

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: **Eric K. Holt**

Position Sought: **State Senator LD-18**

Campaign Manager: **Coralee Bauer**

Consultant: **Roman Battan, Candy Bonneville, Rich Rogers, Ian Coker**

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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 any right to work legislation and I would actively work to write union friendly legislation. A workers right to unionize and be represented is pivotal to the success of the working families of Washington.**

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? **I oppose high stakes testing. It is unfair to the teachers and to the multitude of differing abilities in students.**

What is your opinion of charter schools? **I don't support privatization of education. It unfairly favors the wealthy and lowers the value of good teachers.**

Environment

How would you promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources? **I support wind and solar energy and would work to increase tax incentives for green building. I am a traditionalist Progressive who supports national and state parks and protected open spaces and I would never allow privatization of our natural resources or lands.**

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most? **Wind and Solar tax rebates and business incentives.**

Finance/Taxation

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

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breaking up “Too Big to Fail” banks and I believe the Federal reserve is too closely tied into the private market as well.

What solutions do you propose to fix WA State's highly regressive tax system? I support more Progressive forms of taxation as in Capital gains taxes and Recreational taxation i.e., boats, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping, 2nd homes or vacation homes and R.V.s. Also corporations need to pay their fair share and close the tax loop holes currently in place.

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 my line of work, I am trained to see both the big picture and the root cause. Through that, I truly believe that universal health care would save the American tax payers billions of dollars over the current plan in place.

What policies do you oppose and what policies would you promote with respect to Social Security and Medicare? I oppose pushing back to age eligibility for SS and Medicare recipients. I also oppose the current borrowing from and defunding of SS and Medicare that is going on.

Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? I have deep respect for the people who put their lives on the line to protect our communities. With that being said, there was a time when police officers were trained to serve and protect. The new breed of training is pitting “Us against Them” and is a detriment to society. We need to provide proper training to keep our police officers safe and to de-escalate a situation without force first. We need to hold accountable those who break proper protocol as well as those who mean to harm our police officers.

How would you preserve national security while protecting American's right to privacy? My first thought is “Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety”. I despise the “Patriot Act” and will be glad to see it no longer in place.

General

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why? I have always been “Progressive” in the 1990's I was “Green” yet I was a Democrat. Throughout the 2000's with the wanton destruction of our country by the Republicans I knew I was a Democrat. And now I am in my 40's with a career and a family and nothing is more clear to me than the fact of my Progressive drive for Democracy.

What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (← click link to view) do you disagree with? Why? I would like to see the Part about education include free graduate schooling. I also disagree with the wording “treaty based rights” in the indigenous peoples' section as our treaties have never been worth the paper they are printed on. We need to do more to empower the indigenous tribes and return greater portions of tribal lands and rights. I would also like to see a return to our fore fathers' original view of corporate charters and the dissolution of corporations after they serve their intended purpose, not to live on in perpetuity. For the most part I align closely with the Platform as it stands.

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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 State election. I was elected Shop Steward for the Teamsters Local 162 2011-2014

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

I am also running for PCO 610

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

Getting corporate influence and big money out of politics. I will not accept out of state corporate contributions. I will work to ban any contributions not raised by residents of the state of Washington.

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

I believe in service to the community not the corporations. Protecting the weak, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless. It is our moral obligation to do what we can for those who can't.

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? I am running in a heavily Republican area; Well I should say more Libertarian. In speaking with many of them I find that they are in actuality Progressives that mistakenly thought of themselves as Social Libertarians. A little more education and discussion and the LD 18 will be a heavily Progressive District.