

THE

WASHINGTON BUS

Youth Endorsement Leadership League (YELL)

2021 Candidate Endorsements



The Youth Endorsement Leadership League (YELL) is a phenomenal team of young folks who came together this fall to conduct our endorsement process.

The seven participants (Angee, Jesse, Jamie, Jean, Saba, Zubin, Annalisa) came together to identify key races across the state of Washington, and then craft a questionnaire based on the issues important to them. The following endorsements reflect the candidates YELL was most impressed by and The Washington Bus is thrilled to uplift their decisions.

Written by Annalisa Mueller-Eberstein

Graphics by Sophie Morada

KING COUNTY

SEATTLE

Hamdi Mohamed, *Port of Seattle*

Commission Position 3

Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, *Port of Seattle*
Position 4

KENT

Dawn M. Bennett, *Kent Mayor*

Cliff Cawthon, *Kent City Council Pos. 4*

RENTON

Joe Todd, *Renton City Council Pos. 1*

Carmen Rivera, *Renton City Council Pos. 2*

BURIEN

Hugo Garcia, *Burien City Council Pos. 1*

SEATAC

Iris Guzman, *SeaTac City Council Pos. 6*

TUKWILA

Armen Papyan, *Tukwila City Council Pos. 1*

BELLEVUE

Joyce Shui, *School District Board Position 3*

WHATCOM COUNTY

BELLINGHAM

Kelly Krieger, *Port Commissioner District 2*

KITSAP COUNTY

BREMERTON

Tracy Flood, *Municipal Court Judge*

SPOKANE COUNTY

SPOKANE

Naghmana Sherazi, *City Council Pos. 1*

CLARK COUNTY

VANCOUVER

Kim D. Harless, *Vancouver City Council Pos. 1*

ENDORSEMENTS
at a glance

THE
WASHINGTON BUS

The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Toshiko Grace Hasegawa is a fourth-generation Japanese American and life-long resident of Seattle. She was raised in Beacon Hill, where she currently resides. Toshiko believes that we can rebuild our economy to be better than it was before with a platform involving a sustainable blue economy, supporting workers and families, and addressing issues of mobility and livability around the Port.

The Port is uniquely positioned to be a leader in bringing together industry, business, workers and communities to build us back stronger, and Toshiko plans to be at the forefront. We are impressed with her ideas and her ability to ask tough questions as well as her in-depth understanding of issues in Washington and her track record of fighting for underrepresented communities.



Toshiko Grace Hasegawa

Port of Seattle Commission Position 4



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Values of equity and environmental justice will be at the forefront of every action **Hamdi Mohamed** takes as a commissioner, and these values deeply resonate with us at the Washington Bus. Hamdi pledges to address racial inequality and advance an anti-racist agenda at the Port Commission, and with her long history of working with her community, we feel she has the foundation to build upon and help develop the Port into a more equitable space.

Hamdi's commitment to environmentalism, fighting systemic racism and criminalization, and striving for a more just society for the most historically disenfranchised communities truly embodies the values young people care about. A proven leader and problem solver, Hamdi Mohamed has the experience and dedication to make a meaningful impact.



Hamdi Mohamed

Port of Seattle Commission Position 3



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Dawn M. Bennett has spent her career as a tireless advocate for parents and children, to ensure those who are left behind or marginalized have the support they need. In 2011, she took that commitment and co-founded the Multicultural Education Rights Alliance (McERA), where she serves as Executive Director today.

In recent years, Dawn has served her community as a gang prevention specialist and caseworker for the City of Seattle, the Liaison for African American families for Seattle Public Schools, and a basketball coach. Her goal is to make Kent stronger by helping to build better lives for all of Kent's communities, and she has done substantive work to make that vision a reality. The Washington Bus looks forward to seeing where else Dawn will create a positive impact.



