

Green Party of Washington - Candidate Questionnaire

Please email your completed candidate questionnaire and any questions about our endorsement process to – [hello@greenpartywashington.org](mailto:hello@greenpartywashington.org). We will contact you by phone or email to follow up. A link to your completed questionnaire may be shared with Green Party members so they may contact your campaign to volunteer.

DATE: 8/27

NAME: Sherae Lascelles

PRONOUNS: They/Them

EMAIL(s): [info@sheraeforstate.com](mailto:info@sheraeforstate.com)

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE: [www.sheraeforstate.com](http://www.sheraeforstate.com)

SOCIAL MEDIA: @sheraeforstate <https://www.facebook.com/SheraeForState>

OFFICE RUNNING FOR: 43rd District State Representative, Position 2

**1. Are you a Green Party of Washington member? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO x**

**GPWA bylaws restrict endorsement to members of the Green Party of Washington. Others may be eligible for preferred candidate status. To check your membership status or to join GPWA, please visit our website – <https://greenpartywashington.org> and click on ‘Get Involved’ → ‘Become a Member’.**

**1a. Have you read and will you support the Ten Key Values of the Green Party in your campaign and when elected?**

Yes.

**1b. If you have questions or concerns about any of the Ten Key Values, please elaborate.**

These are all in line with who I am and the work I do.

**1c. Are you a member or organizer in any other political party? Please list all your political party memberships and any political party position or office held.**

Yes.

**1d. For partisan races, how will you submit your name and party preference for the ballot listing?**

“Prefers Seattle Peoples Party”

**2. Please describe your history of activism with the Green Party, allied organizations, or a constituency that is supported by the Ten Key Values.**

My work speaks for itself. I am endorsed by 350 Seattle Action, and am working within the Decriminalize Seattle Collective. I will always continue to uphold my values and struggle alongside multiply marginalized individuals to meet the needs of community.

**2a. Describe your experience with at least three of the Green Party Ten Key Values.**

My identity comprises pieces of all the Green Party Ten Key Values, and through the work that I have done for many years, and will continue to do whether I am elected to this position or not, I am committed to upholding the intersections I live.

**2b. Please include a resume or short summary outlining your education and employment.**

I have a long history of successfully building organizations and structures, culminating most recently in the founding of two crucial nonprofits: People of Color Sex Worker Outreach Program (PoC SWOP) and Green Light Project (GLP). PoC SWOP is an advocacy and community building organization for sex workers of color, and Green Light Project provides direct outreach harm reduction at the intersection of sex work and drug use. I will bring this experience of creating beneficial systems of community care to my work in Olympia.

**2c. Please list any criminal convictions or lawsuits judged against you, any civil lawsuits to which you were a party, and any criminal or civil lawsuits pending.**

This is an abolitionist campaign.

**3. Please elaborate about the following:**

**3a. Your campaign plans and goals**

Decriminalization of survival and poverty and its intersection with disability justice is my most important motivator.

Why am I doing this? Because my communities are barely surviving, and no policy alone can change that. We don't just need new leadership; we need a culture shift. My communities cannot afford to be ignored any longer just because their existence makes us acknowledge uncomfortable truths. In a district in which both multi-millionaires and a growing homeless youth population exist side-by-side, Sherae's platform champions the values of mutual aid, harm reduction, and representation of the most intersectionality marginalized.

As a survivor and an abolitionist, I've witnessed first hand the failures of our institutions, watching as the system traps people in poverty, and destroys low-income communities. I know how these institutions allow young folks to drown in debt and slip into homelessness; the ways they create barriers to higher education; their active criminalization of those on the precarious edge of survival.

Furthermore, we are in a time of crisis.

Despite the region's wealth, there is unbelievable suffering in our district. Countless folks are unsheltered, many are barely making rent, and others are criminalized for their attempts to survive. Human services are inadequate and inaccessible; cultures and communities are being uprooted to make room for investors; adults are sharing small studio apartments so they can afford to keep the lights on.

This isn't acceptable, and frankly, it never has been. That we have gotten to this point is an indictment of our current officials and a clear sign of how broken our systems are. Instead of empowering communities to create solutions using their local knowledge of their actual needs, the State spends taxpayer dollars paying wealthy consultants to draft policies that have largely served to increase harm, reduce equity, destroy lower-income neighborhoods, and leave us with a city and region only accessible to the privileged.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

At the core of our politics is the belief in harm-reduction; the idea that part of solving any problem is first stopping the problem from getting worse, and that includes ensuring that the communities most impacted have a real voice in the process toward solution.

