

King County Democrats

2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Judicial Level

Candidate Name	Lisa A. Paglisotti	
Position Sought	King County District Court-West Division, Position 1	
Home County and Legislative District		
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: P.O. Box 23026	Phone:425-466-0619 Fax:
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Campaign manager or point of contact	Mary Ann Ottinger-425-466-0619	
Consultant(s)	Mary Ann Ottinger-425-466-0619	

Part I – Candidate Background

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

I have been a Judge in the King County District Court since June, 2016. Since being on the bench, I have served in the West, South, and East Divisions. I am currently presiding over King County District Court's first Community Court. Prior to my appointment and subsequent election to the King County District Court bench, I served the citizens of King County for over 30 years. I was a public defender for 22 + years, a juvenile probation counselor, a juvenile corrections officer, and a program coordinator for a law-related education project. My broad and varied experience offers a perspective that other candidates do not have. My demonstrated commitment to public service in King County is longstanding, and will continue if I am re-elected to serve as a King County District Court Judge.

I graduated from the University of Washington in 1985 with B.A. degrees in both Sociology and Society and Justice. I obtained my J.D. (law degree) from Seattle University School of Law in 1992 and became a member of the Washington State Bar Association that same year.

I began volunteering at the King County Department of Youth Services in 1982. From 1985-1989, I was a Juvenile Corrections Officer at the King County Department of Youth Services. From 1989-1994, I was a Juvenile Probation Counselor at the King County Department of Youth Services. During this time, I was on the Executive Board for A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 2084, serving as a steward and treasurer. Beginning in 1994, I worked as an attorney for the King County Department of Public Defense, S.C.R.A.P. Division (formerly Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons).

During my 22+ years as a public defender, I handled thousands of cases, and represented indigent clients in the following practice areas: Felony (adult and juvenile); Misdemeanors (adult and juvenile); Dependencies (parents and children); Contempt of Court; Truancy; and Misdemeanor Appeals. I also supervised the Misdemeanor and Contempt of Court Divisions, and worked with and trained numerous interns.

During my career at King County Department of Public Defense, I helped organize a union at S.C.R.A.P. and K.C.D.P.D. (S.E.I.U. 925), where I also served as a steward.

I currently serve on the Equity and Social Justice Committee for the King County District Court, and am presiding over King County District Court's first Community Court.

Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What offices have you previously sought election or appointment to? What campaigns have you worked on?

I was unanimously appointed by the King County Council in 2016 to serve as a King County District Court Judge-West Division, Position 1. I subsequently ran unopposed in 2016 to retain my seat. I have previously engaged in neighborhood canvassing and phone banking for campaigns. I have also supported a number of judges and judicial candidates who I believe improve the quality of our judiciary.

What prompted you to run for this office?

I have had the privilege of serving as a King County District Court Judge since my appointment in 2016. I truly enjoy my job, and respect my duty to serve the customers of the Court and the citizens of King County. I have worked in a variety of roles within the King County justice system, and believe that the skills and qualifications I have worked hard to develop over my professional life, combined with my continued passion for justice and need to serve others have led me to the decision to run for re-election to retain my position. As a King County District Court Judge, I am able to work collaboratively with prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment providers, probation officers, and service providers to address the needs of individuals who come before the court in a manner that promotes access to justice for all, while addressing community safety issues in a manner that promotes rehabilitation and healing, concurrently with holding individuals accountable for their behavior. The continued development and implementation of therapeutic and community courts reduce the financial and social costs with which our system has been burdened for decades. Additionally, implementation of alternatives to secure detention and well as pre-trial supervision programs will serve to address issues surrounding bail reform.

Describe the progress of your campaign so far. What kind of reception is your campaign getting? Are you running unopposed, or do you have an opponent? How will your campaign appeal to the voters?

I filed my declaration of candidacy in late 2017, and hired a professional judicial campaign manager. I have been speaking at various legislative district meetings, and have received positive feedback from those who appear before me. I am unaware of anyone who has plans of filing against me. My campaign will appeal to the voters because the voters want judges who understand the concerns of ordinary people and who appreciate the challenges faced by those who have to interact with our courts. My 30 plus years working with the most disadvantaged members of our community combined with my judicial experience will, I believe, make me the kind of judge people want to retain in this community.

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 – Ratings and endorsements

What endorsements and ratings from bar associations have you received to date?

Bar Association ratings:	
King County Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Joint Asian Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Latina/o Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Loren Miller Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
QLAW	Well Qualified
Cardozo Society	**Interview scheduled in June, 2018
Endorsements:	
I am currently in the process of seeking formal endorsements	

If you have previously sought elected office, what notable endorsements did you receive?

In 2016, I received endorsements from the following organizations: Metropolitan Democrats, King County Dems, 37th District Dems, 32nd District Dems, 46th District Dems, 36th District Dems, 43rd District Dems, 34th District Dems, 11th District Dems, Martin Luther King Labor Council, and the National Women's Political Caucus. Additionally, I received the endorsements of numerous Judges and attorneys, as well as community leaders.

What other organizations are you planning to ask for an endorsement?

I will be requesting endorsements from all of the above organizations.

Part III – Legal experience, technology, and court costs

Please describe your pro bono activities over the last five years.

Speaker, Youth and Law Forum; Judge for various mock trials; Panelist, International Community Court Conference.

What law firms or public law offices (i.e. King County Prosecutor's Office) have you worked for? Have you served as a prosecutor or a public defender? Please include dates, and title for each position that you have held, as well as areas of law practiced.

