

Carin Chase

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SUMMARY

As an effective public servant, my goal is to hear the public and respond with practical policy grounded in the best science and fact-based data. I am committed to transparent communications and fairness across our diverse communities and writing policy that builds resilient communities. I believe these values build participation and confidence in our public institutions.

EDUCATION

Executive Master of Public Administration *Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington, Seattle WA* 2017
Bachelor of Science, Zoology *University of Washington, Seattle, WA* 1992

ELECTED POSITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Elected School Board Member

Edmonds School Board, Edmonds, WA Dec. 2015 - Present

- Create policies, adopt the budget, and supervise the Superintendent to create an engaging curriculum for all students, ensure students have the tools to excel in all subject areas and adopt district-wide Race and Equity Policy.

Legislative Representative, District 1, Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties

Washington State School Board Association (WSSDA), Olympia, WA 2021 - Present

- Work with the Legislature on diversifying revenue streams; inform and advocate for ample funding for statewide public education.

Elected Commissioner

Snohomish County Charter Review, Everett, WA Nov. 2016 - 2017

- Negotiated amendments to the County Charter, including the permanent inclusion of the Snohomish County Commission on Human Rights and Public Advocate Office.

Appointed Chair and Commissioner

Snohomish County Commission on Human Rights, Everett, WA July 2015 – Present

- Promote and encourage respect for human rights, embrace cultural diversity, and cooperation in addressing economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues. Create opportunities for joint educational initiatives with community partners.

Elected President

Washington State Federation of Democratic Women, Edmonds, WA Sept. 2017 – Present

- Strengthen collaboration between state and regional organizations and initiate educational forums and candidate training.

Elected Corresponding Secretary

National Federation of Democratic Women, Washington D.C. June 2019 – 2021

- Correspondence including national newsletter, website development, and social media content.

Elected Chair and State Committee Member

32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization, Seattle, Shoreline, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace Dec. 2004 - Present

- Advocate for strengthening the statewide Party position on issues, advise Redistricting Commission on redrawing district boundaries and develop and moderate discussions on a variety of complex political issues.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CEO/CFO

Innovation Services LLC, Lynnwood, WA 2006 – Present

- Small entrepreneurial consulting, management, and construction enterprise business.

State Director

Presidential Campaign, Senator Sanders, Seattle, WA Dec. 2019 – 2020

- Coordinate media outreach and public engagement; organize paid staff and volunteer workforce, organize large public events for the Washington State Presidential Campaign.

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QUESTION 1: Please explain in 200 words or fewer your qualifications to serve as a county council member.

I have an Executive Masters degree from the UW Evans School in Public Policy, which prepared me to do critical analysis of policy and write policy in response to public needs. This includes how policy impacts the budget, legal questions concerning policy, and ways policy affects operations across various county agencies. Also, I have experience researching and comparing alternate policies. I understand how new policy may demand new revenue streams and potential changes to legal status. For instance, while on the Edmonds School Board, we successfully joined with community partners to fund and build housing for homeless students.

Other governance experience includes the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission and Chair of the Snohomish County Human Rights Commission. I was an active member of SEIU 775NW and IUPAT1094. I bring 25 years of private sector business experience operating a small contracting business.

My leadership style is collaborative and respectful. I have deep roots in the community, and my elections and appointments show that people recognize my ability to work productively and fairly for the best outcomes.

QUESTION 2: Please describe in 200 words or fewer the role of a county council member.

As a council member, I will be expected to prepare for and attend regular council meetings as well as serve on council committees. I expect to represent my District, 3, and the people of Snohomish County at these meetings. I expect to research and write policy, write budgets that fund various services, including public health, the criminal justice system, elections, human services, the sheriff's office, transit, wastewater treatment, and parks and recreation.

As a council member, I expect to review our strategic plans and align new policies with them. I'll also review budgets and ordinances and regularly communicate with constituent organizations and individuals about our work on the council. I am prepared to serve, as needed, with other elected officials from local jurisdictions and on regional

committees to address issues of common interest: development, transit, conservation, and water quality. I am also prepared to serve on external boards or commissions as needed.

People expect council members to examine proposed public policies with an equity lens. When I analyze the impact of policy proposals, I will center the needs of those individuals most impacted by the policies: all stakeholders should be at the table.