Dawn M. Bennett
Kent Mayor



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

A committed social justice advocate and humanitarian, **Clifford “Cliff” Cawthon** is an educator, activist, freelance journalist, and a proud Kent resident. Cliff has been a pivotal part of organizing in Kent and across Martin Luther King Jr. County, and he has always been committed to improving things for working people and the most historically disenfranchised.

Cliff was involved in several historic local wins for progressive candidates of color and women, winning tenant protections and housing justice fights against negligent landlords, expanding regional transit and raising the minimum wage. Cliff brings significant political experience and a unique perspective that we at the Washington Bus believe will be incredibly meaningful in the city of Kent.



Cliff Cawthon
Kent City Council Position 4



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

As a Renton City Council member, **Joe Todd** promises to fight for BIPOC, LGBTQ, Seniors, and other vulnerable and marginalized community members that don't have equal access to government. Joe envisions building mechanisms where Black wealth and housing intersect, supporting the health and wellbeing of Renton's most historically disenfranchised communities by expanding low cost broadband internet, making the city more small business friendly, and devoting more resources towards mental health support systems as well as preventative medical care for COVID-19.

A large part of his platform also involves expanding access to wrap-around services as well as affordable and transitional housing for communities facing poverty and homelessness, which is something we at the Washington Bus care deeply about. His dedication, awareness and authenticity resonated with us and we are excited to see him implement his visions.



Joe Todd
Renton City Council Position 1



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Carmen Rivera was born and raised in Renton and pledges to give back to the community that raised her. As the youngest candidate in Renton's electoral race, Carmen has a great deal of experience working with youth, which deeply resonates with us at the Bus. In our candidate questionnaire, Carmen expressed her commitment to preserving the environment, expanding access to affordable housing and protecting renters, and building up the city's public transportation infrastructure.

She is committed to working against the institutional inequities that disproportionately impact communities of color, which she notes is crucial in the fight for Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty. As a city council member, she plans to expand community spaces and resources to support and uplift Renton's most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Carmen plans to be a leader who will listen and take guidance from her community, to best serve their hopes and interests.



Carmen Rivera
Renton City Council Position 2



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Hugo Garcia envisions a community that is welcoming, diverse and inclusive, a community that protects one another and especially supports those most vulnerable. He has good ideas, policy, and all around vibes. The Bus' values are aligned with Hugo's campaign and we believe that he can make valuable contributions to his community.

We particularly loved how Hugo's specific lived experiences influence his platform, and that he has a lot of relevant COVID-related experiences that demonstrate his flexibility and awareness. His key issues of inclusive COVID recovery, housing for all, small business support, and public safety are issues young people especially care about, and he has comprehensive proposals addressing each.



Hugo Garcia
Burien City Council Position 1



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Currently a school social worker with the Highline Public Schools, **Iris Guzmán** sees firsthand the needs of the BIPOC, immigrant, refugee, undocumented/mixed status, and working families in SeaTac. Through her occupation as a social worker, Iris regularly engages with youth and listens to their stories. She hopes to integrate a youth engagement aspect to the city council to directly bring young people's voices into the conversation through inviting youth and students to council meetings and policy discussions.

Iris works to help bridge the gaps between housing, food, and other basic needs for marginalized communities of SeaTac. We believe Iris' lived experiences will help her better serve her community and we appreciated how holistic she approaches the issues of education equity, tenants' rights, and marginalized communities' experiences with COVID.



Iris Guzmán
SeaTac City Council Position 6



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

An immigrant who grew up in Tukwila, **Armen Papyan** is passionate and dedicated, and we believe he will do well in this position. In fact, his leadership and public service journey began at UW Tacoma, where he served as the President of the Associated Student Body.

Since then, he has continued to find ways to serve and support the Tukwila community, whether it is through volunteering for local nonprofits or spearheading a homelessness advocacy campaign securing housing units for students experiencing homelessness. Armen may be young, but he is well-equipped to make a meaningful impact, and the Washington Bus would like to help him get there.



