

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: David McDevitt

Position Sought: US House of Representatives, US Congress, WA-03

Campaign Manager: Hattie Stigum

Consultant: Candy Bonneville

Campaign Email: Campaign@McDevittForCongress.com

Campaign Phone: (971)232-1345

Website: www.McDevittForCongress.com

Campaign Address: 1701 Broadway St #148, Vancouver, WA 98663

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

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I would oppose “Right to work” legislation. I would support legislation that would enhance the ability of workers to organize. Card Check legislation needs to be passed and workers have a right to be heard. The Wagner Act needs to be restored.

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated?

I do not favor high stakes testing. It limits student & teachers abilities to be creative. Not all students learn from the same methods. True teachers inspire their students. I would like to see a 360/4 way evaluation for students and teachers that includes feedback from students, teachers, parents and administration.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

I do not support charter schools it is not appropriate for them to use public education funding.

Environment

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

I oppose any privatization of federal resources. I would encourage development of alternative energy through the use of tax policies as a way to encourage investment in these areas. In addition, I would encourage counties interested in attracting new investment to create a business development team.

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

I think we have to be open to all forms of renewable energy sources. Different areas have different natural resources available, wind, hydro, geothermal, and each area should be able to capitalize on what is available.

Finance/Taxation

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

Implement more regulation on the banks that are "too big to fail". Push to reinstate Glass Steagall Act and encourage support for small banks and credit unions to gain advantage and be more competitive with bigger banks.

How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America?

I would push for a progressive taxation schedule and limit corporation's ability to offshore profits.

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 support a move forward to Medicare for all. Everyone should have access to at least a basic level of health care, prescription medication, and other preventative treatments. I would encourage sub-contracting to local service providers similar to the Medicare Advantage model. A single pay health care system allows the government to leverage volume for greater efficiencies, such as negotiating for best pricing on supplies, prescription medication, and streamlining paperwork and speeding up coverage approvals.

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

I oppose any cuts to existing programs. I would work to increase and expand Social Security and Medicare coverage. In particular I would work toward adopting the CPI-E, Consumer Price Index for the Elderly as the index used to adjust Social Security increases. The CPI-E more accurately reflects the spending patterns of those who are retired, taking into account their increased costs for medical care and prescription medications. Changing to this index could mean an increase of up to an additional 0.2% increase in cost of living increases for Social Security recipients.

Security/Public Safety

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

Partner with community groups and organization to create better communication between citizens and the police forces. We need to have civilian oversight committees to evaluate police actions and allow the oversight committees influence over disciplinary actions.

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

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Seek balance through regulation and monitoring for agencies like the NSA.

General

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

Yes, I am a Democrat. I consider myself a progressive. I seek to represent all people not just the marginal few.

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

None

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?

This is my first election. I have worked on campaigns for Jean Quan (First Asian American woman Mayor), and Jerry Brown's Gubernatorial race. My involvement in these campaigns has taught me the importance of direct voter contact through door-belling and phone banking.

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

Yes, I am currently the PCO for Clark County Precinct #200 in the 49th Legislative District

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

Economic challenges for citizens has been the most motivating factor for me to enter this race. To deal with this issue we need to protect Medicare and Social Security, raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, invest in comprehensive transportation and infrastructure, and parenthetically create jobs.

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

A secondary issue would be fairness in access to national resources. We achieve this by protecting the health of people, food sources and the environment. Other issues that are important to me are pay equality, food assistance programs, and protecting reproductive rights.

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?

The 3rd CD is purple. The Presidential election, with minimum wage & initiative to overturn Citizens United, will increase voter turnout and brings with it greater chance to be successful than in previous years. I believe that running for office allows you to change the conversation toward progressive issues.