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2020 Pierce County Democrats Endorsement Questionnaire
-Partisan Election-

Candidate name: ___Beth Doglio_____

Position sought: House of Representatives - 10th CD

Date submitted: 4/3/2020

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?

I am running because the stakes are simply too high. We need proven progressive leadership that delivers results to take necessary action for our country's climate, housing, healthcare, economy, women's and immigrant rights and so many other important issues. We cannot settle for the status quo.

I'm really proud of the work we've accomplished in the State Legislature, and I wouldn't be giving up my seat to run for this office if I didn't think it was critically important that we send someone with strong progressive values and a track record of collaboration and advocacy. But with crises all around us – climate, housing, COVID19 and the broken healthcare system, gun violence – I can't sit on the sidelines.

I'm running to bring to Congress an activist's voice, a career-long understanding of climate and environmental issues, along with a legislative history of delivering real results for families in Washington's 10th Congressional District. It's time for this district to send a progressive and effective leader to Congress.

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

I've spent my life as an activist for the last 30 years and my time in the State Legislature fighting for progress on the issues progressives care about: the environment, choice, housing, healthcare, gun responsibility, and an economy that works for everyone.

We're in the middle of a climate emergency – we have very little time left to put policies in place to significantly reduce carbon emissions and there's been little to no leadership at the federal level. I've spent much of the last three decades serving in that space. I am a climate activist and an organizer – the founding executive director of Washington Conservation voters, a senior advisor at Climate Solutions and was campaign director for the Power Past Coal campaign which stopped 7 coal export facilities dead in their tracks.

And, I have delivered significant policy and funding wins in the state legislature on housing, labor, women's issues, healthcare, veterans, education and community priorities. As the only current elected official and legislator in the race, I've worked to weave together the power of advocacy groups with the power of my Democratic colleagues in the caucus to deliver groundbreaking legislation. Put simply, I am running for this office because we need progressive leadership in the other Washington, and in my career, I've demonstrated that I am a proven progressive who can get stuff done.

I have a BA in Political Science and Telecommunications from Indiana University and have been politically active since I was 10. I have lived in the 10th CD for 22 years.

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

Three of the most pressing issues facing communities in the 10th are climate, housing, and healthcare. These are the issues constituents reach out to me about in the Legislature, that I hear about on social media, and that my family is most concerned about. We also have a very active organizing effort in the district around immigration and excessive use of force by law enforcement.

My sons and kids their age across the Puget Sound region (and the world) are deeply concerned about climate change and the permanent effects it will have on our planet and their future if we

don't act quickly. Homelessness and the soaring cost of housing has become a part of daily life here – we see neighbors on the streets or friends at risk of losing their homes because of skyrocketing rents. Finally, and made even more obvious by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, is our broken healthcare system. We've seen family friends have to post GoFundMe pages because they can't afford healthcare treatment. And just yesterday I ran into a friend who has his own small business, but no healthcare coverage. None of this is acceptable in one of the richest countries in the world.

Our district's families and communities deserve more than talk on these issues – they deserve a progressive vision and a real plan to deliver action.

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

I entered the race because I believe the stakes are too high to settle for the status quo - we need proven, progressive leadership that can deliver on the results on the critical issues of our time. As a State legislator, I have seen what a difference it can make to have elected leaders who understand the outside game and the inside game – both of which I know well from my time as an activist and now in the legislature.

As mentioned earlier, I've spent my life as an activist and my time in the legislature fighting for progress on the issues that matter to Democrats. And now I'm running for Congress to support ambitious and progressive priorities like a Green New Deal and Medicare for All. This is all to say, my values are progressive values and my goals are progressive goals, and that's the unwavering vision I would bring to Congress, if elected.

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

As a state legislator, I am proud of how accessible and responsive my office has been to constituents. If elected, my Congressional office will operate in the same way. The constituents are the most important visitors to any office, and will be welcomed warmly, whether we agree or disagree.

To be an accessible lawmaker means meeting people where they are. Often, those whose voices are most critical to the lawmaking process are not invited to participate, or are invited to events that are not accessible to them. It is not enough to invite participation and feedback - elected officials are responsible for actively reaching out to their communities to build relationships and incorporate the voice and needs of their constituents in their work.