Armen Papyan
Tukwila City Council Position 1



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

In a competitive race for the Bellevue School District Board: **Joyce Shui** is our candidate. As an attorney, mother of four, and the founder of The Purple School bilingual education programs for infants and young children, Joyce has the potential to positively contribute to the Bellevue School District (BSD), and we at the Washington Bus are excited to see her implement her plans.

She has a specific understanding of the inequities in the BSD; we appreciate her comprehensive plans to address pandemic-related issues, such as more active and repeated outreach to support families most severely impacted by COVID-19. She believes that the BSD must work directly with existing affinity groups within the district to understand and overcome educational barriers, in order to increase access and reach true equity for students of color, especially those least represented in accelerated/gifted programs.



Joyce Shui

Bellevue School District Board, Position 3



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Inspired by the need to expand job opportunities within Whatcom County and increase accountability to environmental impacts, **Kelly Krieger** is running as a strong advocate for forward-thinking, sustainable and climate-conscious economic development.

Her plans for matching funds to help kick start programs in smaller areas in Whatcom County and expanding broadband internet for increased accessibility are well thought-out and feasible. Kelly's emphasis on climate resilience as well as educational and economic equity is something that we at the Washington Bus vigorously support.



Kelly Krieger

Bellingham Port Commissioner, District 2



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Committed to holding the court systems, and their members accountable, **Tracy Flood** promises that system reform and inclusivity underpin her policies and perspective. She pledges to address the unique needs of individuals and has the experience to back up her words.

She currently holds positions on the Olympic College Foundation Board, the WSBA's Client Protection Board, Kitsap Community Resource Board, and Vice President Of the Washington State Bar Foundation Board. Tracy also continues to serve as a Pro Tem Judge in King County. We especially enjoyed reading about her ideas about integrating civic duty and legal information into the classroom, especially through a socially aware lens.



Tracy Flood
Bremerton Municipal Court



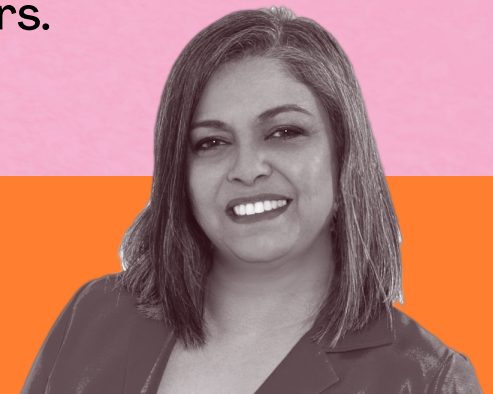
The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Naghmana Sherazi pledges to be a voice for the underrepresented in Spokane, a voice for working families and a proponent of affordable housing and access to healthcare. Naghmana says that young people are the heart and soul of her campaign, as she cares deeply about prioritizing the political empowerment and engagement of youth and unions throughout her work. We at the Bus value that Naghmana takes the opinions of young people and unions into high consideration and involves youth in the political decision making process.

In our candidate questionnaire, she stated that her “commitment to progressive values, equity and diversity, fighting climate change, sustainability and environmentalism, support of the LGBTQ community, and [work] to combat homelessness with decriminalization policies are all shaped and guided by my passion for young people.” We look forward to seeing what Naghmana will do in Spokane in the coming years.



Naghmana Sherazi
Spokane City Council Position 1



The Washington Bus **ENDORSES**

Between her community involvement, lived experiences, and a well-thought-out plan for her city, we believe **Kim D. Harless** is well equipped to create positive change and represent the interests of the Vancouver community. Kim is currently the co-chair of the Clark County Charter Review Commission and also a council member for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Kim is very passionate about climate justice as it relates strongly to her positionality and educational background as a graduate in environmental science. We believe Kim's climate justice approach is very thorough and comprehensive, addressing such issues as renewable energy and electric vehicle infrastructure. She is informed, driven, and would be a strong advocate as a member of the Vancouver City Council.



Kim D. Harless

Vancouver City Council Position 1

