

31st Legislative District Democrats Candidate Questionnaire

1. Your name: Eric Newman
2. Candidate for: King County Superior Court Party Affiliation: Non-Partisan

3. Campaign information:

Manager: Aaron Rocke
Phone: (206) 602-6070 Fax:
Address: PO Box 23011, Seattle, WA 98102
Website: www.electnewmanjudge.com
E-mail: eric@rockelaw.com

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

Prior to becoming a lawyer, I worked as a Juvenile Detention Officer with the Pierce County Juvenile Court. That experience has given me a unique perspective on juvenile justice and what needs to be done to help keep our youth out of the school to prison pipeline. As a judge, I have a particular interest in working with my colleagues to improve the juvenile justice system and to continue to reduce the number of juvenile offenders who are held in detention.

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

1. Addressing the lack of racial diversity in juries.
2. Improving the juvenile justice system and keeping as many juvenile offenders out of detention as possible, while still keeping the community safe.
3. Improving access to justice by finding better ways for the court to serve civil litigants who lack access to attorneys.

6. Please give us an example of when you had to 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.

Sitting as a judge *pro tem* in King County District Court, I presided over the arraignment of a gentleman who was charged with his second DUI in a relatively short period of time. To make matters worse, he had a toddler in the car at the time of his arrest. As part of the hearing, I had to set his conditions of release. The toughest part of the decision was whether to allow him to drive.

The prosecution argued that he had endangered his child along with the rest of the community by his actions. The defense argued that he lived in a rural part of the county, and he worked more than 20 miles from his home. Public transportation was not an option because his home was so remote, and he was the only wage earner in the family. If I limited his access to his car, he would lose his job, and that toddler, whom I was trying to protect, would lose the only financial support she had.

I decided to allow the defendant to continue to drive, albeit with significant conditions, including an ignition interlock device on his car, total abstinence from alcohol, which was monitored by an ankle bracelet, no driving with anyone under 18 in the car, and regular attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous.

As a judge, I am often tasked with weighing options that will have financially devastating consequences to defendants and their families against protecting the public from future harm.

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

As a judicial officer, I will not be able to attend politically affiliated meetings or events during times when I am not a candidate. However, I often attend community events throughout King County and the Puget Sound region, including Rotary related meetings, various Bar Association gatherings, gatherings related to the two law schools in Seattle, as well as participating in numerous events focused on training young lawyers and law students. I will continue to participate in all of these activities if elected.

Additionally, I think it is extremely important that the public be aware of what is happening in the judicial branch of government. As a judge *pro tem*, I have often invited non-lawyers, including children, to attend hearings in my court. My invitations are rarely declined, and it has invariably been a positive experience for my guests. They are often fascinated by the proceedings and how much they learn about the judicial system. I think the only reason they had not previously been in a court room is because they had not been invited, and they were not aware of how to go about attending a hearing.

I think the court could do a much better job of informing the public of which hearings and trials are going on, in which court rooms, at which times. Perhaps even social media could be used to better publicize the court's availability. Ours is an open court, and people should be encouraged and given every opportunity to view and participate in this branch of our government.

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

I have attached my resume and biographical information, so you can read more about me, and the work that I have done.

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

Signed at Seattle, WA

Signature /s/ Eric S. Newman (electronically signed)

Please return to:

Mark Boswell, Chair
31st District Democrats
P.O. Box 161
Sumner, WA. 98390

Or email to: webmaster@31stdistrictdemocrats.org