

31st Legislative District Democrats Candidate Questionnaire

1. Your name: Carolyn Edmonds

2. Candidate for: Pierce County Council District 2

Party Affiliation: D

3. Campaign information:

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

Environmental policies have taken many steps backward under the Republican controlled county council. Strengthening those policies is a priority.

The complex issue of homelessness/drug addiction/mental health/crime needs new leadership. A multi-pronged approach with a partnership of state/county/city/nonprofit resources is needed. These issues are too often interconnected, but the public policies that address them rarely are.

I also have deep concerns about the governing philosophy of the Republican-controlled Council. The abuse of advisory votes to avoid decisions on issues like recreational marijuana facilities is bad governance. It is an especially egregious waste of taxpayer money considering that they are unwilling to fund social services and infrastructure. I do not expect that Sen. Roach would improve this situation, to say the least. Turning District 2 blue would help us get the County Council back in the business of governing.

Take 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 serving on the King County Council the issue of Tent Cities and where they could locate became very controversial. The Executive asked council members if anyone would be willing to have a Tent City established in their district on county property. After much discussion, debate and thought I agreed to have a Tent City on a park-n-ride next to I-405 in unincorporated county.

Tent Cities, while not pretty to look at nor ideal living situations, are a viable short-term housing solution if done properly. Residents of Tent City tend to be working poor, often families, saving for a down payment on an apartment; they leave as soon as they can afford an apartment. Empirical evidence – and common sense, honestly – show that having a place to sleep at night is the first step to finding permanent housing and achieving stability. It's also more humane and safe, and avoids casting the homeless – many of them vulnerable women and families – into secluded areas where they risk victimization.

Recognizing the concerns of the neighboring community, I made sure the residents were

screened; strict rules of behavior were in place; portable toilets were available; and additional sheriff patrols were done. The park-n-ride was bordered by the freeway, two arterials, and a wooded buffer, which meant little impact on a neighborhood.

I talked to city council members in bordering cities prior to the public announcement. Two community meetings were held. In spite of my outreach, the proposed Tent City created a lot of controversy and conflict with the neighboring city of Bothell. In the end, a Catholic Church in Bothell agreed to have Tent City on their property.

Although this process was not without difficulties, I am proud to have stood for a value I hold deeply, and worked with allies and the larger community to protect the vulnerable.

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

In the past I used a variety of strategies. I communicated through regular newsletters, both in print and electronic form. I attended a meeting of every city council within my district twice a year to let the council members know what is happening in the county that could affect city residents. Attending community meetings and events were a priority, as was attending Democratic LD meetings. I had an "open door" policy, which also meant I answered my emails and returned phone calls.

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

I am the former Chair of the 27th LD Democrats and a PCO for over 20 years.

Currently I am serving on the Pierce County Charter Review Commission. This experience is invaluable as we are examining the Charter at a very detailed level. Knowledge of the governing document of Pierce County will guide my service as a councilmember.

Past elected office experience includes the Washing State House of Representatives and King County Council. I know how county government works and the importance of strong relationships with state and city officials.

Turning District 2 blue is pivotal to Democratic control of County Council. I plan to run a strong campaign based on my experience and hard work with voter outreach. I would welcome the support of the 31st LD.

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

Signed at Tacoma, WA

Signature

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Adams", written over a horizontal line.

Please return to:

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

Or email to: webmaster@31stdistrictdemocrats.org