
CANDIDATE VERIFICATION NEWSLETTER

www.candidateverification.org

King County

It was our 3rd year partnering with the Municipal League of King County. Along with the Muni League, our services were integrated with the Seattle CityClub's Living Voters Guide. We were active in city council candidates in Federal Way, Issaquah, Renton, and Seattle. In addition, we worked with candidates from Port of Seattle Commission, King County Council, and a special house race in the 30th LD. While participation is voluntary, the majority of candidates in these jurisdictions chose to publish their reports on our public database.

Pierce County

With our partner, STAND for Children, we had the chance to be a part of the Tacoma School Board races. STAND made our background checks a mandatory part of their endorsement process, heightening the participation among candidates.



Post-Primary Update

2015 stands to be a landmark year for CandidateVerification, as we are involved in not only our home county, King, but also four other counties in Washington. We worked with candidates running for various positions—city council, county council, port commissioner, mayor, school board, and state representative. We also had the privilege of partnering with more groups to bolster our efforts. Our exponential growth is a depiction of our capacity to scale in 2016, as we were able to work in different diverse counties across the state. It is evident that our services are great assets for candidates, endorsement groups, and constituents.



Spokane County

As the Spokane Home Builders Association made our services a mandatory part of their endorsement process, we had great traction –over 90% of ALL city council candidates in the area signed up. Along with great participation, we had the privilege of being a part of the Spokane Home Builders voters' guide, helping bolster the transparency between candidates and constituents. Spokane Home Builders Association, Spokane Realtors Association, and We Believe We Vote were our three partners in the area. We worked with the following races: Spokane Mayor, Spokane City Council President, Spokane City Council, Spokane Valley City Council, and house seat LD 9.

Snohomish County

We had the privilege of partnering with Snohomish County-Camano Association of Realtors.

Yakima County

Yakima's at-large city council elections were ruled to be unconstitutional in the federal court case, *Montes v. City of Yakima*, as it diluted the Latino vote. As a result, all the Yakima City Council races were divided into districts. We partnered with the Central Washington Homebuilders Association (CWHBA) and the Progressive Majority to ensure integrity and transparency within the new election system this year. Our services were utilized by both challengers and incumbents, depicting the practicality and usefulness of our services. Along with the two endorsement groups bolstering our efforts, we also had the support of the Yakima County Democratic Party, Yakima County Republican Central Committee, and Yakima County Republican Liberty Caucus.

New Board Members 2015



Ron Dotzauer

Co-founder and CEO of Strategies 360



Alex Hays

Principal of AB Hays



Cary Evans

Government Affairs Director of STAND
for Children Washington

New Staff 2015



Susan Song

Program Manager

Yakima Herald Editorial

Of-opposing groups cooperate on candidate background checks

By EJ Juarez and Joe Walsh



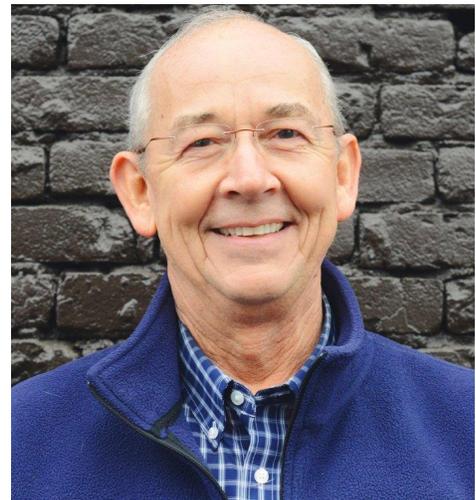
EJ Juarez of Progressive Majority

This summer, Yakima residents will be witness to the most diverse set of council candidates in the city’s history. The court-mandated redistricting has brought about seven new council districts, only three of which will include a sitting incumbent on the ballot. The process has inspired a large number of first-time candidates to test themselves in the arena of local elections. To see this number of residents willing to give of their time and energy to serve their community should give us hope for our community’s future leadership.

The Central Washington Home Builders Association (CWHBA) and Progressive Majority Washington organizations typically support candidates with differing philosophies. But in this election, we are working together to ensure voters have the most accurate information possible on candidates running this

year. It is our intent to emphasize the enormous benefit of transparency and disclosure to every candidate.

Together we have teamed up with CandidateVerification.org, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization based in Seattle, to provide free self-authorized background checks to the all primary candidates. Nothing is published until the candidate has agreed. If you think about it, we do the same type of screening for teachers, law enforcement and city employment, why not for those making policy decisions for our city?



