

Debora Juarez
Leader. Lawyer. Advocate.

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE
25 JUL -7 PM 2:18
CITY CLERK

July 8th, 2025

Seattle City Council
City Hall
600 4th Ave, Second Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

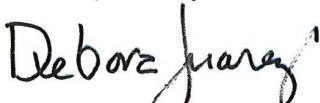
Dear Councilmembers,

I am humbled to apply for the Seattle City Council vacancy in District 5 after the resignation of Councilmember Cathy Moore. I thank Cathy for her lifetime of public service and wish her and her family only the best in the future.

As a resident of Lake City for nearly 40 years and having previously served the people of Seattle as a Councilmember for eight years, I am uniquely positioned to step in on Day One to lift up the needs of District 5. Throughout my time as Councilmember and Council President, I championed efforts to improve our City's infrastructure, foster economic mobility, and increase our stock of affordable housing. From chairing the committee to build the new Climate Pledge Arena, to bringing the incoming 130th Street/Pinehurst Station years ahead of schedule to funding and opening the John Lewis Memorial Bridge, my approach has always been centered on equity, economic mobility, collaboration, and transparency. As a proud member of the Blackfeet Nation, I have also made it a priority to ensure that the voices of Indigenous peoples are heard and included in decisions that affect our city.

I believe politics should be the background noise of our everyday life, not replace or be placed above family, faith, community, or our collective humanity. That is how I was taught to lead. The question I am sure many are asking is, "why return?". It's simple: I was called to serve. I understand the challenges our city currently faces—from housing affordability to public safety to protecting residents from the harms of the Trump Administration and federal funding cuts. I am ready to step in immediately and work alongside my fellow Councilmembers to ensure that our city remains a vibrant, welcoming, and innovative place for all residents. I would be honored to bring my "Elder Auntie" experience, wisdom gained with no regrets, and vision to this important role once again, this time as a caretaker of the seat until a new Councilmember can be elected.

Thank you for your consideration.



Debora Juarez

Debora Juarez

Leader. Lawyer. Advocate.

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE
25 JUL -7 PM 2:18
CITY CLERK

Debora Juarez committed her personal and professional life to creating opportunity, access and change with an eye on justice and equality. For every endeavor, she brings her values, knowledge and experience gained while working at the local, state, tribal and national level. Debora is one of the only public leaders in Washington State history to have served in all three branches of government—the Executive, Judicial and Legislative—and has worked extensively with Tribes. The basic principles of dignity, access to justice, equality, and economic mobility have guided and shaped her career.

Seattle City Council Experience

Debora Juarez proudly served two terms on the Seattle City Council and was chosen by her peers to be Council President in 2022. A member of the Blackfeet Nation, she is the first Native American elected in the City of Seattle in its 150-year history. Known as DJD5, she is the first Seattle City Councilmember elected to represent District 5 and the first Councilmember to open a physical office in their district. She represented the City but honored the needs of her district. Her record of deliverables for North Seattle is unmatched.

Accomplishments on Civic Assets, Infrastructure, and Transportation

- Chaired the committee to redevelop the world-class [Climate Pledge Arena](#)—without taxpayer dollars!—and helped bring the [Kraken Community Iceplex](#) to District 5 to generate economic development and create jobs.
- Delivered funding for the [John Lewis Memorial Bridge](#) to connect North Seattle College and UW Medicine to Northgate Light Rail.
- Advocated as a member of the Sound Transit Board for transit-oriented development and housing density at the Northgate Station and for the [130th Street/Pinehurst Station](#) to open years ahead of schedule.
- Chaired the committee for the [Waterfront Local Improvement District](#) to create and build the Waterfront Park and Seattle Aquarium Ocean Pavilion that opened in 2024, with public and private partners.
- Worked with community since 2015 to dedicate funding to design and build a new Lake City Community Center, which is underway.
- [Seattle Storm Training Center](#) – As councilmember and member of the Sound Transit Board, worked with the Seattle Storm leadership and Seattle City Council to rezone land and assist in building the first practice facility dedicated to a women’s professional sports team in the United States.

Accomplishments for Public Safety and Health

- Brought Seattle Indian Health Board and North Helpline together to build a [Seattle Indian Health Board \(SIHB\) medical clinic](#) in Lake City co-located with low-income housing and the North Helpline Food Bank and social services.
- Helped North Helpline to fund and establish a desperately-needed second food bank location in Bitter Lake.

- Successfully advocated for and voted for funding for mental health counseling in schools in response to gun violence.
- Advocated for common sense gun measures, including voting for secure storage laws.
- Crafted first-of-its-kind legislation and dedicated funding for Seattle Police Department and Indigenous-led organizations to address the crisis of murdered and missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

Accomplishments for Regional Collaboration

- Worked with leaders throughout the Puget Sound region as a member of numerous regional committees addressing large infrastructure and policy issues including:
 - [Sound Transit Board](#),
 - Seattle-King County Board of Health,
 - Growth Management Planning Council, Puget Sound Regional Council and the
 - King County Regional Policy Committee where she helped create the King County [Regional Homelessness Authority](#).

Accomplishments for Native Communities

- Created Seattle's first [Indigenous Advisory Council \(IAC\)](#) to ensure consistent communication between Tribes and city officials. The nine member IAC includes four current Tribally elected leaders.
- Worked with Mayor Bruce Harrell to create the first Seattle Tribal Summit in 2023 to provide an official forum for city leadership to engage in the government to government relationship with statewide and local tribal leadership.

