

Dear Democrat,

We all congratulate Joe and Kamala on their historic win. We congratulate the Democrats on forming a coalition of progressives, corporate democrats and others that has defeated Trump at the ballot box, but we have work to do to change the status quo that allowed Trump to win.

I am running for the position of District Representative (District 1 Rep), in Port Townsend, Commissioner District 1. The District 1 Rep sits on the Jefferson County Democrats (JCD) executive board which allocates money to candidates and other causes. The board recommends endorsements, changes in policy, and runs the day to day affairs of the party. Part of the job of the District 1 Rep is to coordinate with district PCOs. I will work to only endorse candidates whose positions align with our platform.

The (JCD) progressive platform represents our values. It calls for "An affordable universal single-payer" health care "system." Medicare For All meets this criteria. Multiple polls have shown that 69-70% of the country believe in the necessity of this program, and since the platform was written, HR 1384 and S 1129 have been introduced in congress. But our current congressman, Derek Kilmer, does not support Medicare For All. Nor does he support a reduction in military spending, nor the Green New Deal, nor many other progressive planks in our platform. We must become pro-active and push Kilmer, as well as future candidates seeking our endorsement, on these issues.

The JCD bylaws state that the first purpose of the party is: "To elect to national, state, county and other offices Democratic candidates who embody, support and promote the PLATFORM of the Jefferson County Democrats, and to support them while in office as they act to improve the well-being of the citizens of Jefferson County."

Our platform calls for: "The Jefferson County Democratic party to request that all Democratic candidates confirm that they support the entirety of the Democratic platform at the respective local, state or national level at which they are seeking office or supply in writing a document explaining those planks of the platform which they do not support and optionally their reasons for withholding support"

This requirement has been routinely ignored by the current executive board. The board supports candidates who label themselves "Democrats" without taking into consideration their actual performance and their positions on issues. The board fails to hold government officials accountable once elected -- rarely challenging them on their performance. Our support and endorsement of candidates should be weighed against their stated views and their performance as required by our platform and resolutions. A minimum duty of our party is to make known to all Democratic voters how candidates measure up against our platform and resolutions.

Nationally and locally I believe more money should be spent for social services and less money should be allocated to the police. I believe drug usage should be decriminalized and that the police should not be first responders to mental health crises. I support the Green New Deal, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the idea that No One is Illegal. I believe in the need to Reduce Military Spending and that Love has no Gender.

JCD Platform: <https://otto4pco.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/JCDplatform.pdf>

JCD Bylaws: <https://jeffcodemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/JCD-Bylaws-with-Article-21-April-6-2020.pdf>

JCD Resolutions: <https://jeffcodemocrats.com/documents/resolutions/>