

31st Legislative District Democrats Candidate Questionnaire

1. Your name: David B. Ladenburg
2. Candidate for: Pierce County Superior Court, dept. #17 Party Affiliation: Non-Partisan

3. Campaign information:

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

I will carry to the Superior Court (dept 17) the same commitment to justice as I have demonstrated for thirteen years on Tacoma's Municipal Court. I will apply the law fairly and consistently to the parties coming before the court.

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

First is dealing with the criminal case load which impacts the ability of the courts to address other civil matters in a timely fashion. Our Superior Court has made good strides in addressing this issue but more work needs to be done.

Second is to continue the focus on evidence based therapeutic courts such as drug court. I have presided over Tacoma's dedicated domestic violence court for 13 years. Therapeutic courts focus on addressing the underlying causes that lead to criminal behavior, such as alcohol/drug abuse, mental illness, or anger control issue. Focusing on these underlying factors can reduce recidivism and help restore broken families. The Superior Court should continue in its effort to create these specific therapeutic courts and I support those efforts.

Third issue will be compliance with the courts recently adopted public records rule GR 31.1. This is the courts equivalent to the Washington State Public Disclosure Act RCW 42.56. The court as the arbitrator of disputes and decision maker must be as open and transparent as possible in order to sustain the public's confidence in the legal system.

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.

I made the hard decision to sentence young offenders to long jail terms for failure to comply with conditions of their probation. Typically these conditions require compliance with treatment programs such as drug and alcohol abuse. This has an impact on other family members

including the defendant's own children. Many times a longer jail sentence can be the turning point at which a defendant becomes successful in treatment and improve their lives and consequently the lives of their children and families.

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

I have always made myself available to hear from people inside and outside the courtroom. I have a stated open door policy and have also invited constructive criticism. Also, I am a life long member of the Pierce County Community. I have lived in Central Tacoma my entire life and have been actively involved with the community. Previously I was involved with development of Safe Streets program as well as the Neighborhood Council Program. I was the first chair of Tacoma's Central Neighborhood Council. For these reasons I am known more as a member of the community rather than a judge that lives in the community.

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

My large extension family has been involved in politics, government, and their community for over the last 40 years. I have continued in that capacity during my career as a prosecutor for City of Tacoma, private practice attorney and as a judge with the Tacoma Municipal Court for the last 13 years. I am proud of both mine and my family's commitment to our Pierce County community. I will continue to bring this commitment to the Superior Court bench.

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

Signed at 844 South Steele Street, Tacoma, Washington of Pierce County

Signature

David B. Ladenburg

Please return to:

Mark Boswell, Chair
31st District Democrats
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Sumner, WA. 98390

Or email to: webmaster@31stdistrictdemocrats.org