Joe Walsh of Central Washington Homebuilders Association

Résumé inflation is a problem in all professions, and unless you’re running for statewide or national office, it’s unlikely any due diligence is given to checking on the validity of a candidate’s history. This partnership is not about political games of “gotcha” and scoring points for our respective candidates. It’s about improving the quality of information available to voters. The mission of CandidateVerification is anchored by good governance and about letting voters know the spin-free criminal/civil background, work, education, military service and professional qualification claims made by candidates.

We're hopeful the candidate's willing to give their time to their community join the call to be verified through CandidateVerification.org. Both the CWHBA and the Progressive Majority Washington will require access to the candidate's background check prior to any endorsement consideration.

In order for this to be a free service to all candidates, each of our organizations has agreed to step up with funding to get the ball rolling.

We are asking all the other community service organizations to do likewise. With several organizations working together, none has to dig too deep. Join us for the sake of transparency and due diligence by contributing at: <https://rally.org/f/0jTtneHRh7l>. The average cost is \$200 per candidate. The budget to fund this service for all 25 primary candidates is \$5,000.

While background checks aren't the only answer, they do provide some assurance to supporting organizations, they render the candidates transparent, and they provide the voters with the facts.

- EJ Juárez is the Director of Progressive Majority Washington, a statewide candidate recruitment and training organization based in Seattle.
- Joe Walsh is the Government Affairs Director for the Central Washington Home Builders Association based in Yakima.”

Source:

Juarez, EJ, and Joe Walsh. "Oft-opposing Groups Cooperate on Candidate Background Checks." Yakima Herald-Republic. Yakima Herald, 20 June 2015. Web. 5 Aug. 2015.

CV Integration with the Living Voters Guide

Partnership with the Seattle CityClub



Online intelligence for Washington voters

Living Voters Guide is an online voters guide created by and for Washingtonians. It stands to be a great tool in helping the voters to better understand their ballots by having a site where voters can share opinions, thoughts, and ideas about candidates and initiatives on the latest ballot. Seattle CityClub partnered up with CSE and Political Science professors from the University of Washington and designed such voters guide to help hone in on educating the voters by bolstering communication between voters through an active voters guide.

Such voters guide encompasses a profile about the candidate, a section where voters can write pros and cons about the candidate, and now a link to a background check of the candidates provided by CandidateVerification! Our integration into their voters guide gives a sharp contrast between candidates who went through a background check versus a candidate who has not. In addition, voters can access our background checks as a means to verify the candidate without any hassle.

Please check out the voters guide: www.livingvotersguide.org

Candidate Verification as an Asset

Candidate Verification at work for organizations and candidates

The Next Evolution in Candidate & Election Transparency

Why? Candidate Verification is a tool that's great for the public and great for candidates. Voters can use the resource to measure a candidate's honesty, while candidates can use it to clear-up erroneous information about their backgrounds. It's a win/win!

15 of 19 Participated
Only 1 did not publish



Scroll down to see which candidates participated and which did not.

Candidate Verification
-Mandatory Background & Resume Checks-

The Spokane Home Builders Association is partnering with 'Candidate Verification', a non-profit 501C3, to make this possible.

STRONG CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION IN SHBA BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS
June 22, 2015
(Spokane, Wash.) - The Spokane Home Builders Association (SHBA) is pleased to report that the new mandatory background check policy for candidates has... [Read More](#)

SPOKANE HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION TAKING THE LEAD ON CANDIDATE TRANSPARENCY
May 21, 2015
(Spokane, Wash.) - The Board of Directors of the Spokane Home Builders Association (SHBA) made the decision this week to modify its candidate endorsemen... [Read More](#)

Spokane Home Builders Association created their own voters guide and added our services as a tool. This is a great example of how endorsement groups can utilize our background checks as more than just an insurance as a part of their endorsement processes. Check out their voters guide at: <http://www.shbapac.com/#!2015-voter-guide/mainPage>

STAND for Children added our verification as a part of a Tacoma school board candidate's palm card. This is a great example of how an endorsement group can use our background check as a graphic visual to illustrate the transparency of the candidate that they are endorsing. Also, this can serve as a great contrast against other candidates who have not went through our background check.

Elect **Andrea Cobb** Tacoma School Board



- ✓ Local and Experienced Champion for Education
- ✓ Endorsed by teachers, City Council Members and Stand for Children
- ✓ Background Information Verified



Mail your ballot NOW. Primary election day is August 4!

Thank you CandidateVerification Supporters!

CandidateVerification is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. To fulfill our mission to restore integrity and transparency in politics, we need supporters to help underwrite our program. Without our supporters, our FREE background checks to all political candidates cannot be achievable, so thank you for your support!

Donate at: <https://candidateverification.nationbuilder.com/donate1>

- *Yakima County Democrats*
- *Yakima County Liberty Caucus*
- *Yakima County Republican Central Committee*



A FUTURE WORTH FIGHTING FOR

