

King County Democrats

2017 Candidate Questionnaire

State Level – Legislature

Candidate Name	Nate Lowry	
Position Sought	House of Representative Pos. 2	
Home Legislative District	31 st LD	
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes Yes	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: PO Box 1274 Milton, WA 98354	Phone: 253-228-8571 Fax:
	Website: www.electnatelowry.com Email: electnatelowry@gmail.com Twitter: @electnatelowry Facebook: www.facebook.com/electnatelowry	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Nate Lowry (until sometime in June)	
Consultant(s)	Jason Bennett	

Part I – Candidate Background

Please briefly describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience. Attach a resume with more complete history.

- Lived in Washington all my life, grew up in Edgewood and attended Puyallup HS
- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, WSU 2003
- Landscape Architect for True Scape Design Seattle, WA 2014-present
- City of Edgewood Councilman Pos. 7 2016-present
- Four Years City of Edgewood Planning Commission Member 2012-16 (two years Vice Chair)
- Pierce County Regional Council (City Alternate)
- Five Year Small Business Owner during Great Recession
- Landscape Architect no. 1201 2010-present (WA)

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What campaigns have you run or worked on? What specific actions have you taken as a public leader to advocate for new state revenue?

History at the local level in the City of Edgewood, four years on the planning commission, ran for city council position no. 7 beating out two other candidates in 2015. At the local level I advocated (made a motion as a council member) for a \$20 car tab fee due to the fact my municipality is the only one in Pierce County without a utility tax. Did so due to local low level of law enforcement per capita services.

What prompted you to run for this office? What priorities are you seeking to address with your campaign?

Really enjoy being on city council and want to devote more time and effort in political arenas and positively impacting society. Very motivated by the state of our current national politics and the direction Republican ideals are taking us nationally and statewide. Would like to see strong Washington State environmental policies moving forward especially with the current presidential administration's focus. Also interested in the

State's continued effort in scientific, academic and economic growth and prosperity. Would hope to serve on the Science & Technology and Environmental committees to focus on priorities in both of those areas.

List the notable endorsements you have received to date. Who are you planning to ask for an endorsement?

Very early in campaign just filed with the PDC. Do plan to seek individual city council member endorsements from multiple 31st municipalities, Pierce County Democrats, State Democrats, 31st District Democrat endorsements, multiple labor groups, former State Reps Chris Hurst and Larry Seaquist, have met with Denny Heck and hoping to meet with Congressman Derek Kilmer about possible endorsements.

Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. For instance, what earned media has your campaign received? How much money have you raised? How many doors have you knocked on?

As mentioned just filed with the PDC, have already started fundraising and have filled out multiple questionnaires for endorsement including meeting with the ATU union. Will be knocking on targeted precincts in the 31st district as well as actively fundraising throughout the campaign.

Have you ever been a member of any other political party? If so, what party? Have you ever given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and when?

No, have always been for the most part liberal and have always identified as a Democrat with some more centrist views.

Please answer the following questions.

		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		X
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X

* If you answered "Yes" to either of the above, please explain your answer:

Part II – Local and State Issues

#	Question	Yes	No	Qualify your response
1	Do you support WAmend's I-735 (amending the U.S. Constitution to lessen the influence of money in politics, and declare that corporations do not have the rights of natural persons)?	X		The citizens united decision (and others like it) is one of the most eroding and destructive pieces of legislation in our free society today. Big money interests rarely mimic that of common constituents and need limiting in our elections. Corporations are not citizens and therefore do not have the same rights and protections I feel.
2	Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike?	X		In a democratic society, this is a fundamental need and right to keep checks and balances in place against larger corporations and their deep resources.