This is a vision in which policy is written with the guidance of those most affected by our broken systems. Ours is a vision which views social justice as more than just asking marginalized communities to provide representation at photo-ops, but actually giving them political power, a platform, and a megaphone. We understand that people know their own lives and problems better than anyone, and they should be supported, not sold-out or lectured. People don't need more 'incentives'; they need resources.

Our campaign believes that the role of government is to empower, not constrain. That means dismantling the structures that keep us from thriving and that criminalize our very survival. That means acknowledging the actual scope of our crises and bringing to the table the voices of the intentionally ignored (working class folks, those with both hidden and visible disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, QTPOC, our undocumented neighbors, sex workers, and more). Our cities are full of hidden stories of love and loss, desperate survival and raucous laughter, never heard because they're from lives that don't fit within the discourse of 'civil' society. Radical authenticity is about acknowledging the world as it actually is, not as the gatekeepers want it.

People over Profit. Equity and Accessibility. Mutual Aid and Community-care.

### **3b. Research on voters in your district or state**

In a district in which both multi-millionaires and a growing homeless youth population exist side-by-side, my platform champions the values of mutual aid, harm reduction, and representation of the most intersectionally marginalized. I will not sell out to the exorbitantly wealthy in this district because the needs of those who live on their doorstep depend on it.

### **3c. Use of volunteers, including but not limited to your initial campaign support group**

Volunteers are engaged in typical campaign activities, but are encouraged to seek their own path of creativity by utilizing their skills for “do it yourself” (DIY) projects that they can engage in autonomously. This practice of community empowerment is the bedrock of my work. I may ignite a flame, but when others take on the mantle of ownership and responsibility, then community holds the power to make the change it needs to see.

### **3d. Campaign budgeting and spending**

This campaign seeks to raise \$100,000 before the primary to ensure that the labor put in by campaign professionals is compensated in-kind. We spend very little on paper products because we do not believe in the wasteful nature of traditional campaign spending or the need for anything but investment in community to achieve our goals.

### **3e. Your campaign schedule, including hours per week**

Because our campaign activities are autonomous and self-selected, putting a schedule to the work is not conducive to our philosophy. We engage in regular community care at farmers markets in the district by distributing hand sanitizer, PPE, coffee and cocoa, and snacks. Any of our friends who wish to do the same need only contact the campaign to receive materials.

I have also set up a [Coffee and Cocoa calendar](#) that is featured on my website and campaign materials so that constituents can engage directly with me.

### **3f. Campaign themes**

**POLITICAL ACTION AT THE INTERSECTION OF  
HARM REDUCTION, MUTUAL AID, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**3g. Anything more you would like to include about your campaign plans?**

No.

**4. What support do you expect from GPWA during the campaign, and if/when you are in office?**

**(For example, connections to campaigning information and knowledge, outreach to Green Party supporters, phone banking, canvassing, data entry, fundraising and events, research and writing, and campaign funding.)**

We have needs for all of these things, especially as running against a 25 year Democrat incumbent is difficult. Any and all support you have capacity to provide will be accepted.

**5. Will you list endorsement or preferred candidate status with the Green Party of Washington on your website, social media, campaign print materials, etc.?**

Absolutely.

**6. Do you commit to appearing on the ballot? Is there anything that would make you reconsider or drop out of your race?**

I am not going anywhere. My presence on the ballot is permanent.

**7. Have you completed your Voter's Guide candidate statement? If so, please include a copy.**

**Candidate Statement:**

**Elected Experience**

Sherae is a first-time candidate for statewide office.

**Other Professional Experience**

Community organizer and entrepreneur with experience in many small businesses across Washington State as a worker, manager, and expert consultant.

**Education**

High school diploma.

## **Community Service**

Sherae does not view their work as community service. It is how they live. Sherae knows the political system well because they are also a survivor of it. Every day, they share this power with others by directing resources, influencing critical policy changes, and supporting peer advocacy for intersectionally marginalized Washingtonians.

## **Statement**

The people of the 43rd deserve a representative who understands their needs and fights for the well-being of all its residents. As an abolitionist and harm reductionist, Sherae has witnessed first-hand the failures of our institutions, especially for low-income communities. They work continuously to influence those institutions while using direct advocacy and mutual aid to reduce the immediate harm to people.

For many years, they have navigated legislative processes through community-driven, grassroots collaborations. As a representative, they will fight to make government more equitable and accessible to those who are perpetually excluded.

## **8. If elected, will you plan to meet regularly with Green Party representatives?**

I will always meet with my constituents, because their needs should be centered in every decision I make.

**9. Thank you for your diligence in preparing responses to this questionnaire. Please add anything that you would like us to know about you, your activism, political activity, etc., that may be relevant to your campaign.**

[www.sheraeforstate.com](http://www.sheraeforstate.com)