

**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:** Philip Cornell  
**Position Sought:** US Senate Washington State  
**Campaign Manager:** Phil Cornell  
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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 or more**

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I support any legislation that bans "right to work", in the Senate I would introduce legislation to do just that.

I support the **Employee Free Choice Act which** amends the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations [unions], to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes.

## **Education**

What is your opinion of high stakes testing?

I think testing should be an indicator of a student's ability to learn, not an inventory of what they have learned. There has been too much emphasis placed on testing and not enough on teaching. Teachers should be evaluated on many criteria with student performance being only a portion of that evaluation. Testing should be used to help students succeed not punish them for failure.

How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated?

Change the focus away from testing and towards student success. Any good teacher knows when a student is struggling. Resources should be available to assist these students when needed. Change testing from multiple choice answers to more essay type answers. Essay answers force students to know the subject and to also know how to express themselves in an articulate manner.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

Charter schools have their place in a narrowly defined environment and must rely only on private funding. They must also match the educational standards of local public schools.

## **Environment**

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

Consumer incentives are the best way to grow the alternative energy sector. If customers see an economic benefit they will be more inclined to make the initial purchase knowing the payback is there.

Privatization of natural resources is nothing but a corporate attempt at a power grab. Natural resources belong to everyone and must be utilized for the benefit of everyone. I support legislation that keeps natural resources in the public interest.

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production?

As I stated above, incentives offer the most effective way to grow the renewable energy industry.

What types of renewable energy do you favor most?

Solar, I have a 3300 watt system on my roof. Geothermal and wind are showing promise.

## **Finance/Taxation**

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

Simplifying the tax code and eliminating tax loopholes will provide enough funding to take care of our crumbling infrastructure. A tax loophole is nothing but a promise kept to a lobbyist. Lobbyists should be outlawed, members of Congress represent the American

People, no one else. Regressive tax policies must be overturned and replaced with a fair and equitable system. A sales tax is a prime example of a regressive tax system  
How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America?

Taxing offshore accounts would be a start. If you make money in the United States, you should pay your fair share of US taxes.

## **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.

A system like this will have both positive and negative effects depending on your point of view. As a Medicare recipient, I can see many benefits for the recipients (lower costs, easier administration) but a larger administrative process for providers and the government. Overall it will save money and standardize care and provide care for millions of Americans who do not have care.

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

We all pay Social Security and Medicare taxes on the first \$118,000 of our income. With the wealthy class expanding and the middle class shrinking I feel it is fair to raise or eliminate the cap on taxable income. This would make Social Security and Medicare solvent for generations to come. We should also demand repayment of the \$1.37 trillion that was "borrowed" by President Bush and place a firewall around the trust fund so that it cannot be raided in the future.

## **Security/Public Safety**

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

Police forces must mirror the diversity of the community. There is no need to respond with 10 or 100 times the necessary force to handle a situation. Many police forces are under-staffed and under trained. A civilian oversight must be in place to ensure proper actions by the police officers. To accomplish this, I would introduce legislation making it mandatory that all departments mirror the diversity of their community and that each department has a civilian review board.

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

Our national security is very important but so is our right to privacy. The 4<sup>th</sup> amendment answers this question; "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." We cannot sacrifice our 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights in the name of national security. This amendment plainly spells out what must be done.

## General

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

I am a Democrat, I have always been a Democrat. From the time I was old enough to understand politics I valued and understood progressive values. I grew up in "Kennedy-land" (Massachusetts) and followed the Kennedy's through all the tragedies and triumphs of that era. I am a lifetime union member (CWA). I believe that everyone has an opinion that must be heard. I believe that each person is the master of their own body whether it be women's issues, LGBTQ awakenings or any other personal issue, government has the responsibility to support this position and not interfere in it. I believe that the science of climate change is undeniable and we must act now to save our planet. I believe in using renewable, sustainable, non-polluting energy sources.

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

After reading the party platform I noticed that trade is barely mentioned and is buried in articles relating to other subjects. Washington State is highly dependent on trade for our economic stability and growth. Sen. Sanders has publicly stated many times that he is opposed to the TPP. The Washington State Democratic Party must take a stance on this corporate/investor international protection deal. It is bad for Washington and bad for the country. Opposition to this deal is the center piece of my campaign.

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 volunteered as treasurer for the Karen Rogers for Mayor (Olympia) campaign and her bid for Thurston County commissioner, again as treasurer. I ran for PCO of Olympia 243 but lost 35-95. I learned that success is in the details, accounting for every penny collected and spent and using donations frugally. A candidate's message is not just about their message but about how they present themselves and their campaign staff.

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

As mentioned above I ran for PCO Olympia 243 but lost 35-95 in 2014

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

My opponent has stated her support for the TPP. I supported her right up until that point, I cannot allow this agreement to stand. Over time it would undo all the good work that Sen. Murray has done. If I am given the chance, I will vote NO for ratification and I will work to rescind it if it were to pass.

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

A variety of secondary issues are all related to the TPP; the environment, jobs, the economy are all affected by this deal. Stopping it saves a potential disaster.

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?

Looking at the results of the Caucus last weekend I feel pretty good about my chances but if I am not successful, I will use my connections and friends to fight the TPP. I will not stop until we get a FAIR trade deal.