

Your Name: Pat Murakami
Position: Local
Name of Office: Seattle City Council, Position 9
Congressional District: 9
Legislative District: 37
Status: New Candidate
Date of Election (mm/dd/yy): 08/01/17 primary and 11/07/17 general
Candidate Website: www.voteatmurakami.org
Candidate Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voteatmurakami/>
Candidate Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VotePatMurakami>
Candidate Email: pat@voteatmurakami.org

Do You: Believe in the need for Campaign Finance Reform/not support Super PACs/Citizen's United?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Super PACs are suppressing democracy. They are advancing a deceptive agenda, which influences the vote of those individuals who don't take the time to do their own research or trace the dollars. We also have local PACs or false groups in Seattle which advance the agenda of the 1%, co-opting the voice and vote of trusting individuals who think they are helping society by advancing the carefully crafted and misleading social agenda of the wealthy.

Do You: Believe in Medicare/Medicaid/single-payer for all?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: We need to eliminate the greedy insurance companies (which only makes medical care more expensive) and provide decent health coverage to all Americans. I had a friend die because he waited too long for medical coverage - not going to a doctor for fear of being denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition (this was pre-Affordable Care Act). Look at the time and money being wasted by the Republicans who are trying to destroy the ACA. Let's do the right thing and end this pointless fight.

Do You: Believe in LGBTQ marriage equality/equal rights?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate: Everyone deserves to have a committed, loving relationship. Children deserve a stable household. Marriage is the best way to achieve both.

Do You: Believe in tax-paid public accredited college access for all who are accepted and free tuition at all public colleges?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: A college degree means greater earning power and more job opportunities. An educated work force gives us an advantage in the global economy. Colleges have become ridiculously expensive and college debt is negatively impacting the financial future of students who are strapped with daunting debt. We need help the next generation to prepare for the jobs of tomorrow. Free tuition is in everyone's best interest.

Do You: Support college loan repayment relief and college loan monthly payments no more than 10% of net income?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Many colleges took advantage of students. Some students made very poor choices of how they spent their student loans (there should have been restrictions

on what the loans could be applied to). Neither is a good enough reason to financial suppress a person's ability to live above the property level, or to purchase a home.

Do You: Believe in closing corporate tax loopholes?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Corporate welfare is paid for by low and middle-income households. There is nothing right or fair about that.

Do You: Believe in a \$15 Minimum Wage (graduated in, over 4 years, at a maximum)?:

Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: It depends on the locale though. We need minimum wages in each region that allow a full-time worker to live in the municipality in question.

Do You: Prioritize repairing infrastructure?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Inadequate infrastructure primarily impacts low and middle-income households. Proper infrastructure promotes a healthy community.

Do You: Believe in Police/Prison Reform (end private prisons, drug treatment vs. prison, possible Body Cams, demilitarize/retrain police, etc.)?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Yes to all the above. Not only do we need to close every single private prison, we need put a priority on reform over punishment in our public prisons. We need to release anyone currently in prison for drug usage (selling is a different matter) and decriminalize drug use. Police would be more cautious when using force if they all wore body cams. All officers should have extensive and annual training in de-escalation techniques.

Do You: Believe in finding a way to reduce the power of the military industrial complex and constant state of conflict/war?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please be specific.: While we need a strong and prepared military, there is an incredible amount of money spent on a false narrative that we aren't adequately protected. It's time to end the constant flow of funds to failed weapons projects, which only benefit the corporations who waste our tax dollars. Most conflicts can be avoided by sending international peace-keeping troops in at an early stage when any conflict arises around the global.

Do You: Support common sense gun control/improved background checks (ban on assault weapons, like Bernie)?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please be specific.: The NRA pushes for an agenda that isn't even supported by their own membership. Rather, they lobby for the best interests of a handful of weapons manufacturers. Where do we stop? Should we all have the right to carry AK-47s, grenades, and bazookas? Our founding fathers had no idea what the 'right to bear arms' would look like hundreds of years after crafting the Constitution. No one with a violent criminal history or mental health issues should be allowed access to weapons.

Do You: Support a woman's right to choose and will try to prevent local legislation that inhibits access to care at Planned Parenthood or any other clinic providing women's care in this area?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Planned Parenthood provides essential health services to

men and women. It is also critical that we don't inhibit a woman's access to birth control or an abortion.

Do You: Believe in climate change and working towards renewable energy sources?: Yes
Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: How can anyone turn a blind eye to what is happening to our planet? I don't want the next generation fighting over food and water. The environment needs to be a primary focus for all of us.

Do You: Believe in separation of church and state?: Yes
Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Church leaders have undue influence over their members. Churches are also non-profits. Any church that gets involved in the political process should lose their non-profit status. The other danger is one religion claiming dominance (i.e. Christians) and forcing their beliefs on everyone in society. We will never have true freedom of religion unless we keep church and state completely separate.

Do You: Believe in a path to citizenship?: Yes
Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: We have many undocumented members in our communities who contribute financially, including to federal, state and social security taxes. They have a right become US citizens since they contribute equally to society.

Did you support Bernie in the 2016 Primary?: Yes

Do you support and believe in whistleblowers like Eric Snowden and Julian Assange?: Yes
If Not, Why?: We need to have transparency in what our government does. Whistleblowers must take care not to endanger our national security or the lives of those listed in security documents. Whistleblowers must be safe to alert the American public to the lies and deception of the U.S. or other governments.

Do you respect 3rd parties as an alternative to get corporate ownership out of politics? Or should you "vote blue no matter who?": Yes. Strong alternate parties would force the established parties to focus on what is in the best interest of the American people.

Other Comments.: