

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: Jim Moeller

Position Sought: Representative in Congress, WA 3rd CD

Campaign Manager: Janet James

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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 has been discussed.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier? Legislation will not help as much as who is appointed to fill the Secretary of Labor position. This is why we need a Democrat in the White House.

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? It's doesn't tell us what we wanted to know and it takes too much time away from TEACHING. How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? Testing is necessary BUT, it doesn't need to be “high stakes”. Also, teachers can usually pick out who will need extra help in grade school – listen to them and invest in early learning.

What is your opinion of charter schools? Oppose. Anytime you have public investment (money) without public oversight, it is a recipe for disaster!

Environment

How would you promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources? PUD's that invest in people (like geo-thermal, solar and wind) and renewables and parks/forests that are managed for the people.

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most? What if we (Washington) became known for exporting renewable energy rather than coal and oil and other greenhouse gasses. Solar, wind and geo-thermal are particularly interesting as the technology is changing quickly.

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Finance/Taxation

What would you do to facilitate implementation of public banking and monetary reform?
Increase wages and increase the incentives to save.

How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America? Eliminate state dependence on sales tax and increase the income tax rate back to 50 then 60% for high incomes. Review (and eliminate) corporate tax breaks – to see which ones actually produce a benefit for the public. Development of a capital gains tax.

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 am supportive of expanding Medicare in a HMO style. A integrated health care system that will produce better outcomes of health with cheaper costs. Not to begin with but eventually will produce cheaper results.

What policies do you oppose and what polices would you promote with respect to Social Security and Medicare? Hard to say. I would have to look at it more closely.

Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? To start, I would halt the purchase of military surplus gear by civilian police.

How would you preserve national security while protecting American's right to privacy? That is difficult to do! It is a balance. Sometimes it needs correction. The Patriot Act is "out of balance".

General

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why?
I use that description often that "I'm a member of the Democratic wing of the Democratic party." I became a Democrat with I saw them making changes in health care, how they treat our minorities and those without a voice.

What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (← click link to view) do you disagree with? Why? I don't know. I suspect there are parts I don't agree with. There is with everything.

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? Vancouver City Council – 2 terms, State Representative – 7 terms. Don't get too comfortable.

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

What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? What proposals do you have for dealing with it? We are being short-changed as the current representative is not representing us in the 3rd district. I intend to change that. The current incumbent missed over 550 roll-call votes, how are we represented when she is gone? I want to accomplish things. She had the majority for nearly 6 years, what has she done with it? Nothing.

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

Universal health care – single payer that doesn't put American business at a disadvantage. Real "Town Halls" I know how to run them. I'm not afraid of critics of my positions and invite everyone to attend. Regulation of the railroads regarding safety before profits.

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 current congresswoman's positives are at 45 points. I have a "reasonable" chance at winning – this is the year! As Sen. Bernie Sanders proved, the progressives are already there, they just need a reason to vote!