

King County Democrats

2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Judicial Level

Candidate Name	Andrea T. Chin	
Position Sought	Seattle Municipal Court Judge	
Home County and Legislative District	King – 37 th LD	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address:	Phone: 425-466-0619 Fax:
	Committee to Elect Andrea Chin PO Box 20664 Seattle, WA 98102	
	Website: www.electandreachin.com Email: electandreachin@gmail.com Twitter: @ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/electandreachinforjudge/	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Mary Ann Ottinger – 425-466-0619	
Consultant(s)	Same	

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 an Assistant City Attorney with the Seattle City Attorney's Office for 26 years. I have handled every duty within the agency, including pretrial hearings, trials (both jury and bench), sentencings, reviews, and appeals. I have been a supervisor in the Criminal Division since 2013 and oversee the Specialty Court Unit which includes Mental Health Court, Veteran's Treatment Court, and other non-traditional and more collaborative methods of prosecution. I am a graduate of Occidental College and Loyola Law School. I was a member of the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee from 2011-2014. I am a long time member of the Asian Bar Association of Washington. I served on its board since 2013 and served as the 2017 president.

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 have not previously sought election or appointment to any office. I have not worked on any campaigns.

What prompted you to run for this office?

A position on the Seattle Municipal Court bench would allow me to use the skills I have acquired in 26 years of public service. My experience - particularly with populations dealing with untreated mental illness, chemical dependency and personal trauma - will allow me to make a significant contribution to the judiciary.

My long association with Seattle Municipal Court has given me a broad view of the Court's role in the community as Seattle grows and becomes more diverse.

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 have built a strong campaign organization, and it has been well received. My campaign committee has been actively involved in fundraising, and we had a very successful campaign kickoff event at the Wing Luke Museum on Feb. 27. I have received endorsement from many judges and attorneys, including those who work in both the public and private sector, and from criminal defense attorneys as well as prosecutors. I am running unopposed at this time. My family has deep roots in Seattle as far back as my grandparents, and I have worked almost my entire legal career in public service for the city.

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:

Exceptionally well qualified:

King County Bar Association
Latina/o Bar Association of Washington
QLaw
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee
Washington Women Lawyers
Cardozo Society

Well qualified:

Loren Miller Bar Association

Endorsements:

See attached endorsement list which is current as of the date of this submission. The most current list of my endorsements can be found at: www.electandreachin.com

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

I have not previously sought elected office.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
National Women's Political Caucus of Washington
King County Democrats and all 7 LD organizations
King County Young Democrats
Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle
IAM 751
SEIU
ATU 587

Other similar organizations as the opportunities present themselves.

Part III – Legal experience, technology, and court costs

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

I have not specifically engaged in pro bono legal work because of potential conflicts with my employment with the city. However, I devoted a great deal of time outside of work to the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee from 2011- 2014. This involved monthly meetings that included calling and speaking to the candidates' references and committee interviews with the candidates. From 2013 to the present I have been on the board of the Asian Bar Association of Washington, and served as president in 2017.

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.

I have served as a prosecutor with the Seattle City Attorney's Office from 1990 to the present. The attached resume includes dates and assignments within the agency during that time.

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?

I believe that the most important qualifications for a judge are that she be impartial and fair, and that she reasonably apply the law to the facts of each case. A judge must allow each party to be heard. I also believe that a judge must be respectful to all who appear in her courtroom, but also have the ability to set expectations and maintain control of the courtroom so that cases are resolved within a reasonable amount of time. Judges also need to be forward-thinking in their approach to criminal justice and be willing to try new approaches to prevent recidivism. Judges must also be willing to work collaboratively with other professionals within the justice system to provide individuals with resources to make positive changes in their lives.

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?

Yes. The experience reinforced what I already knew -- that making decisions affecting other peoples' lives - both defendants, as well as victims - was a heavy responsibility that must be taken very seriously. I did complete the King County District Court pro tem training and have served a few times in the Edmonds Municipal Court where Judge Linda Coburn presides.

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?

The public has a general right to open court proceedings, so I would support easier access to public records. The reality of actual costs and administrative fees to cover this service, however, must be considered in order to support it. Increased access to electronic records, as opposed to paper, should reduce costs.

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

I would support a prohibition of the use of smart phones by jurors during court proceedings. Jurors are obligated to consider only the evidence presented at trial in reaching a verdict. The use of cell phones for outside research or communications with outside individuals can certainly interfere with the parties receiving a fair and impartial trial.

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?

It is up to the legislative branch to determine how to designate funds to operate our judicial system. The Washington State Supreme Court has held that legal financial obligations may not be imposed against an individual unless the court conducts an analysis of the individual's ability to pay.

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?

If elected, I would adhere to the standard for appointment of counsel in criminal cases and ensure that interpreters are present for all court proceedings when needed. More broadly, the use of court websites that function not only to inform the public about specific cases but that also talk about what a defendant, witness or juror should expect when he or she goes to court would be helpful. As Seattle's population grows and becomes more diverse, website content translated into different languages spoken in our community would also more effectively reach new immigrant populations. I would participate in judicial organizations that actively participate in community outreach to educate those new to the American legal system.

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

As a judicial candidate, Black Lives Matter is a reminder that racial bias, both overt and implicit, exists in the criminal justice system. It means that every participant in the criminal justice system -- including police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors and judges -- must be mindful that both exist and that racial bias can have an effect on the outcome of a criminal case. An example of how some courts are addressing this with jurors is a video that is shown to all jurors intended to make them aware of their own unconscious biases.

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

The #timesup and #metoo movements are important in shedding light on the prevalence of sexual harassment, and empowering women who are often not believed or supported or retaliated against, to speak out. While the movements are an important step forward for our society, anyone accused in a legal claim for harassment must be given due process. A judge hearing such a case must start from a neutral position, and decisions must be made applying the law to the facts of each case.

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

Up- to- date court websites that provide the public with detailed information about online access to records, the court's programs and services, as well as information about what to expect in court would assist in all three areas.

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



Date: March 5, 2018

Printed Name

Andrea T. Chin