

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

**Explanatory Note:** The Washington State Progressive Caucus supports candidates from, as Howard Dean once put it, “the Democratic wing of the party.” We are old fashioned enough to think that the New Deal and the Great Society were good ideas and modern enough to be up to speed on all the latest organizing methods and apps. If you have reservations about answering any of these questions, please explain why.

**Candidate Name: Dr. Arun Jhaveri, Ph.D.**

**Position Sought: Candidate for the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, State of Washington**

**Campaign Manager: Crystal Ainardi**

**Consultant: Maureen Hoffman**

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**Campaign Address:**

**Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes**

## Labor

Do you support raising state and federal minimum wages? To what level? Yes, \$ 15/hr by 2020

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier? Fair Labor laws at State and Federal Governments level

## Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? I prefer Standard Testing methods where students demonstrate their learning capabilities

What is your opinion of charter schools? Only if they do NOT drain the Public Schools' resources

## Environment

How would you promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources? Through accelerated research, development, and demonstration of Clean Energy Technologies like Solar, Wind, Biomass, Geothermal, and Hybrid energy systems. Better control and management of all Federal lands, Parks, Natural Resources like air, water, and energy systems.

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most? Both Solar and Wind energy development has already surpassed the expectations, particularly during the last five years. Urgent implementation of the Paris agreement on Global Climate Change will require immediate reliance on innovative renewable energy sources and their deployment.

## Finance/Taxation

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What would you do to facilitate implementation of public banking and monetary reform? To make sure that the Dodd/Frank Financial Legislation is fully implemented and enforced to avoid another recession.

How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America? By making sure that the rich pay their fair share of their taxes without tax loopholes, moving money to tax haven countries, and severe penalties for not reporting their incomes

## Health Care/Retirement

Explain your position (for or against) Medicare for All (aka single payer health care) in terms of the effect on local citizens, service providers, and government. I truly believe that healthcare is the fundamental right and privilege of all citizens, and therefore must be available at an affordable cost – such as the current Affordable Care Act (OBAMACARE) plus additional benefits of Medicare/Medicaid

What policies do you oppose and what polices would you promote with respect to Social Security and Medicare? Since both of these Safety Nets are fundamental to our Democratic System, the Benefits must remain intact for all those who qualify from their Earnings Contributions to Money and Health

## Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? By dismantling the current availability of Federal Military resources to local/state criminal justice systems. More community –based and community-supervised Police and Criminal Justice units

How would you preserve national security while protecting American’s right to privacy? Making sure that terrorists do NOT harm us, but assuring that our basic privacy needs are protected by laws

## General

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why? Yes, I am a Progressive, Pragmatic, and Performance-oriented Democrat with Vision, Integrity, and Passion(VIP)

What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (← click link to view) do you disagree with? Why? I fully concur with the Platform as written and organized.

If this is not your first election, what other offices have you run for? If it is your first campaign, what other campaigns (candidate or issue) have you participated in? What did you learn from those campaigns? I was the First Elected City Councilmember and Mayor of the newly incorporated City of Burien, Washington State, from 1992 to 1998 – elected twice during this 6-year period. My learned Campaign Lesson has been to focus on grass-roots politics with limited budget and no PAC support

Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices? Yes, for the past 10 years, I have been elected PCO of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats (2006-2016)

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What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? What proposals do you have for dealing with it? To urgently implement the December 2015 Paris Agreement on Global Climate Change, here in the USA. One of my Proposals is to create thousands of high-paying Clean Energy Technology jobs for our young trained workforce, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as well as nationally

Are there also important secondary issues? Describe your approach to implementing solutions? I strongly believe in the Triad Principles of SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – Economic Prosperity, Environmental Stewardship, and Social Justice. All high Priority Issues and their constructive solutions must be BALANCED, just like a three-legged stool, so as to be Beneficial to the Community-at-Large

If you are running in a heavily Republican area, do you have a reasonable chance at winning? If not, how do you plan to use your candidacy to build ongoing connections among local people who share progressive values? Fortunately, the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the State of Washington has been very Liberal, Progressive, and Solidly Democratic. Therefore, I am NOT expecting any change in 2016