

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

**Explanatory Note:** Our endorsements (and sometimes donations) are generally made to people running for the state legislature, municipal and county offices, public utility commissioners, etc. If you are running for such an office, you may wonder why we are asking questions about state-wide or national issues. The reason is that local officeholders are tomorrow's senators, representatives and governors. Even if you have nothing of the sort in mind now, you may easily feel differently in a few years. We want to put people into the pipeline 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: Tamborine Borrelli**

**Position Sought: State Senate**

**Campaign Manager: Florence Vincent**

**Consultant: B & B Strategies**

**Campaign Email: [contact@tamborine2016.com](mailto:contact@tamborine2016.com)**

**Campaign Phone: 360 977-2168**

**Website: [tamborine2016.com](http://tamborine2016.com)**

**Campaign Address: 303 1<sup>st</sup> ST #2 PMB27 Yelm, WA. 98597**

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

**YES**

## **Labor**

Do you support raising state and federal minimum wages? YES

To what level? \$15

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I would support and/or co-sponsor legislation that would make organizing unions easier. Unions are directly related to the vitality of creating and maintaining a viable middle class.

## **Education**

What is your opinion of high stakes testing?

I think it is an ineffective method to impose on the children and does not support a balanced or integrative approach to learning. We are only teaching the children how to 'test' and are missing integral aspects of the learning process that cultivate creativity and adaptability, two characteristics that fortune 500 companies have to outsource to European countries.

How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated?

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

The current system is not effective because it is based on standardized test scores to evaluate teachers and students. Equality does not necessarily mean it is equitable. I think teachers should be evaluated on their ability to develop a balanced curriculum that allows them to reach the individual student and in order to do that the class sizes must be smaller. In order for them to be smaller we have to have fully funded levies that will support construction of new classrooms instead of temporary pods that do not support an adequate learning environment. In this supportive atmosphere the children will be able to be evaluated on their comprehension of facts, and ability to be creative and adaptive which are all skills that prepare them to be successful in life.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

I see Charter schools as being dangerous for two reasons. 1) They take away crucial funds from our children in public schools when in the absence of fully funding McCleary the last thing we need is for any funds to be directed elsewhere. 2) Charter schools are privatized and when profit is involved there ceases to be any regulation in regard to choosing quality educators. Unfortunately, in the end the children of public schools suffer from lack of adequate funding and the children of charter schools suffer from potentially inadequate or subpar curriculum.

## Environment

How would you promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources?

This is one of my favorite subjects. I am very excited to develop and invest into a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy that not only will produce tens of thousands of new jobs but will begin to rebuild our infrastructure in a way that is congruent with and supportive of the environment. Privatization of any natural resource is not in the best interest of the planet or the people because history proves that when there is profit to be made the wellbeing of our environment and our health are subsequently treated as a mere expendable commodity.

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most?

Investing in quality, modern housing stock that produces energy instead of just consuming it is just one idea that I have to help kick start Washington's green economic boom. A robust and properly maintained infrastructure network is essential for WA to be a player in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. We need to expand funding for these projects instead of stifling innovation. As Senator, I will always support initiatives developing alternative energy (solar, wind & geo thermal) that will benefit the people of WA State and especially the work force. For example in a small Dutch town north of Amsterdam they just installed a solar powered bike line. This is a modular bike path with integrated solar cells that also includes space for telecommunication

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

lines to be laid directly underneath the road. WA State has so many bright forward thinking people I am excited to co create alternative solutions to old problems. This way we can be leaders in WA for the rest of the country to model after by not only solving current infrastructure issues but by creating new ideas that are implementing new generations to never have the same challenges again.

## Finance/Taxation

What would you do to facilitate implementation of public banking and monetary reform?

I am an enthusiastic supporter of a state owned banking system. It just makes sense to have financial institutions that are able to facilitate the banking needs of our citizens all the while generating and retaining revenue for the state. I am also interested in exploring municipal broadband and utilities. Presently, our largest broadband and utility companies are owned by Australia and Canada.

What solutions do you propose to fix WA State's highly regressive tax system?

1. The way that I see it, as representatives of the people we need to ask the incredibly fortunate among us to pay a bit more of their income in taxes. Right now, this state has one of the most regressive tax systems in the country, due to our reliance on sales tax for the bulk of revenue. A graduated income tax that would only affect households making \$500,000 a year or more would capture a windfall sum in its first year, and could be adjusted on an annual basis as needed after an initial period of intensive capital improvements and appropriate cost-of-living-adjustments for educators and staff. Ultimately, stronger schools create a smarter, more agile workforce; just the kind of workforce that we need to keep our economy growing into the 21st century.
2. Capital gains should be taxed, period. The very poorest people in the state are surrendering a larger percentage of their income to the state than any other group of people. That's just not fair. Families and individuals who are benefiting from their capital gains won't have to surrender all of their gains, not by a long shot. I am also open to considering a financial transaction tax, as well as other strategies, should investment habits change due to the tightening regulatory atmosphere.
3. Closing corporate tax loopholes. Unfortunately, some of the wealthiest corporations still do not pay their fair share in taxes. By closing these loopholes and enforcing stricter legislation, we can make sure that the letter, and the spirit, of our tax law is upheld.
4. Washington has some of the most brilliant minds when it comes to alternative problem solving. Sometimes the most intelligent thing one can do is to take instruction from those who are already being successful at solving problems that are not mutually exclusive. Putting solar panels on school roofs, and turning our community buildings into a source of energy for the neighborhood while simultaneously generating new revenue streams. These upgrades could be

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

funded through a mix of feed-in-tariffs, local fund-raising, and perhaps even a green bond issuance financed by a portion of the profits from the surplus power provided to the grid.

