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2020 Pierce County Democrats Endorsement Questionnaire
-Partisan Election-

Candidate name: **Marcus Young**

Position sought: **Pierce County Council, District 3**

Date submitted: **April 18th**

Candidate qualities and conduct: The Pierce County Democratic Central Committee endorses and supports qualified Democrats seeking elected office. When deciding whether to recommend endorsement, the Endorsements Committee may consider the candidate's dedication to Democratic Party values and principles, the viability of the campaign, and the candidate's qualifications for office, among other things. Endorsed candidates are discouraged from supporting non-Democratic candidates or from supporting any candidate who doesn't represent Democratic values. Endorsed candidates should distinguish themselves from any Democratic opponents in an objectively fair, informational, and non-confrontational fashion.

By submitting this endorsement questionnaire, I publicly affirm:

- I am a Democrat and will uphold Democratic Party values.
- I will abide by the above principles of conduct.

You may respond N/A (not applicable) if appropriate. Expand or decrease space as needed.

Questions

1. Why are you running for this particular office?

It is time for change! District 3 of Pierce County has grown tremendously over the past 10 years without the equitable services to support its growth. District 3 previously consisted of major rural land. It is now full of low income multi family homes without the support to follow. Safety and security is compromised and the infrastructure is questionable at best.

2. What are your qualifications (traditional or not) for seeking this elected office?

In 2018 I was appointed a Director of Bethel School District. In 2019 I was elected to the same position.

3. What are the 1 - 3 most important issues for your district or your elected body/office?

1. **Public Safety**
2. **Homelessness**
3. **Transportation**

4. Why should the Pierce County Democratic Party support you for this position, and how have you demonstrated Democratic values?

I have been a Democrat all of my life. The service I've done for my community mirrors the values I see in Democratic resolutions. Volunteering for my community, advocating for better wages, more funding for education all seem to be issues that the Democratic party value as well.

5. When elected, how will you make yourself accessible, and how would you obtain constituent input on issues and decisions?

In the position that I currently hold, I have demonstrated the ability and willingness to make myself available to not only my constituents but also the staff of the school district. I have shown a willingness to break away from what I am doing and answer calls to or meet with families and union members to hear their concerns.

6. How have you previously provided and how would you increase access and influence for people and groups that may lack them? The key to increasing access and influence is to provide a clear avenue for these voices to be heard!

7. Do you support unrestricted access to reproductive health care for all women, including the right to abortion? yes

8. What are the core functions of the elected office/body you seek; how can you improve them?

The County Council is responsible for passing legislation, setting county policy, adopting the county's budget for the county. I would work to ensure that these actions while addressing the needs of county at large are being provided in all areas equitably.

9. Please list any key endorsements.

Washington State Progressive Caucus, 29th State Representative Melanie Morgan, Tacoma City Councilman Conor McCarthy

IF ELECTED TO THIS POSITION (*some questions may not be applicable*):

10. What would you do to ensure that your constituents each have a truly equal and fair opportunity to succeed based on merit and effort, rather than pre-existing status or classification?

I believe that the most important way of accomplishing this is through true government transparency and accountability. Also giving my constituents better access to government and information.

11. What benefits and problems come from increasing population; how would you address them?

There are always great things that happen with growth. We have experienced growth over the last 10 years in Pierce County District #3 and with that have come an increase in property value and more money flowing into our local communities from consumers. But specifically, in this district the problem that has followed is that the infrastructure that is supposed to support this growth has not followed. Some of the things that I would like to consider to address these issues are, upgrading our street lights in the areas that have changed the most from rural to urban. Work on land use coding that would provide schools access to land where housing developments over a certain size are being built.

12. How would you support workers, including union workers, whether employed privately or by the government?

Better living wages and working conditions need to be provided for workers. The government should set the standard by example for employee protections if it is going to hold private organizations accountable to working standards.

13. What policies and actions would you take to protect and improve the natural environment?

We need to invest in more renewable energy sources in our region, and on the county level we can help do that through creating better standards for utilities.

14. What would you do to increase housing access and decrease income inequality?

We have made great strides in Washington State to address the minimum wage, but this can not be a one and done fix. There needs to be a comprehensive schedule with minimum wage while recognizing and addressing the challenges of our small businesses.

15. Identify any budget challenges for your elected office/body; how would you deal with them?

There is not enough money to properly deal with mental health. This is important because many of our men and women who are incarcerated would be serviced better with mental health serviced than steel bars. Many of our homeless population are dealing with serious mental health issues, that if addressed would place them in a stable mindset that would then prepare them for a stable environment.

16. How will you approach safety, police, and court system issues – and what are they?

Public safety is the largest part of our budget. combined with our courts, they add up to well over 70% of our overall budget. We spend way too much to lock people up that don't need to be in jail. I will work to build better relations between communities and police and bring innovative legislation to reduce costs our courts and jails put on our county budget.

17. Finally, any additional comments you would like to share with the Committee:

I look forward to engaging in this process to move the democratic party forward together.