3	Do you support the voter-approved minimum wage increase (I-1433)?	X		Yes and voted for the initiative in 2016. Thought it was right about the proper increase for the time, a larger increase though I feel would have been too much for companies to absorb.
4	Do you support the Reproductive Health Act?	X		Yes, if healthcare is offered all women's health related items should be offered. Just because they are offered doesn't mean someone has to use them.
5	Do you support amending Washington's Constitution to require a two-thirds vote to raise revenue, as demanded by Tim Eyman?	X		Over the years typically I found Tim Eyman initiatives to be destructive and undermining of government. I feel this initiative does the same thing as revenue is a constant point of emphasis for lawmakers and a 2/3 majority makes governing very difficult.
6	Did you support adoption of a Sound Transit 3 regional transportation package?	X	X	I supported the premise of ST3 however I did not support the scale and funding mechanisms in the proposals and voted against it. I also did not think Central and Eastern Pierce County benefited as much from what was being proposed (bulk of 31 st district) and voted along with the rest of the Edgewood city council against the initiative.
7	Do you support legislation to fix Washington's broken "three strikes" law?	X		Yes legislation to fix or repeal the law all-together given its constitutionality is in question nationally.
8	Do you support allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		X	I would be interested in seeing a phased down approach to this if not blocked all together. Alternative and renewable forms of energy must become staples in our society with the effects we are already seeing with climate change and global warming.
9	Do you support making two years of community college or technical school tuition-free?	X		I do support this idea however funding it could be a major undertaking. If funding sources can be identified and some bi-partisan support garnered, I would be in strong support of this idea. Strong supporter and would love to see this instituted however my centrist views

				see this as a stretch with current education funding issues and republicans that will certainly balk at associated costs.
10	Do you support requiring tax exemptions to be listed as expenditures in the state budget?	X		Yes, I think this is needed to give lawmakers flexibility and better transparency with budget and expenditures in the future.
11	Do you support the privatization of our public worker's compensation system, which protects employees who are injured on the job?	X	X	I think there could be some savings and needed reforms here but not at the expense of worker's care and rights. Would be open to at least exploring this idea.
12	Do you support requiring paid vacation and sick + safe leave for Washington's workers?	X		I do support these benefits but for businesses of a certain size or larger.
13	Do you support repeal of Tim Eyman's I-747, which artificially limits property tax collections?		X	No I do not support this measure which ends up leaving the state and local jurisdictions with funding shortfalls and more difficult budgeting issues.
14	Do you support Washington adopting a truly nonpartisan, citizen-run redistricting process that would result in more competitive districts?	X		Absolutely support this, most fair and transparent way to redistrict Washington State
15	Do you support Washington State prepaying postage on all ballots?	X		Yes, however I would be very interested in seeing the data come back from pilot programs for this approach. If there was strong support and previous efforts prove to be worthwhile I would be a strong supporter of this approach.
16	Do you support automatic voter registration?	X		Yes as long as there is proper vetting so concerns of voter fraud aren't continually brought up by Republicans.
17	Do you support the death penalty?		X	I think this is an outdated form of punishment for our society.
18	Do you support barring employers from asking criminal history questions in job applications?	X		I do support this notion as the employer has the ability further along in the interview process to check criminal history. Don't think everyone's criminal history or lack thereof should be real forthcoming information in the initial stages of a job application/interview process.
19	In the law regarding police use of lethal force (RCW 9A.16.040), do you support removing the requirement that officers act "without malice"?		X	This to me is an absurd thing to remove, really performing any professional of otherwise job in our

				society should be done without malice and that is more so important when you are talking about the use of deadly force in regard to people's lives.
20	Do you support Healthcare for All-Washington (HB 1026 and SB 5701)?	X		It is important this passes for all Washingtonians on what feels like the eve of many millions being shown the door possibly on their health insurance by the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress.

Part III – Free Response Questions

Please review the 2016 King County Democratic Platform, approved by the delegates to the King County Convention and available from KCDCC's website. List which planks, if any, you disagree with, and why.

In agreement with all.

How do you propose fully complying with the Supreme Court's McCleary decision? In your eyes, what does full compliance look like? Please be as specific as possible.

I think a variety of funding sources need to be brought to the table to see what advantages and disadvantages of each are such as revising property tax collection vs. an additional marijuana tax for example. Expected revenue from each source present day and into the future needs to be calculated very carefully with sound science justifying funding to the courts moving forward. I think accurate forecasting of revenue sources multi years into the future where possible is key in ensuring continued compliance with the state on this issue. Do not see a scenario where compliance with the McCleary ruling can be satisfied without additional revenue sources as Dino Rozzi claims can happen. Capital gains tax I think is the first place to look for funding to fund the shortfall though I know Republicans strongly oppose that. Second for me would be marijuana taxes but also need to get my feet wet and understand what funding measures do or don't exist and how other legislatures are viewing those. Not a fan of the Governor's talk about raising B&O taxes as a past small business owner and supporter. Will also say though I don't know enough information such as is that a B&O raise on only certain sized companies and overall what other options exist to fund education mandates. Know this is a very challenging aspect that will probably carry over into the 18 legislative session and I better be ready for it both campaigning and in office should I get there.

