



## Seattle Subway Endorsements 2020 State Legislature Primary Election

We're excited to announce our first ever election endorsements for state legislative races! This cycle, we are focusing on just legislative districts that touch the city of Seattle. As an organization, 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 our endorsements, we sent each candidate [a questionnaire](#) to learn more about their priorities on transit funding and expansion. For incumbents, we also looked at their records on transit issues.

We at Seattle Subway love voting and we hope you do too! If you are eligible to do so, please remember to turn in your ballots by August 4. You can register [here](#) up until August 4, the day of the primary.

Our primary election endorsements:

All of the candidates we endorse have responded that "yes" they will sponsor legislation to create a new mechanism for Washington State to directly fund transit operations and major capital projects like ST4, and that "yes" they will sponsor legislation to create a new funding mechanism for Seattle to aggressively expand its rail system independent of the rest of the Sound Transit district. They can each expect we will hold them to those commitments.

### **District 11, Position 1 (SODO, Georgetown, Tukwila, Renton): David Hackney**

We were excited to see challenger David Hackney's stated commitment to progressive taxes to fund transit, including a capital gains tax. In our questionnaire, he also expressed a desire to incentivize pro density policies by local governments near transit in order to increase housing affordability. Hackney has also garnered endorsements from Port of Seattle Commissioner Sam Cho and King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, both of whom Seattle Subway endorsed last November. Hackney's opponent, incumbent Zack Hudgins, sponsored legislation in 2019 to cut funding for Sound Transit 3, and as such we cannot endorse his re-election. **Vote Hackney.**

### **District 34, Position 2 (West Seattle, White Center, Burien): Joe Fitzgibbon**

Although running unopposed, we appreciated that Representative Fitzgibbon responded to our candidate questionnaire, in which he clearly demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of potential and innovative sources of transit funding. He stated he will co-sponsor legislation to create a new funding mechanism for Seattle to aggressively expand its rail system independent of the rest of the Sound Transit district, and we are looking forward to seeing what he can accomplish next session in Olympia. **Vote Fitzgibbon.**



**District 36, Position 1 (Lake Union to Magnolia, Downtown to Crown Hill): Noel Frame**

Like Representative Fitzgibbon, Representative Noel Frame runs unopposed in the August primary. She supports amending the state constitution so that gas-tax dollars are not as narrowly limited to roads projects, as well as supplementing the gas tax with a new progressive revenue source for transit funding. As a co-chair of the Tax Structure Work Group, we are optimistic about her goals, and are happy to endorse her re-election. **Vote Frame.**

**District 36, Position 2 (Downtown to Magnolia): Liz Berry**

As the former Legislative Aide to Arizona Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, Berry's political expertise showed through in her thoughtful responses to our candidate questionnaire. She demonstrated a thorough understanding of transit's important role in addressing the climate crisis, the affordability crisis, and the economic fallout of COVID-19. If elected to fill this open seat, she plans to prioritize progressive tax reform and a stimulus including substantial transit funding. Sarah Reyneveld also provided thoughtful responses to our questionnaire, and she has impressive positions on equitable revenue solutions and the transition to clean transportation. **Vote Berry.**

**District 37, Position 2 (Madison Valley to Renton): Kirsten Harris-Talley**

This is the most crowded race we looked at, with seven candidates vying for the open seat. We proudly endorse Kirsten Harris-Talley, who served a brief interim term on the Seattle City Council in 2017, wherein she worked on progressive revenue reform. Harris-Talley not only shares our vision of a Seattle where every resident has fast and reliable access to transit, she also envisions a fare-free system funded by progressive revenue sources. In her support of increased density and transit-oriented development, she is committed to protecting against gentrification, which is especially important in the 37th District, a district that has historically lost out on funding due to racism and classism. **Vote Harris-Talley**

**District 43, Position 1 (Downtown to Greenlake): Nicole Macri**

In her questionnaire Representative Macri expressed dedication to new funding streams for multi-modal transit, and we are happy to endorse her re-election bid. She is willing to cosponsor legislation to create a new mechanism for Washington State to directly fund transit operations and major capital projects like ST4. As a member of the Finance Committee, we hope she can succeed in both the upcoming election, and in accomplishing major victories for Seattle light rail expansion in Olympia. **Vote Macri.**



**District 43, Position 2 (Downtown to Greenlake): Jessi Murray**

Jessi Murray has a tough task in trying to unseat Representative and former Speaker Frank Chopp, who has held the seat since 1995, and we think she's up to the challenge. Chopp had a long run as Speaker and simply did not deliver for transit which remains mostly unfunded by the state, sometimes even [backing](#) or [enabling efforts](#) to make the situation worse. Murray is a committed transit advocate with exactly the ambitious vision our region needs to address the climate crisis in an equitable way. She supports drastically reimagining Washington's transportation budget to accelerate new transit infrastructure and disincentivize single occupancy vehicle use. **Vote Murray.**

We would like to note that we cannot endorse the re-election of the following incumbents due to their cosponsoring HB 2123 to cut Sound Transit Funding in the 2019 legislative session. However, we either did not receive questionnaires from their challenger(s), or we do not endorse their challenger(s):

**District 32, Position 1: Cindy Ryu**

**District 32, Position 2: Lauren Davis**

**District 37, Position 1: Sharon Tomiko-Santos**

**District 46, Position 1: Gerry Pollet**

**District 46, Position 2: Javier Valdez**

We will reconsider all of our endorsements after the results of the August 4th Primary are official.