

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

Labor

Do you support raising the minimum wage in your local jurisdiction if state and federal action continues to be stalled? To what level?

I support making the minimum wage a living wage. But raising the minimum wage is not enough. In addition to a living wage that is tied to cost of living, workers need medical leave, family leave, sensible maternity and paternity leave, retirement plans as well as access to a strong unemployment support structure.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, at a minimum wage of \$11.00 per hour, someone living in our state would have to work 69 hours a week to afford a modest 1 bedroom rental home at fair market rent.

It's not just about wages, it's about wealth distribution and socio-economic equity. That is where the conversation needs to start.

<http://nlihc.org/oor>

Education

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

High stakes testing does not educate, it labels. We don't need labels to evaluate success. It has been said, when equity is the process equality is the outcome. We need an equity strategy that takes into account socio-economic, familial, staffing and linguistic inequities, discipline records, community engagement and school culture when evaluating a student's success. And before we can begin to evaluate a teacher's success we need to ensure they have what they need to succeed; decent wages, proper education, sufficient resources and time to build up experience.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

Charter schools take away from the public good. But it is not enough to say charter schools are bad. We need to address the underlying need these corporatist schools falsely professes to fulfill. Families are looking for alternative learning environments for their children, which makes sense because we all learn differently. My children grew up in the Olympia School District's Options program, a flexible learning environment that allowed them to learn and grow using the learning style specific to them in a way that added to instead of taking away from our public school system. For more information about Olympia's public alternative programs please click the following links.

http://olympia.osd.wednet.edu/media/pagefiles/3327.freedom_farmers.pdf

<http://goodgrub.org/>

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

Environment

What can be accomplished at the local level to promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources?

We need to embrace an environmental protection industry. When we as a society feel a part of nature we will intuitively seek to protect it instead of subdue it. An environmental protection industry includes; eco-tourism, investment in our parks and natural land and seascapes and changing our transportation infrastructure priorities away from private transportation and towards public and pedestrian transportation. It means replacing our dependence on oil with reliance on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and biomass.

And if we are truly serious about developing alternative energy and protecting our natural resources we will need to partner with those who have been stewards of the land since before political boundaries defined the land into states. We need to listen to and partner with the tribes of our state.

Finance/Taxation

What will you do to support public banking at the local level?

I have testified and will continue to testify at state congressional hearing in support of a state bank. We do not need to be shipping millions of dollars to out of state mega banks, we need to be capturing those dollars and recirculating them back into our communities in the form of secure low interest loans for students, farmers, small business entrepreneurs and supporting science research. A state bank would also shield farmers and mortgage holders from economic down turns, provide an alternative to raising taxes in order to create revenue and provide long term investment for projects that private banks would not invest in because of a lack of short term return.

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 grew up in a military family. If I needed a doctor or a dentist I saw one and it was as simple as that. Healthcare is not a privilege or a benefit. Healthcare is a right. I am on the Whole Washington Steering Committee, we are financing a study on the best way to bring Single Payer to our state and I believe Washington state will be the first state in the Union to provide single payer health care to its citizens.

Security/Public Safety

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

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

I would work to dismantle the pipeline between the military and local law enforcement. I would advocate for; more training in conflict de-escalation and recognizing implicit bias, promote neighborhood policing, providing more social services for those in need and the formation of civilian oversight committees.

General

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

Yes and yes. I believe that a Progressive Democrat fights to produce the greatest good for the largest number. I support; a living wage, universal healthcare and education, tax equity, environmental protection, sustainable alternative energy, a woman's right to choose and socio-economic justice for all.

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

I do not disagree with the Washington State Democratic Party Platform.

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 have participated in local campaigns in Thurston County and I learned that principles must dictate our politics. Politics must never dictate our principles.

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

I am the Committee Man for LD 22 and was PCO for Precinct 214

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

The divide within the Democratic Party is causing us to hemorrhage votes and offices. We need to heal or at least come to some understanding that allows us to stand together. Because if we don't, if we continue to let this divide weaken us, who will be there to lead the defense of sanctuary cities? Planned Parenthood? Immigrant families? Our LGBTQ family ? Unions? POC? Who will stand up against inequality, environmental degradation, corporate welfare, oligarchy, the next mistake to come out of

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

the current administration? Yes, there are other groups and organizations doing great work. But we are Democrats, it is our duty, and we must not shirk from it. Divided we lose.

A friend of mine has been using the term "Servant Leadership" a lot recently and in the classes I teach, I talk about two different power dynamics, the "power over" and the "power to". The former is about binary thinking; either or, win/lose, us vs. them. But the latter, the "power to" is more in keeping with Servant Leadership. It's more about win/win, "WE" rather than you vs. me or us vs. them. It is about sharing power not consolidating it. Servant leaders value diversity and building genuine rapport. They value individuals as a whole person, and see all of us together as a whole.

I believe a servant leader can heal the divide in the party. This divide is creating a trap that both sides are caught in, the trap of feeling that they are not part of the greater whole, that they have been cast aside. I hear from both sides the same lament, "I feel like it's their party not mine." But that separateness is an illusion. We all are the party and the party is all of us.

As chair of the Progressive Caucus my role, my goal, is to be a servant leader. To build an ongoing healing dialog to help people realize that the divide is an illusion and that the party is all of us, together. In my culture, when there is conflict within a family, we have a practice called Ho'oponopono that seeks healing through honest dialog, self-reflection, the sincere request for and granting of forgiveness and genuine acceptance from both parties. I have had to go through my own process of ho'oponopono in order to come to the place I am now. I hope, together we can bring ho'oponono to our party. Together we win.

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

Single payer. At the last WSDCC meeting the body passed a resolution calling on our Washington State Congressional delegation to co-sponsor Rep. John Conyers HR 676 to create a national single-payer health care system. Yet only two members of our delegation have honored that request; Rep. Pramila Jayapal and Rep. Adam Smith. Meanwhile Denny Heck, Suzan Delbene, Rick Larsen and Derek Kilmer continue to frustrate their constituents by refusing to represent their best interests. As chair of the Progressive Caucus I would work with the WSDCC to pressure the remaining four members of the delegation to join Jayapal and Smith on the right side of history and support single payer. We must bring all our congressional delegates together under the banner of single payer. Together we win.

A state bank. Currently the state pays \$2 billion a year in interest on loans from Bank of America for capital projects. A state bank will; return and recirculate those billions back into our state's economy, consolidate multiple state loan programs, provide non-predatory loans to help, families, farmers, students, entrepreneurs and us, the real job creators, create jobs in our communities. A publicly owned state bank will bring us, our money, and the interests of our state together. And together we win!

In addition we have a burgeoning hemp industry that does not have access to banking services. A state bank would allow the industrial hemp industry to take root in our state producing jobs and sustainable

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

and environmentally friendly products that will grow our economy, bringing renewable resources, sustainable energy, employment opportunities and industry together. And together we win.

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 first question is not really an issue, but the second question is a valid one. If the Democratic party is serious about; not letting Republicans go unchallenged any longer, resisting SCROTUS and truly representing "the people", then it has to widen the tent and embrace as broad a swath of America as possible. The people united will never be defeated has never been more true than right now.

After last year's primary many democrats exited the Democratic Party and fled into the political Diaspora, taking their democratic values and principles with them as they joined other political groups or went independent. If the Democratic Party is to be the bold leadership we need to defeat SCROTUS, we must act boldly and open up a dialog with the Independents, Greens, Socialists and any progressive group willing to put country and principles above party and power! And together we win.