What policies would you promote to address the climate change crisis?

This is probably the most important topic of interest for me given my professional background and current disdain for federal environment regulations or lack there of. I support laws and initiatives that penalize fossil fuel purveyors and other non-renewable energy source exploiters and would support those types of laws as a member of the legislature. I would also support and hope to be involved in legislation further bolstering clean and renewable energy legislation propelling the State of Washington as a clean and renewable energy leader. Many things are disconcerting and bothersome with our current presidential administration, for me no more so than the assault on environmental regulations in a time of

climate crisis worldwide. The EPA being essentially gutted of regulation oversight and staff levels means that it is all so more important states protect their individual environments. I would be not only a strong supporter of legislation regarding this but an outspoken member in the legislature should I serve.

Describe your vision for tax reform and fairness. How do we fully fund our public schools while making our tax code more progressive? Would you support sunseting all tax exemptions, and voting to renew only those that demonstrably benefit the public interest?

I think our capital gains tax system should be looked at above certain income thresholds as a way to provide more fair tax representation. I think closing tax loopholes and reducing who qualifies for tax exemptions are areas to look at in spreading tax revenue more evenly across the board. Possibly our property tax collection system needs to be looked at further to see what could be done there. I would be in support of shorter term tax exemptions with expiration dates so our tax code could be more flexibly applied. In general this topic needs a lot of attention and work with the State of Washington being 50/50 nationally in tax fairness (baffling to me actually).

If elected, will you vote to uphold the Supreme Court's decision in *League of Women Voters*, which found charter schools to be unconstitutional? Do you support or oppose charter schools?

I would oppose charter schools but also do need to know more on the topic. I think segregation whether it be racially or economically based is not good for our public schools (or otherwise) and would want to know charter schools are not admonishing these issues prior to being in support of them.

Since the Great Recession, the Department of Natural Resources' Geology and Earth Resources Division has been limping along with inadequate funding. DNR recently asked the Legislature for funding to make three badly needed hires: an earthquake hazards geologist, a tsunami hazards geologist, and a GIS information technology specialist. If elected or reelected, would you help ensure DNR gets the funding it is asking for?

Since all three positions seem to deal with the personal health and safety of Washingtonians I think it is important and a proactive approach to fund these needed positions. After education funding is finalized, these funding requests I think do carry a pretty high priority. This again is due to the health and safety aspects of what is being requested and the consequences of continually not funding these positions.

Do you agree parents should have the right to opt their kids out of state standardized tests like the SBAC?

I would agree with that but only if some other form of test possibly less invasive or better suited for that child's individual needs be administered instead. I think just opting out of standardized testing without taking something in return isn't the best idea and doesn't set a good precedent.

Washington has historically been a nationwide leader in encouraging teachers to become National Board certified. Do you support continuing to pay bonuses to teachers who undergo the certification process?

I do support the bonus system setup for teachers who undergo the National certification process. Educating our youth and keeping up with global economies is important for our society and our teachers being National Board certified bolsters those efforts in my opinion.

Are you cognizant of -- and how do you plan on addressing -- the inequitable incarceration of minorities?

I think being a vocal critic of racial profiling laws and ordinances such as the recent presidential executive orders and past profiling laws in the State of Arizona is very important. To address incarceration inequality, I feel you have to first address prejudice and profiling through all levels of law enforcement and our court systems with continual training and personnel support. I think researching police departments nationwide that do not show statistical racial prejudice and finding out reasons behind those low statistics is important. I'm mostly talking things like pull over statistics...if one racially diverse precinct only has a 2-3% difference in the frequency between say a black and a white person being pulled over for the same violation (i.e. license plate light too dim) yet another district has a 40% difference in the same statistic why is that occurring and what can be learned comparing the two. I think districts or precincts that are doing very well in not profiling when they do have diverse citizens can possibly serve as examples and leaders to others.

What important state and local issues have you worked on (or taken an interest in) that you feel aren't getting enough attention from elected leaders and the media?

Less of an issue and more of a way of governing, bi-partisanship and governing from closer to the middle where things generally get done in our society seems to be lacking. When extreme ideals and philosophies from either side continue to be brought forth and less effort and conviction towards bi- partisanship happens our society suffers as a whole. Maybe wishful centrist type thinking but I think more can be done here to bring more meaningful legislation forward for constituents.

I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.

Signature

(insert scanned signature or sign electronically)

Printed Name

Nataniel Long

Date: 5/10/17