QUESTION 3: Please identify and summarize the three most important issues facing Snohomish County and how you would begin to address them.

1. Affordable Housing and Emergency Shelter

I applaud the County Council's purchase and renovation of two hotels to provide housing for our neighbors. I think retrofitting existing buildings is a practical and expedient way to increase available units to house the most vulnerable people. Housing is the essential first step toward stabilizing people's lives. I am in favor of case managers being available for residents who need medical assistance or job training.

I bring my Edmonds School Board experience of helping to build housing for students and families experiencing homelessness. As council member, I will advocate for building affordable housing for working people making 50%, or less, of median income. I will prevent seniors and low-income people from being priced out of their homes. I will support expanding emergency housing for people during extreme weather events.

2. Healthcare, which includes: physical, mental, and behavioral health

I support steps taken by the County Council to provide behavioral health services and to send out social workers for emergency calls for people in crisis. I will advocate for providing school-based health centers to Snohomish County schools as we have done in the Edmonds School District. I support walk-in mental and behavioral healthcare. Nobody should have to wait two weeks for an appointment when they are in a crisis today. I will work to improve reproductive, maternal, and infant health outcomes and increase healthcare access to underserved women.

3. Childcare and Early Childhood Education, Youth Programs, and Workforce

Childcare is a major expense for working and low-income families. We can support these families by ensuring adequate and affordable childcare for infants and toddlers. And we must be sure that child-teacher ratios are safe. I support partnering with community colleges to support students pursuing certification in early childhood education programs.

Students and youth from working families need safe places to socialize, get help with homework, engage in sports, hobbies, or other activities, and do volunteer work. I support increased communication with families who might want to access these services and extended information for families interested in skilled workforce training. Childcare education, youth programs, and workforce training provide tremendous benefits to individuals, families, and a robust economy.

Plan to Mitigate Climate Change

I am glad to see that the county has implemented the Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create sustainability in county operations. It is great that they are looking at the best science available. I look forward to engaging with the public in the second phase of SOAP. I will call upon industry leaders in sustainable energy production, green buildings, sustainable fisheries, and climate scientists to engage in strategies that benefit people, public health, and the natural environment.

QUESTION 4: Please describe in 200 words or fewer how you will work with people with different points of view than you.

While serving on the bi-partisan Snohomish County Charter Review Commission, I worked with colleagues to define a process for resolving differences. We ultimately achieved our collective goal of submitting charter amendments to the voters. This underscores my belief in the importance of developing an agreed-upon process that maintains open lines of communication.

As a non-partisan school board director, I implement policy to develop communication plans and provide accessible opportunities, in multiple formats and languages, for students and families. This helps people become informed and share feedback.

In my role as legislative representative for the Washington State School Board Director Association, I maintain relationships with policymakers regarding the positions and priorities of our state's school districts.

Public forums provide an opportunity to discuss the impacts of public policy and are most productive when individuals can express their own opinions. This format has been successful across forums I've moderated on varied topics: Human Rights, Redistricting, and Indian boarding schools.

In my work, I strive to listen and find common ground to identify solutions using the appropriate resources. I've found that diverse people are most comfortable when there are agreed-upon procedures and processes in place. This helps achieve the best possible outcome.

QUESTION 5: Please describe in 200 words or fewer your experience working with others to advance policy and budget issues.

I became focused on educational budget and policy when I was in the PTSA at my son's school. Our goal was for the legislature to fulfill its constitutional duty to fully fund school programs.

We organized parents to attend hearings in Olympia and asked for support from the community. In 2011, the Supreme Court ruled in our favor, with the McCleary decision, to affirm that K-12 education must be fully funded by the legislature.

I was elected to the school board in 2015 and represented our board in Olympia, advocating that the legislature comply with McCleary. We organized with other school boards, families, and teachers. Since 2018, funding has increased for basic education, but we're still fighting for funding for special education, critical staff, and school counselors.

The school board listens to families and writes policies and budgets to deliver high-quality learning environments. These require rich curriculum, teacher support, and smaller class sizes.

Our school board decided to address conditions that interfere with students' readiness to learn. We worked collaboratively with families, teachers, and staff to prioritize and budget for housing for unhoused students and to provide healthcare centers in schools. In effect, we make policy with an equity lens.