

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Liza Rankin	
<b>Position Sought</b>	Seattle School Board Director, District 1	
Home Legislative District	46th	
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b>	Yes	
<b>Campaign Name</b>	Community for Liza Rankin	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address: PO Box 9100 Seattle WA 98109	Phone:(206) 659-5844 Fax:
	Website: elizasrankin.com Email: info@elizasrankin.com Twitter: @ Facebook:	
Campaign manager or point of contact	Jason Bennett	
Consultant(s)	Christian Sinderman	

## Part I – Candidate Background

Please limit each answer to **no more than** 250 words.

Please briefly summarize and highlight your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

For the past several years, I have been very active in the Seattle Public Schools advocacy scene, beginning with the SEA strike in 2015, supporting teachers and organizing parents to bring food and support to every single picket line in Seattle. Since the strike, I have been an advocate for equitable practice and policy in SPS, first as a leader of the group Soup for Teachers and then as a member of the Seattle Council PTSA board. I have been to countless school board meetings alone, with educators, with families, speaking up for students and school communities and the impact that policy or lack thereof has on especially marginalized community members.

I have been working through SCPTSA to grow more local leaders and encourage all PTAs to re-engage with the values and mission of PTA around community engagement and advocacy, and stop focusing on fundraising. Through #TakeBackPTA we hope to see momentum grow.

My formal education, including a MFA in Theater Design, was focused on liberal arts, collaboration, and research. Though not employed as a designer in some time, I use my arts education every day. I am able to process information and see the bigger picture, and understand different perspectives in a way that has proven quite useful in school issues.

Describe your history of political involvement, if any, in the Democratic Party, particularly in Washington state politics. In what offices have you served or previously sought to be elected or appointed?

N/A

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

Well, I'm already a volunteer, so moving towards school board isn't a change in employment, and I've built up a lot of experience and understanding about the school district so the time feels right. The area of the city that my director district represents is the part of SPS that people often forget exists when they mention "those North End schools." I want to be sure that the person representing them is a known and trusted community member, someone who will make the efforts to hear directly from families and educators, and who understands the very different needs of these school communities when compared with, say, Ballard and Bryant. My priorities, in short, are Equity and Excellence. We have so much work to do to be sure that all students, but especially special education students, and Black and Indigenous students, feel safe, welcomed, and have access to every educational opportunity available to their peers. Many people worry that "equity" means lowering the bar, and I insist that isn't the case. Some students are thriving, and shall continue to do so. To ensure that MORE students also thrive is raising the floor.

From whom are you planning to ask for an endorsement? If you have received endorsements to date, please list them.

I plan to ask other Seattle District Democrat groups, arts and education organizations, elected officials, and other individuals active in Seattle education and advocacy. Educators Tracy Gill, Wayne Au, Jesse Hagopian, prominent community members Sebrena Burr and Lhorna Murray have offered their endorsements but I plan to request formally, with a statement in writing.

Please describe your campaign strategy - provide in writing your campaign goals and present progress towards them to your KCDCC endorsement interview.

I have just gotten the ball rolling and plan to follow recommendations made by my team.

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

<b>Please answer the following questions.</b> Your answers will not disqualify you from consideration for endorsement by KCDCC.		<b>Yes*</b>	<b>No</b>
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or comply with any court ordered judgments?		No
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		No
3	Is there anything in your professional or personal life that has occurred regarding drug/alcohol abuse or domestic violence/abuse of vulnerable populations such as children, the disabled or the elderly?		No
4	Are there current allegations, ongoing lawsuits, or criminal convictions about which we should be aware?		No

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

## Part II – Education and School District Issues

#	Question	Yes	No	Qualify your response
1	Do you support the right of public school employees to bargain and strike for better working conditions and pay?	Yes		Their teaching conditions are our children's learning conditions. Educators deserve good, fair pay, for themselves and for the benefit of our students.
2	Do you support increased instruction time and a concurrent reduction of student testing?			Neither - I support a reduction of student testing but don't feel that increased instruction time is needed.
3	Do you support the right of parents to opt their children out of standardized testing?	Yes		Standardized tests do not provide us with useful information about students, teachers, or schools. They tell us the affluence and English language fluency of families at a school.
4	Do you support linking teacher evaluations to standardized test scores?		no	See above answer
5	Do you support charter schools and/or vouchers for private school education?		no	These options further drain resources from the public school system, create another tier of haves and have nots, and have not proven to serve students better, or even as well as, traditional public schools.
6	Do you support amending the Washington State Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters to approve school bonds?	Yes		If the state isn't willing to fund school construction, then yes.
7	Do you support supplemental funding for International Baccalaureate & Advanced Placement testing for low-income students?	Yes		Students should have these opportunities a public school regardless of their family's ability to pay.
8	Do you support increases in salary for teachers who attain additional relevant degrees and certification?	Yes		I do, but I wonder who/how decides what is "relevant."
9	Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implicit bias?	Yes		Not only willing; it's necessary.
10	Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat sexual harassment?	Yes		same as above