Accomplishments for Housing and Renters' Rights

- Brought together public and private partners to bring affordable housing to low-income students at North Seattle College, a project that is underway.
- Strongly supported land use changes to enable every neighborhood to welcome all types of housing to serve all income levels.
- Advocated for mixed-income multi-family housing throughout District 5.
- Fought to preserve two [manufactured home communities](#), which provide stable and affordable housing in District 5.
- Advocated for professionally trained outreach workers dedicated to stabilizing individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Supported and funded siting both tiny house villages and permanent supportive housing in District 5 and throughout the city and region.
- Advocated for funding for legal representation to low-income individuals and families facing eviction, including more funding for rent assistance, eviction prevention and Medicaid with housing for seniors.

Delivered Funding for Housing, Transportation, Human Services and Education

- Supported getting voter-approved funding to develop the infrastructure and policies to serve families of all incomes including:
 - [Seattle Housing Levies](#) (2016 and 2023),
 - [Sound Transit III levy](#) (2016),

- [King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services levy](#) (2017), and
- [Families, Education, Preschool and Promise levy](#) which funded free college for Seattle Public School graduates (2018)
- [Seattle Public Library Levy](#) (2019)

Executive Branch Experience

Debora served as a legal advisor and Executive Director of Tribal Affairs for two governors—Governor Mike Lowry and Governor Gary Locke. In this role, she created economic opportunities for tribal and rural communities and conducted first-of-its-kind economic analysis in the nation to provide data demonstrating the economic contributions by Indian Tribes to Washington’s economy. This report model has been replicated nationwide and continues to be published annually in Washington by the Washington Indian Gaming Association (WIGA.)

Tribal Leadership Experience

Debora works regularly as a legal and political advisor with Tribal Leadership on the national, state, and regional level with organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), as well as local Indigenous-led organizations. She also leads trainings and workshops for tribal leaders at the Evergreen State College and for the Native Action Network.

Legal and Economic Development Experience

Debora is a dedicated public servant with 37 years of experience as an attorney and advocate. She began her legal career as a public defender assigned to felony, juvenile, misdemeanor, and civil commitment cases. Her distinguished legal career including serving the public at many organizations and government agencies, including:

- Public Defender Association
- Evergreen Legal Services
- Pro Tempore Judge in Seattle Municipal Court, tribal courts, King County Superior Court
- King County Superior Court Judge
- Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs
- Morgan Stanley
- Williams Kastner Law Firm

Private Practice for Public Good

Debora’s commitment to economic mobility is reflected in her personal and professional career choices:

- She worked at Evergreen Legal Services providing legal representation to Tribes and low-income families. She also served as a staff attorney there for the Native American Project to advocate for Native American rights in both state and federal courts.
- She became a Securities Exchange Commission-licensed Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley to manage, invest and divest tribal economic portfolios. This included creating the Tribal Finance Group which focused on investing and building in Indian country and rural communities.

- She was a Partner at Williams Kastner where she chaired the Tribal Practice Group and furthered her work on building healthy communities in Indian Country and rural communities; this included litigation representing Tribes, non-profit organizations, businesses, and more to further development economic develop.

Personal

Debora's role models include Representative Shirley Chisolm, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Representative John Lewis. Debora is a fervent supporter of women's sports and can be spotted regularly at games cheering on our four-time national championship winning Seattle Storm. Debora lives in North Seattle with her husband, Michael, where they enjoy Frybread Fridays with friends and family.

Community/Civic Engagement

- College Spark, Board of Trustees Member (current)
- Refugee Women's Alliance Board Member (current)
- Washington State Democrats Native American Caucus, Vice President (current)
- Precinct Committee Officer for the 46th Legislative District Democrats (current)
- Founding member of both the Northwest Indian Bar Association and the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington
- Founding member of the Minority Justice Commission, formerly known as the Minority Justice Task Force (1987)

Education

- Bachelor's Degree – Western Washington University
- Juris Doctor – Seattle University (formerly University of Puget Sound School of Law)



City of Seattle

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE
JUL -7 PM 2:19
CITY CLERK

FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

All City of Seattle officials and employees are subject to the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), Chapter 4.16, (the "Ethics Code"). The purpose of the Ethics Code is to ensure that no public office is used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. An individual with certain financial interests may be prohibited from participating in City business, as specified in the Ethics Code. Please click [HERE](#) to see SMC 4.16.070, a list of prohibited conduct.

The City Council is interested in knowing whether you have any financial interests that could be an issue with your service on the Council. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Answering "Yes" does not necessarily disqualify you from consideration:

1. Do you, or any member of your family, receive compensation from any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 1 on page 2.
2. Do you, or any member of your family, have a direct financial interest in any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 2 on page 2.
3. Have you, or any member of your family, served in the past five years as an officer, director, trustee, or employee of an entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 3 on page 2.
4. After referencing SMC 4.16.070, do you have any other relationships, employment history or financial interests that you feel could be an issue with your service on the Council under the Ethics Code? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 4 on page 3.

In order to be eligible for appointment to Council Position 5, you must be a resident of District 5 for at least 120 days (City Charter Article IV, Sec. 2; Article XIX). Please confirm your eligibility by clearly printing your current residential address and affirming the length of your residency at that address:

Street Address: REDACTED
 Zip Code: REDACTED
 Resident at this address since: 2003 (05; 1990)

Name of Candidate (as registered with King County Elections): Deborah Juarez

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided on this page and on page 2 and on all attached sheets is true and correct and that I have made reasonable inquiry to determine the truth, accuracy, and completeness of my responses.

Signature: Deborah Juarez

Signed at Seattle, Washington

(City or other location must be filled in.)

Date: July 7, 2025

Note: If you are appointed to the City Council, you will be required to complete a "Personal Financial Affairs Statement" on a form provided by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC). You can see SEEC Form F1 by clicking [HERE](#).