I always say - I am only as good a legislator as my constituents help me be. I need to know and understand what my constituents are experiencing and hear from them about ways to remove barriers or improve policy to help our community thrive.

6. How have you previously provided and how would you increase access and influence for people and groups that may lack them?

To me, being an effective elected official means taking care to increase access and power to groups traditionally left out of the process. It is important to view the challenges and issues in front of us through a racial justice lens – and making a real effort to understand how decisions affect other communities and all stakeholders, as well as how they impact other issues. To understand that impact, you must include those communities in the process from the beginning.

Another important example of this is climate justice – which is the lens I will bring to my work on a Green New Deal or any other environmental legislation, ensuring marginalized and underrepresented communities see significant clean energy investments and pollution clean up. Last year, I also played a pivotal role in the funding of the HEAL Act, integrating environmental justice into state agency decision making, something I would seek to do federally as well.

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

Absolutely. Protecting a woman's right to choose has been fundamental to my experience as a state legislator, organizer, and activist. Early in my career, I was an organizer at NARAL, where I fought tirelessly to oust an anti-choice incumbent and elect U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, who has been a consistently strong vote for choice in Congress.

In the Legislature, I have been a staunch advocate for protecting and expanding reproductive rights. I supported Washington's Reproductive Parity Act, a bill I would like to bring to Congress, which requires all insurance plans that cover maternity care to also cover abortions for Washingtonians.

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

At its heart, working as any public servant, especially an elected one, is about tireless advocacy for a better, more compassionate, more sustainable future for all people.

I am running to offer a more progressive and collaborative style of leadership. As someone who has both organized in the advocacy space and within government itself, I know what work is required to advance the progressive policies we desperately need.

9. Please list any key endorsements.

I am honored to have received the endorsement of 37 current (as well as 11 former) elected officials who represent parts of the 10th CD. Notably from Pierce County this includes Tacoma Port Commissioner Kristen Ang, Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young, and Representative Christine Kilduff.

Overall, I have received 110 endorsements from current and former elected officials across our state, including many of my colleagues in the Legislature, who have seen firsthand my progressive values, collaborative leadership style, and results for our region.

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 have led on policies in Washington to make our state a more equitable place for all people, and if elected, will take this work to the other Washington as well. We need common-sense policies to level the playing field, like a federal minimum wage that is a living wage, Medicare for All, a robust paid family and medical leave program, and access to higher education that does not leave students drowning in debt. We also need laws that ensure women have equal opportunity in the workplace and equal protection in healthcare, building on Washington state laws like our pay equity act, legislation to curb sexual harassment in the workplace, and Reproductive Parity Act.

But, I do believe that we need to find ways to create equity in opportunity for those who have been disadvantaged by racism, sexism or income. I was a strong supporter of I-1000 and proud to vote for it as a legislator. I will continue my lifelong journey of understanding my own implicit bias and seek to remove it from my decision making.

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

Increasing our population means more neighbors, more people to collaborate with, and more ideas on how to make our communities better. But growth also drives new challenges in traffic, transportation, and housing affordability. We run into problems when governments do not collaborate on providing services or ensure there are enough housing options for families. We need to be proactive – our region has been one of the fastest growing in the nation, and it doesn't

look to be slowing down. We must continue to invest in transit, build more housing, and collaborate between local, county, state, and federal governments to best optimize and allocate resources and services for those in need.

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

For too long the rights of workers have been under attack by conservative policies – and that needs to end. Democrats cannot accept the status quo on labor rights, we need to make them a top priority and reverse the damage done. In Congress, I will support the PRO Act, which would reinvigorate collective bargaining laws and unions. I will also support and fight for legislation based on what we’ve achieved in Washington that have made us the best state for workers – ideas like gender pay equity and paid family and medical leave.

I have been a strong advocate for workers throughout my time as a legislator including sponsoring and passing bills that allow part time public employees to unionize and strengthen our prevailing wage system. As a member of a public sector union, I understand how important it is that we protect the ability of workers to collectively bargain, especially public-sector employees – I will always be a strong advocate for and partner with the labor community.

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

I’ve spent much of my career in the environmental space – this issue is incredibly important to me – and environmental justice is a key tenet to the action we need to take to address climate change, build a clean energy economy, and save our planet.

