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COMPLETE

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Page 1: Campaign Contact Information

Q1

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name **Melissa**
Candidate last name **Tatro**
Campaign email **farmlivinglady@gmail.com**

Q2

Position Sought

County Conservation District Supervisor

Q3

Jurisdiction

King County

Q4

Position number

3

Q5

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q7

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q8

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q9

Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/in/melissatatro

Page 2: Yes / No Questions

Q10

Yes

Are you a Democrat?

Q11

Yes/No Questions

Yes/No

Have you ever been a member of another political party?

No

Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?

No

Do you have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?

No

If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?

No

Is there anything from your past that might hamper your success as a candidate?

No

Page 3: Candidate Background

Q12

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.) in 200 words or less.

As a former KCD employee and a current small-scale WSDA livestock producer living on 3.5 acres in rural south King County, both my professional and personal life experience make me uniquely qualified to add value to the KCD Board of Supervisors.

I am a graduate of the Tilth Alliance's Soil & Water Stewardship program and WSU Cultivating Success farm education program. Additionally, I have attended King County Equity & Social Justice training and am currently the Business Equity Manager at Hermanson Company---promoting the concerns of DBE business interests in subcontracting.

My five-year tenure at KCD provided opportunities to interact with all the District's programs and services offered that promote local food, healthy forests, and clean water.

I consider my greatest contribution to KCD as promoting environmental justice within underserved communities through community agriculture. Community gardens address food security and provide a vehicle for teaching important environmental lessons on soil health, nutrient overload, stormwater catchment, and water quality. I continue to work with community groups (like the urban farmers at Wakulima USA) to create spaces that promote food sovereignty, ethnically relevant vegetable options not found in local grocers, and foster community.

Q13

Please describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics in 200 words or less.

This will be my first elected role and I do not view it as a stepping stone to further political ambitions. I am only interested in supporting the work of King Conservation District to protect our natural resources and ensure that the District's resources are distributed equitably.

I do, however, have a great deal of experience working with elected officials and lobbying. Again, in my role at KCD, I presented KCD's programs and services to each of the member jurisdictions City Councils and the King County Council.

I participated in Legislative Days to promote KCD's environmental education and implementation work to Washington State Legislators. I am also familiar with Board's operating procedures as set by the Washington State Conservation Commission and represented KCD at the National Association of Conservation Districts' conference in Nashville in 2017.

Q14

Please describe the progress of your campaign and goals in 200 words or less. Why are you running for this position? How do you plan to win?

First and foremost, I am impressed with the progress that KCD has made to promote its Board of Supervisor elections. I recall a time (not very long ago) when a candidate ran unopposed and only garnered 62 votes! The fact that highly-qualified 9 candidates are currently running for Position # 3 is a win for the people and natural resources of King County!

I am promoting my candidacy on social media platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram) with regular informational posts. I am counting on the reputation that I earned during my time at KCD and am reaching out to every individual I have worked with at agencies and community organizations to solicit their vote.

I have read all of the candidate statements and believe that many, if not all, would do a great job of bringing their own perspective and experience to the role of Supervisor. I am running because I can offer a voice on the Board that knows the District's institutional history, the progression of 10+ years of Programs of Work, the current internal and external forces that drive decisions, and will be an advocate for the staff, the rate-payers, and underserved communities.

Q15

What issues do you think aren't getting enough attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

KCD staff voted to unionize in 2019, but a contract has yet to be ratified (though a bargaining agreement is being drafted). I would support the hard-working, experts in their efforts to unionize.

KCD has suffered from a lack of leadership consistency and as a Board member, I would work to help ensure longevity in the Executive Director position and open Director positions.

I support SB5045 that would establish a state meat and poultry inspection program that would increase access to locally raised protein sources.

Page 4: Questions for King County Conservation District Candidates

Q16

What are your 6-month and long-term priorities with the King County Conservation District around conservation in King County and how would you achieve them?

KCD staff voted to unionize in 2019, but a contract has yet to be ratified (though a bargaining agreement is being drafted). I would support the hard-working, experts in their efforts to unionize.

KCD has suffered from a lack of leadership consistency and as a Board member, I would work to help ensure longevity in the Executive Director position and open Director positions.

These two priorities would strengthen KCD's staff who are instrumental in providing what KCD does best---boots on the ground provision of natural resource education and financial support of conservation best practices. The agency is only as strong as the staff working to provide programs and services and the past several years of continuous leadership changes has impacted the staff's ability to do their best work.

Q17

There are cities, suburban, and rural areas that do not participate in the conservation district (i.e. Federal Way, Milton, Pacific, Skykomish, and Enumclaw), how would you bring awareness and engage them to join? How do you plan to bring awareness about conservation and KCD in the urban, suburban, and rural areas of King County?

I know that Milton, Pacific and Skyway have joined with adjoining Conservation Districts in Pierce and Snohomish County.

I have worked on efforts to bring Enumclaw and Federal Way back into the fold. Enumclaw has never been a part of the District, Federal Way opted out. Developing a grass roots effort to show City Council members the benefits is the best way to bring them into the District.

Q18

Please explain the intersection between racism, poverty, and climate change, and discuss how you would apply and prioritize Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in decision making.

Lack of tree canopy, open spaces, and food access are all issues that plague underserved communities. Ensuring that KCD's resources are equitably applied (not just to wealthy horse owning landowners) and ensuring that everyone in King County benefits from environmental education--even non rate paying and non land owners.

Page 5: Submit Questionnaire

Q19

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. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Candidate full name (as signature)

Melissa Tatro

Date

2/16/2021
