



2019 Seattle Subway General Election Endorsements

We're excited to announce our 2019 general election endorsements. It was great to see so many of the candidates we endorsed in the primary make it to the general election. Seattle Subway focuses on candidates who we feel will best represent environmental values and stand up for progress on transit and land use issues. To select candidates, we try to take in as much information as possible. Their resumes, voting records, performance in forums such as the MASS forums we co-hosted, and their responses to our candidate questionnaires.

We reconsider our endorsements going into the general, endorsements are a process and we learn more about the candidates as the races progress. In the general election, we are expanding our endorsements to include key races across King County and initiatives at the state level. Unlike the primary, we will endorse in every city council race because one of the candidates will hold office and is, invariably, at least a little better than the other on the issues we care about.

Our general election endorsements:

State Initiatives

Initiative 976: Limits on Motor Vehicle Taxes and Fees

Vote No

Sure, Tim Eyman is a thief and a fraud but his initiatives are also terrible. His latest attempt to defund transportation progress across Washington State would mean massive cuts to ST3 as well as voter approved projects across the state. Eyman doesn't care how much damage he does to infrastructure in general if he can also do damage to transit expansion. It would be great if this was the last time we ever had to mention him. **Vote no.**

King County Council

District 2, Eastside of Seattle, Laurelhurst to Renton: Girmay Zahilay

Zahilay is running to unseat Larry Gossett who has been on King County Council since 1993. His straightforward responses to our candidate survey show an earnest commitment to cutting carbon emissions, increasing transit-oriented development, and ensuring that new transit hubs do not displace communities in our city. We are pleased to endorse Zahilay as a fresh, progressive voice on King County Council. **Vote Zahilay.**



District 4, Northwest Seattle: Abigail Doerr

As the former advocacy director of Transportation Choices Coalition and a leader of the ST3 campaign, we are thrilled that Doerr is running. It's not that her opponent Jeanne Kohl-Welles is bad on transit, quite the opposite, she has a solid track record and supports ST4 in 2024 on our questionnaire. It's just that she's running against the best transit candidate we've ever seen. Beyond Doerr's impressive history of work on transit issues, her responses to our questionnaire were enthusiastic about working to find new and progressive funding sources for public transportation, as well as the creation of a countywide Transportation Benefit District. She supports upzoning around new light rail stations and increased east-west transit corridors. As fellow transit activists, we strongly endorse Abigail Doerr for King County Council's fourth district. **Vote Doerr.**

District 6, Eastside, Claudia Balducci

Claudia Balducci is a longtime transit champion who was key in getting EastLink done through a brutal political process and fighting for the win on expansion in ST3. Our one reservation about reelection was her vote to direct \$135M to the Mariners instead of affordable housing. That said, her record on transit outweighs the single vote. Her opponent responded to our questionnaire by directing us to his hundreds of blog posts railing against Sound Transit. **Vote Balducci.**

District 8, SW Seattle, Vashon, Burien, Tukwila: Joe McDermott

Joe McDermott is another current county councilmember with a great track record on transit. He was a vocal supporter of ST3 and has worked to improve bus access. We were similarly disappointed to see his vote to direct \$135M to the Mariners instead of affordable housing. Though we disagree with him about funding a West Seattle tunnel and the Mariners vote, his pro-transit record is strong. **Vote McDermott.**

Port of Seattle

Commissioner, Position 2: Sam Cho

Sam Cho has quite the resume, having been a legislative aid both the U.S. Congress and the Washington State legislature, and a special assistant in the Obama administration. One of his biggest transit priorities for the Port is increasing use of mass transportation in and out of SeaTac and he specifically called out the express airport line on our vision map. A supporter of ST4, Cho supports priority lanes for busses citywide and separate lanes for the Central City Connector. **Vote Cho.**



Seattle City Council

District 1, West Seattle: Lisa Herbold

In the primary we didn't endorse Herbold because of her actions, but noted we align with her values. We think Herbold is coming from the right place and has done a good job representing West Seattle. We also have to issue a correction and apology regarding our primary endorsement - we said she "made multiple attempts to exclude West Seattle neighborhoods from upzones" but what we meant was "her amendments were to minimize upzones." Herbold deserves your vote for a second term. **Vote Herbold.**

District 2, South East/South Central Seattle: Tammy Morales

As a candidate for the only majority-minority district in the city, Tammy Morales advocates for both expanded Metro routes and increased frequency, particularly in areas that currently lack sufficient service. She is in favor of increasing density in order to make home ownership more affordable and would support upzoning around transit hubs, provided the city completes displacement impact studies and includes communities of color in the planning process. Her strong commitment to equity in access to transit has earned her Seattle Subway's District 2 endorsement. **Vote Morales.**

District 3, East Central Seattle: Kshama Sawant

Kshams Sawant has been a reliable vote for progress on transit and housing. We support her efforts to make transit more accessible to more people via free/lower cost passes. She supports the Center City Connector, ST4 in Seattle, and fourplexes citywide. Though we're concerned about the unintended consequences of her recently released rent control plan as presented we understand the concept of the Overton window in negotiations. If work on Sawant's plan leads to a compromise that adds protections for renters against sudden shocks without negatively impacting production of new housing, we're all for it. **Vote Sawant.**

District 4, Northeast Seattle: Shaun Scott

After endorsing Shaun Scott in the primary, we are excited to renew our endorsement of his campaign for November's general election. Scott strongly supports enhancing public transit as a key part of the Green New Deal. He would like to work toward free transit and is in favor of accelerating priority bus lanes in congested areas of the city. He expressed a commitment to coalition building with Seattle Subway and other transit advocates, and we hope to work with him as we look forward to our ST4 campaign.



His opponent, Alex Pedersen, opposed ST3, opposed Move Seattle, and aligns with regressive groups on housing. **Vote Scott.**

District 5: North Seattle: Debora Juarez

As District 5's current councilmember, Deborah Juarez has shown she is an advocate for mobility and transit, particularly related to east-west travel in D5, which is the only district to touch both Puget Sound and Lake Washington. She underscores the importance of making up-front investments light rail now, rather than later when costs will be higher, as a response to climate change and congestion.

Juarez is supportive of ST4 in 2024 with caveats about what is in the package. We take that as support as long as her district is included, which is what we expect from district based council members. Her opponent, meanwhile, doesn't even support accelerating a new station (130th) in her own district. We endorse Juarez's run for another term on City Council and hope to work with her on her stated support of upzoning around light rail stations and creating additional priority bus lanes. **Vote Juarez.**

District 6: Northwest Seattle: Dan Strauss

As the Senior Policy Advisor to outgoing District 7 councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Dan Strauss is familiar with Seattle's transportation landscape. He supports an ST4 vote 2024, but given Ballard isn't expected to have light rail service for another 16 years, he also supports bus lane improvements to shorten travel times now. Though we disagree with him about moving the Missing Link to Leary, he has been a longtime advocate of protected bike lanes and additional bus rapid transit service and deserves your vote. **Vote Strauss.**

District 7: Downtown, Queen Anne, and Magnolia: Andrew Lewis

We are renewing our endorsement for Andrew Lewis, who is currently a prosecutor for the City of Seattle. Lewis knows his stuff when it comes to transit, particularly with regard to funding structures. He is interested in pushing for a King County Transit Benefit District to expand the taxable base for transportation projects and he supports running ST4 in 2024. We disagree with him in his opposition to the Center City Connector and have concerns about hints of single family zoning protectionism mixed in with his overall pro-housing statements. That said, he fought for Fort Lawton and is clearly the better transit and housing candidate in District 7. **Vote Lewis.**