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?	Yes

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q16

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

MS Ed - Leadership in Education. Bank Street College of Education, NY NY.

Over 20 years of teaching experience. Ages preK-adult. UW, public schools, private schools, museums, arts schools, dance companies.

BA Art History- UCLA, Los Angeles CA

Acting career. Performing across the country, in Europe, Broadway stages, film, and television. With SAG, AFTRA, AEA, AGVA.

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks- current Board member

Q17

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

Attending and testifying at School Board meetings in Seattle

Speaking with state legislators for parks advocacy - Working with state legislature to advance the legislative agenda for Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Park, and other issues.

Q18

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

My goal is to reach every single voter in District 4 through social media, knocking on doors, and other forms of direct outreach. While school director campaigns are scaled smaller, my message of bringing transparency, engagement, accessibility for students of all abilities, communication, and creating more space for BIPOC students and parents to set their agenda are what families need to hear. I have hired an experienced labor leader as my consultant, so that I may focus on direct voter outreach, fundraising, and building the momentum of the campaign.

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?

The current board (including my opponent) is not focused on the actual governance of our public school system, and its \$1.2bn annual budget, and students are suffering, especially BIPOC students and kids who receive special education services. The cuts in advanced learning, especially in the middle schools, will be felt long term with decreases in academic achievement. The revolving door of superintendents has led to a destabilizing of the administration and puts educators, kids, and parents in a lurch. Finally, isolation and restraint is an institutional problem, and needs to be daylighted. Normalization post-COVID needs to center solving these and other problems, and provide a stable learning and teaching environment.

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?

I will make myself available with (at least) month public community meetings, including use of technology to enhance accessibility for all. Building trust is a slow process when so many have been wronged, and I will create space for people, especially kids furthers from educational justice, to articulate their needs, so that I may support policies that addresses them effectively. I will work with the rest of of the board to make our meetings and processes more open, transparent, and accessible

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?

Yes, COVID has increased existing inequities. It has also revealed systems and accommodations that were previously unheard of. In order to truly be equitable, we do need to support the most vulnerable- from all groups. I fully recognize that different students have different barriers and needs. Our schools need the flexibility to be able to accommodate the needs of each individual. And we need the wisdom and care to know what those needs are. An equitable recovery and opportunity for all will be built one student at a time and the example must be set by district leadership.

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?

Black Lives Matter. Dismantling institutionalized and systemic racism is a project that every institution needs to prioritize. In our schools, we must eliminate disparities in discipline, provide culturally appropriate learning spaces, educate all students through Ethnic Studies curriculum, eliminate disparities in how special education services are delivered, and always ensure that new spaces are continually opened up to advance an anti-racist agenda.

Page 5: ALL CANDIDATES: Jurisdiction and Position

Q23**School District Director**

Position Sought

Q24**Seattle (City of)**

Jurisdiction

Q25**4**

Position number

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

Q26**Respondent skipped this question**

Yes/No Questions for King County

Q27**Respondent skipped this question**

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

Q28

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Q29

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Q30

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Q31

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q32

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?

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?

Q52

Yes/No Questions for school board candidates

	Yes / No / Qualified
Do you support increased instruction time and a concurrent reduction of student testing?	Yes
Do you support the right of parents to opt their children out of standardized testing?	Yes
Do you support linking teacher evaluations to standardized test scores?	No
Do you support charter schools and/or vouchers for private school education?	No
Do you support amending the Washington State Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters to approve school bonds?	Yes
Do you support supplemental funding for International Baccalaureate & Advanced Placement testing for low-income students?	Yes
Do you support increases in salary for teachers who attain additional relevant degrees and certification?	Yes
Do you support COVID vaccination for school staff prior to returning to in-person learning?	Yes
Would you support continuing and expanding art, music, physical education, and library classes?	Yes

Q53

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

Q54

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?

The pandemic has effectively highlighted the existing inequities and shed a light on

Kids will be behind the regular learning curves, some more than others. Students are also struggling with social, family, and medical issues that they may not have had before.

I feel that we are currently on the right path with reduced class sizes, social distancing, air filtration systems, vaccinations,

I am honestly more concerned about engaging students and their families/ support systems than I am about technology. But- this year has marked a significant foundation for successful digital and remote learning. I would like to expand that and continue to build student competency.

Q55

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?

All students are good students. The great educators and administrators find a way to reach them all. We need to invest in and empower our educators to teach the students at their level. Meet them where they're at. Current class sizes and structures make this incredibly difficult for educators.

We need anti-racist and indigenous curriculum. But that's not all. We need to expose our students to many other ideas, systems, and beliefs. And the arts and cultures and histories of the world need to be celebrated and explored.

If we do our job reaching and engaging each individual student, there will be no more school to prison pipeline. They will have a solid education and key to the world. This is what I want for my children, and all of the children.

Q56

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?

Again, the students need to be treated as the individuals that they are. We need to meet them where they're at and give them the skills and education that they will need to succeed. This will look different for different children. And we need to care enough to address them individually.

There are not enough nurses. Relying on the PTAs to fund these staff positions is appalling.

I am committed to ensuring that SPS bargain in good faith with the SEA and other unions to achieve these goals.

Q57

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?

The current system of funding based on property taxes is built as an inequitable system, and we need to partner with the City of Seattle and others to fully fund wrap around services.

Q58

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?

At my house, we have four students in Seattle Public Schools. Even with a dedicated educator (me) to help them, we have had varied levels of engagement and success with online learning.

I am a fan of the traditional instruction model. And I miss all of the wonderful things that happen at school that are not reflected on the report card. But I recognize that full-time in-person classes do not work for every student.

As I said, we need to be able to offer flexibility for our students. What works for some, won't work for all. And even when it's working, we still need to adapt.

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?

Page 12: ALL CANDIDATES: Submit Questionnaire

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)

Laura Marie Rivera

Date

5/22/2021**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

(OPTIONAL) Share with PCOs and/or Members

Democratic organizations overlapping the jurisdiction of my campaign whose rules require sharing questionnaire responses to Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) or Membership may share this questionnaire with those groups.

Q77

(OPTIONAL) Share with Public

Democratic organizations overlapping the jurisdiction of my campaign whose rules require sharing questionnaire responses publicly may share this questionnaire publicly.

Q78

Email Copy

Please email a copy of my completed submission to the campaign email address. I understand it may take 24-48 hours (or more) for my completed submission to be emailed.