11	Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate PACs such as, but not limited to, fossil fuel, pharmaceutical, or health insurance companies?		no	I can't imagine it would even be offered, but no.
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### Part III – Free Response Questions

Please limit each response to **no more than 500 words**.

Please review the King County Democratic Platform at <https://www.kcdems.org/d/platform/platform.xml>. Which platform planks do you believe are most relevant to schools and your school district? What relevant specific actions would you promote to improve public education?

They are all so connected to a fair and just society, it's hard to parse out just a few, but I would say that most relevant to Seattle Public Schools right now are Arts and Culture, Education, Health Care, Human Services, and Labor. Our schools must be places where all children are welcomed and celebrated, have equitable access to opportunities and schooling, have their basic needs met regardless of the financial resources of their families, and have educators that also have their health and safety needs met and are gainfully employed.

My priorities as a school board member will be to promote policies that ensure that every student is safe and feels loved and valued at school. Specifically, adopting an ethnic studies curriculum, ensuring that the state's Since Time Immemorial curriculum is taught in every school, training and supporting teachers in inclusion so that special education students spend more time with their peers in a general education setting with the educators having the appropriate support and resources to meet the needs of all of their students, addressing issues of student discipline from a restorative rather than punitive angle, and reducing the reliance of the system on standardized test scores.

Which specific curricular courses or programs do you believe are most important? Which specific curricular courses or programs are you concerned might be eliminated with reduced funding or time in the school day?

Arts education is deemed "optional" or "enrichment" when it is in fact the pathway to so many viable careers. In addition, every student can benefit from art, music, drama, and dance in countless ways, and should all have the access and opportunity to experience the arts, as creators and as audience members.

There is no standardized test for the arts. I worry with every budget discussion, anything we don't test students on is at risk. The arts, PE, librarians, counselors, etc.

What should schools and school districts do to support the physical and mental health of students? Provide specific examples.

Anti-racist and anti-discrimination policy and practice, in every classroom, at every school. School lunches should be provided at no cost to all students and should be more healthful and appetizing than they are now. Ample time for recess and movement throughout the day. Mental health counselors and nurses at every school.

Minority, low, income and ESL (English as a Second Language) students are currently disproportionately disciplined within the public school system. What actions and/or programs would you promote to improve outcomes for these students?

The students are not the problem - the adults are. We need for administrators to better acknowledge incidents of bias or racism between students and between a teacher and a student, and have a plan of response to such that may include training for the adult and restorative support for the student. These incidents should be recorded and tracked to see if there are trends in a building and a plan put in place to decrease such incidents of bias. Anti-racism and implicit bias training for all adults, education around students with special needs for general education teachers, and more support staff to address needs of students before they become an issue of discipline.

Do you support classes in place, as part of a middle and high school curriculum, regarding both civics and about how our government works?

Yes

Are there any other issues concerning public education you would like to address? Any suggestions for adoption of specific innovations?

The state needs to restructure the prototypical school model formula to reflect the actual needs and costs of providing education and so many additional needs to our students.

Do you believe elected officials have a responsibility to bring up the next generation of leadership? If so, how do you plan on doing so?

yes. I currently, and plan to continue to, educate parents/guardians and students on how they can have influence on decision-making at the local, city, and state level.

What is your definition of diversity? What experience do you have promoting diversity?

"Diversity and Inclusion" is becoming a less-useful term, I find. It seems to mean allowing people "in" when really we should be working not just towards letting marginalized people in to a system that wasn't made for them, but working alongside to create systems that were built with all of us in mind. I'm proud to serve on the board of the SCPTSA that for the first time actually looks like our student body. Our work has centered on those farthest from the status quo - not on speaking for those not in the room, but on making sure there is representation in the room to speak. I also serve as co-chair at my kids' elementary school of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee and promote identity education and normalization around race, ability, culture, language, gender and sexuality.

**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



Printed Name

Eliza S. Rankin

Date: 5/13/19

