

31st Legislative District Democrats Candidate Questionnaire

1. Your name: Matt Williams

2. Candidate for: District Court Judge, SE Division, Position No. 6
Party Affiliation: Non-Partisan Position

3. Campaign information:

Manager: Ellen Uhler

Phone: (253) 205-4095 Fax: (253) 833-8785

Address: PO Box 2300, Auburn, WA 98071

Website: www.ElectMattWilliams.com

E-mail: ElectMattWilliams@gmail.com

4. If elected, what positive changes will you champion that will benefit the 31st LD?

I will seek to increase the fairness and transparency of the District Court, by working to provide more resources and information to those citizens who appear within the court.

5. What are the three most critical issues you expect to encounter in the office you are seeking?

A) The largest issue looming for all of King County is the budget crisis in which our courts will be asked to do more with less. In this area, I expect that my broad experience in working with court systems through out the U.S. and internationally will allow us to find innovative solutions.

B) Increasing access to justice. I plan to use my experience with court systems and advocacy training to make sure that the resources of the court are used as effectively as possible to make sure that those that need resources and representation get the maximum benefit from our justice system.

C) Increasing public safety. We need to take a long view of any changes we make within our court system, to make sure that we are protecting the citizens of King County and not creating public safety and access to justice issues over the long term.

6) Please give us an example of when you had to a make a critical decision that, due to its impact on others, was difficult. Tell us why you made your decision and what, if any, actions you took to mitigate any negative results.

While I was serving as a Pierce County District Court Judge Pro Tem on the anti-harassment docket, the owner of a child daycare center appeared before me asking for a restraining order to prevent a neighbor from accosting her customers as they picked up their children. The neighbor was accused of standing in front of the day-care and yelling at customers that the owner was a child molester. The owner of the day-care center appeared in court with her partner, who was the adult daughter of the neighbor/respondent.

The neighbor (her mother), admitted that she was angry at the day care owner, and felt betrayed by her. She said that she and her daughter had become estranged as a result of the relationship with the daycare owner, and had not spoken for over 6 months. The mother blamed the daycare owner for blocking her access to her daughter. She talked at length about her disappointment in her daughter's life choices. The neighbor/mother admitted that her conduct was inappropriate. She also said several times how much she loved her daughter.

Although issuing a restraining order against a concerned mother is a difficult decision, I also let the mother explain her feelings in open court. I could tell that her mother's words had a deep effect on both the owner of the day care owner and the daughter. Although, the parties left separately, I saw the daughter turn and speak to her mother before they left. I believe that because both parties had the opportunity to express themselves in a fair and respectful atmosphere, each left the courtroom assured that the conclusion was just.

7. What methods will you employ to communicate with your constituency on a regular basis?

I plan to run an open and transparent court, where all those that appear before me are treated with respect.

I will continue to offer my services as a speaker to area high schools to improve the knowledge base of our young people about our justice system.

8. What other information would you like us to consider?

I believe that the District Court is the people's court. It is the place where most citizens of King County will have their first, and perhaps their only, exposure to our justice system. The citizens of King County need to come away from that experience having been treated fairly, equally, and with respect. I believe that my experiences as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a trainer of lawyers and judges around the world, and in developing innovative practices to make service organizations run smoothly and effectively make me the best candidate for this position.

I declare under penalty of perjury the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed at

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. McGalliard', written over a horizontal line.

Please return to:

M.J. McGalliard, Chair
31st District Democrats
39107 310th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022
Phone: 360-802-5177