King County Department of Public Defense-S.C.R.A.P. Division (formerly Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons) February, 1994-May, 2016

During my 22+ years as a public defender in King County, I practiced in the following areas:

Felonies (adult and juvenile)

Misdemeanors (adult and juvenile)

Dependencies (represented parents and children)

Misdemeanor Appeals

Truancies

Juvenile Drug Diversion Court

Adult Drug Diversion Court

Supervision (Misdemeanor, Contempt of Court, and Appeals)

Have you ever served as a mediator or arbitrator? (If so, please describe your experiences.)

No

What do you believe are the most important qualifications for a judge or justice?

The most important attributes that a judge should have is to first and foremost have respect for all people and have an undying belief in justice for all. A judge must be able to distinguish between an individual and that individual's behavior and be able to empower individuals to value themselves and motivate them to change. A judge must be a good listener, and must be aware of the implicit biases within the system. A judge must have the courage to address injustices and be able to hold people accountable in a compassionate manner.

Have you been a judge pro-tem? If so, what was that experience like? What did you learn from it? Have you completed the pro-tem training in King County? For which judges do you regularly pro-tem?

Prior to becoming appointed and elected, I served as a pro-tem in King County District Court.

Do you support making it easier for Washingtonians who are not members of the bar to access public records, particularly at the Superior/District court levels, where per-page fees are charged?

Yes, public court records should be accessible to all. Access to justice includes access to public records generated in court. Open courts includes access to court records.

Do you have any thoughts on how our courts should address the growing use of smartphones during court proceedings, particularly by jurors?

The use of smartphones by jurors should be strictly prohibited, except for the phone/email function during breaks. Jurors should be instructed regarding the prohibition against researching or otherwise accessing information relating to a case in the same manner that jurors are instructed on more traditional mediums (live news, newspapers, research articles, etc.)

Is Washington relying too much on court fees to cover the cost of operating our judicial system? How do you believe our courts should be funded?

Yes. The costs of justice should not be funded by those seeking justice. Access to justice is a right guaranteed to all regardless to race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic status. In my opinion, access to justice is a issue of constitutional magnitude. The denial of equal access to justice is often based upon decades of social complexities that have not been addressed by our society and have placed many people and groups in a position of poverty and oppression. This is violative of the very fabric of our state and federal constitutions. The government can collect fees on a sliding scale basis for some costs, but access to justice should not be denied based on inability to pay. courts should not rely on court fees to cover the cost of operating our judicial system.

Part IV – Access to justice

If elected, how will you work to improve access to justice, particularly for communities and constituencies that do not understand the American legal system?

Judges have an absolute duty to work to improve access to justice for all members of our community. The courts need to provide court documents in an individual's primary language. The courts also need to provide interpreters for individuals both in and out of court. In my opinion, judges have obligations to educate citizens in our very rich and culturally diverse community about how the justice system works to relieve anxiety and fear surrounding it. Judges and other players in our system must work together collaboratively and lead the way to educate ourselves in cultural issues which will continue to present themselves to ensure that individuals before the courts have the ability to navigate through the justice system in a manner that provides meaningful access. With respect to jurors, it is my opinion and hope that our legislature and judiciary can work toward making language accommodations available for jurors who are otherwise eligible to serve on a jury, but cannot do so because of their limited or non-existent grasp of the

English language. Those with cultural and diverse language skills have become an important part of the texture of our community.

What does the phrase *Black Lives Matter* mean to you as a judicial candidate?

The Black Lives Matter movement has served to awaken our nation and community to the implicit biases and racism in our court system and social systems that have either been overlooked or ignored by individuals/entities in our society. The justice system is and has been plagued by the racist actions and inactions of some individuals and of the system as a whole. As a society, we need to educate ourselves and continue to take actions that will eliminate the biases that exist and that have targeted specific groups in our society. We need to be educated and made aware in a manner that does not lend itself to being ignored.

What do you see are the legal issues in the #timesup and #metoo movements?

As a judicial candidate, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on legal issues surrounding the above movements that may come before me in court.

What ideas can you offer to make our judicial system more open, transparent, and responsive?

There have been many recent decisions addressing the open courts rule, and I will follow that rule of law, while continually analyzing and weighing each case before me in applying the rule(s). With respect to responsiveness, I view the judicial system's role in this arena to mean responsiveness to the needs of our community when it comes to issues of justice. There are many issues that need to be addressed by the courts in our society. I have already touched a bit on access to justice issues as it applies to individuals who cannot afford to pay court costs and as it applies to members of our community who have language and cultural barriers.

Additionally, the judicial system as a whole needs to respond to issues of substance abuse and mental health that are ever-present in our community and often get diverted to the criminal justice system as a result of behaviors that are sometimes co-occurring with medical issues. Unless and until such time that our communities recognize that addiction and/or mental health issues are issues of public health, and while these issues are being diverted to the justice system, our judicial system needs to continue to be innovative in the development of therapeutic courts and community courts which can try to address the above issues in a non-traditional manner. We need to address the particularized issues of individuals in a manner that serves to provide services to address the individual's issues so that the issue that gave rise to the behavior is healed. Community and therapeutic courts are cost-effective, both financially and socially, and are the most obvious mechanism to respond to the increasing financial and social costs of the criminal justice system and the needs of our communities.

I look forward to continuing to develop our community court, and to expand the options available for alternatives to secure detention.

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	Electronic signature-Lisa A. Paglisotti	Date:5/9/18
Printed Name	Judge Lisa A. Paglisotti	