We need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions – the science says that if we do not rapidly bring down our carbon emissions, our planet will continue to warm until the trend is irreversible. The consequences of failing to act: rising sea levels, more intense storms, mass extinction, and more, far outweigh the costs of investing in clean energy and a Green New Deal.

If I’m elected, I will approach this challenge with the appropriate focus and lens: Climate change affects every issue we care about – the economy, healthcare, immigration, housing, social justice, national security and of course, the environment.

Building on what we’ve accomplished here in Washington state, I will put forward bold legislation to create a robust clean energy economy, drastically reduce our carbon emissions, hold big polluters accountable, and prioritize environmental justice and support union jobs to build our future so that all communities thrive free of pollution.

Minority communities often face the brunt of pollution – they need to be the first served by a solution. I was proud to work with Tribal communities as we developed Washington’s groundbreaking 100% Clean Energy Plan. In Congress, I would bring the same approach – working closely with communities of color, Tribal communities, and other underrepresented stakeholders as we develop a bold plan to take on climate change. In Washington our tribes will need significant federal and state dollars to adapt to climate change, something I have hammered on as a state legislator.

I’m fully behind a Green New Deal, and I’m excited to work on matching its justified aspiration with the detailed and specific policies that will get us to that greener future.

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

In Olympia, I’ve been a key voice in driving record investments into the Housing Trust Fund. I was the prime sponsor of two Housing Alliance priority bills this year (both passed and were signed by the Governor) that provide more options for local communities to finance housing and assist non-profit housing providers with new tools to save money and time. We need to continue to elevate this work, and our next Representative must be a strong advocate for housing. We need a permanent funding source to help finance non-profit housing, to build more housing, and effectively utilize the infrastructure we already have to house more people.

We also need an economy that works for everyone. Wages have stagnated and income inequality is at a high, while large corporations benefit from billion-dollar tax breaks. Our solutions in Olympia need to be brought to the other Washington: a national paid family and medical leave program, the raising of the federal minimum wage, and legislation aimed to reduce the pay gap and ensure pay equity, as well as the PRO Act and other legislation to make labor organizing easier and strengthen unions. CEO pay is too high and I will be a strong advocate for taxing wealth in this country to assist those who live paycheck to paycheck.

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

Our budget challenge is not a lack of resources, but concerns where those resources are invested. We need Representatives in Congress who will fight for solutions for working families, not for the ultra wealthy. First, we must reverse the Trump tax cuts that primarily benefited the wealthiest among us and the largest corporations. Then we must close corporate loopholes, end subsidies for fossil fuel companies, and consider other progressive revenue options that ensure everyone is paying their fair share.

Our budget must reflect our values, and we should allocate funds and invest in the policies we know will put people ahead, like Medicare for All, massive investments in expanding clean energy and a Green New Deal, and programs like national paid family and medical leave..

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

We desperately need to reform our criminal justice system and address the deep racial and socioeconomic inequalities that influence how it functions – and the racist and classist outcomes it can create. We need to greatly reduce incarceration, especially for nonviolent, drug offenses; federally legalize marijuana, expunge past convictions, and make sure affected communities play a significant role in the new industry; eliminate the death penalty; and work with the communities and stakeholders most affected to ensure a better system.

I also know the level of police violence in this country is wrong, and disproportionately affects men of color at a rate that is wholly unacceptable. I not only voted for I-940 in the legislature (and on the ballot), I dropped the first bill of the session on this topic in 2016 - HB1000. This initiative will lead to significant reform in how we train our police and how they are held accountable in the event of police violence.

The final bill we passed in the legislature included reforms approved by both police and by activists – getting consensus on this issue is not impossible, it just takes real work. If I am elected to Congress, I am confident I can work with activists, criminal justice reform experts, and local government to develop reform that actually addresses this issue and creates safer communities for police and neighbors both.

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

This election is a critical opportunity to send a proven progressive leader to Congress. I have a track record to point to both in and out of the Legislature that demonstrates my ability to deliver for our community and state. I know how dire the crises facing our country are – climate, healthcare, housing – and I simply won't accept middling action that fails to adequately or urgently address the challenges at hand or their root causes. I will be your partner in Washington state and Washington, D.C. and I look forward to working with you in this campaign and in office.