

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: Karen Johnson

Position Sought: Position 1 – Legislative District 22, House of Representatives

Campaign Manager: Kelli Hegsted (Interim)

Consultant: John Wyble

Campaign Email: Info@PeopleforKarenJohnson.com

Campaign Phone: 360.284.4041

Website: <http://www.PeopleforKarenJohnson.com>

Campaign Address: People for Karen Johnson, PO Box 786, Olympia, WA 98507

Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes

Labor

Do you support raising state and federal minimum wages? Yes
To what level? To a level that is livable, beginning with \$12/hour

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier? Whatever is needed

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? Very low
How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? In a way that ties student outcomes with teacher evaluation

What is your opinion of charter schools? I support any educational model that educates children who have traditionally done poorly in school

Environment

How would you promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources? I am committed to work for an environmentally sustainable economy that respects both working families and business owners who, together, create prosperity.

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most? I have many questions about this issue and am committed to listening to those more expert than I about the best approach we need to take to save our planet and the people who live here. Perhaps we might need to consider passing the carbon tax to achieve environmental justice

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Finance/Taxation

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

What solutions do you propose to fix WA State's highly regressive tax system? I have many questions about how to fix this and will learn as much as I can about the topic so that I can be relevant in coming up with solutions that make sense to the people.

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 making single payer health care an option from which people can choose

What policies do you oppose and what policies would you promote with respect to Social Security and Medicare? I support policies that protect people's Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? Continue to seek to amend WA's use of deadly force statute

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

General

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

I consider myself to be a human being who is a top getting Bernie Sanders delegate who stands for liberty and justice for all. I, like the Democrats, place the well-being of people as my highest priority.

I, like the Progressives, see two main issues: justice (economic, social, racial, political and environmental) and sustainability of our planet.

I plan to govern in a way that results in laws that truly ensure life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all.

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

While I do not starkly disagree with any parts of the WA State Democratic Party Platform, I do agree with the more progressive platform introduced and passed at our LD 22 convention.

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? I have participated in the Obama and Sanders campaigns. I am currently a Bernie Sanders delegate en route to the state convention. I have advocated for the following issues: equitable access and outcomes to address health care outcomes,

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taking care of children of incarcerated parents, criminal justice and economic justice issues and changing the state's use of deadly force law.

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

Not yet

What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? Re-establishing a government by the people, for the people and of the people

What proposals do you have for dealing with it?

Ending Citizens United

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

Amend state use of deadly force law to garner public trust, public safety and police accountability

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?

Today, I met Sue Gunn, a recent convener of a Progressive meeting. I plan to stay in touch with her, attend as many meetings as possible and ask as many people as possible to step up, show up and speak up for re-establishing a government by the people, for the people and of the people.