## 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.

In the absence of a Medicare for All program at the federal level, I support creating a high-quality single-payer system for Washington state, so that nobody has to worry about the outrageously inflated cost of health care possibly bankrupting them. It just makes sense from an accounting perspective to offer a single, modern, streamlined state-administered system that would eliminate 20-25% of the overhead costs compared with traditional commercial insurance. Our health, and the health of our families, should not be a line-item in an insurance company's annual budget. Furthermore, the effects on local citizens, service providers and government are all intertwined. Being burdened with outrageous premiums and deductibles, the average person's quality of life is considerably lessened. Service providers are seeing patients whose health issues have progressed into later stages because of the premiums and co-pays being too high so there is a higher cost to treat them, whereas if they were treated at the first sign of illness it would have been considerably less to treat and more effective. The financial strain of exorbitant premiums, poor quality of life and compounded health issues results in a higher rate of public assistance to address these affects.

We also need to address and ensure a COLA (cost of living adjustment) for our retired seniors so that they are able to adequately address their housing, food and health care needs.

What policies do you oppose and what polices would you promote with respect to Social Security and Medicare?

I strongly believe we need to commit to ensuring that the weakest among us are cared for with compassion and dignity. In addition to a single payer health care system, we need to be expanding our Social Security programs instead of entertaining legislation that would reduce an already shamefully low amount given to our seniors. I have spoken to many who cannot afford their basic necessities and are forced to ration their food and medications in order to pay their rent so they can have a roof over their head. This is absolutely UNACCEPTABLE.

## Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement?

Firstly, our police officers need to reflect the people that they serve. My campaign's cornerstone is built on the founding fathers creed, which states, 'Of the people, by the people and for the people', I strongly believe if our law enforcement was governed by that creed it would be effective on every level. Further,

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

I would support a (community elected) civilian review board that would be responsible for ensuring police officers are held to the highest of standards in the most challenging of circumstances. Lastly, if there is ever any report of impropriety on the part of an officer they will be remanded to desk duty until the civilian review board can assess the situation.

How would you preserve national security while protecting American's right to privacy?

I don't believe that we have to violate Americans right to privacy in order to preserve national security.

## General

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why?

I have never been involved in the political process before this election cycle. I was inspired to become politically active by Bernie Sanders, a self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist. I would be comfortable with that description as well as being referred to as a Progressive Democrat. I passionately share the values that would be considered 'progressive' including health care for all, tuition free public universities, investing in alternative energy and most of all getting money out of politics. I participated in the Democracy Spring march and civil disobedience 'sit in' at our nation's capital in early April of this year. I was among the first 400 to be arrested in peaceful protest to end Citizens United, which states that corporations are people and money equates to speech. Until we get money out of politics we will never have free and fair elections and our democracy will be bought and sold to the highest bidder i.e Big Pharma, Big Banks, Corporate Media and Big Ag. When the corporations which are in control of what people eat, the interest they pay, the medications they take and what they think about the aforementioned then you have an enslaved people who only think that they have the freedom of choice. In my heart I believe that only a progressive public servant will be successful at beginning the unraveling of this Gordian knot.

What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (← click link to view) do you disagree with? Why?

The link did not open, however, I was on the Thurston County Platform Committee and the one thing that had a feeling of compromise attached to it was in regard to the Super delegates. I would prefer we do away with them completely based on the fact that their inception was for the sole purpose of thwarting any progressive grass roots insurgence from 'the people'. The resolution stated that we retain them and impose that they are bound by the vote of the people, which I suppose is tolerable.

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?

N/A

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices?

No

What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? What proposals do you have for dealing with it?

Getting money out of politics, as I mentioned earlier, is one of the most important issues on my platform. I currently support I-735 to repeal Citizens United and I would sponsor legislation supporting publicly funded elections. How can an elected official represent the people when they have been paid exorbitant amounts of money to represent someone or something else? They support what they have been paid to support. When an election is funded by the people then legislators won't have to spend half their time 'dialing for dollars' because their best interest will be to represent the people who put them in office, ultimately knowing that the same people that put them there can take them out of office just as easily.

Are there also important secondary issues? Describe your approach to implementing solutions?

My secondary issues are funding education through alternative tax solutions and creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, both of which have been previously addressed in earlier questions.

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?

LD2 has been red for the last two terms mostly because Democrats/Independents were not inspired to come out and vote. In any other year I would say the Republican vote would be one to contend with however we have the advantage of unbridled momentum of progressives who have come out in record numbers this election cycle and they are committed to turning our Senate back blue. We are one seat away from that being a reality and I believe that seat will be mine. We have a strong ground team and access to extensive lists that identify all the progressives who want to get behind a progressive candidate.