

# 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: Carolyn Ahlgreen**

**Position Sought: Shoreline City Council Position #5**

**Campaign Manager: none yet**

**Consultant: none yet**

**Campaign Email: Carolyn.Ahlgreen@gmail.com**

**Campaign Phone: 206-227-3891**

**Website: none yet**

**Campaign Address: 19036 16<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Shoreline, WA 98155**

**Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes**

## Labor

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

Yes, and I actually believe it should be closer to \$20.00 than \$15.00

## Education

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

I do believe we place much too much emphasis on such testing. Yes, we should have standards. Yes, we should have benchmarks to determine if progress is being made, but there has to be much more creative ways of determining if students have grasped the concepts in question. I believe teachers are being held responsible for students' progress, when so much is out of their control. Certainly, more than just "how many students are testing at or above grade level?" A better benchmark would be, "how many students improved?"

## Environment

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

We can prevent our utilities from being sold by legislation. We can be sure to encourage less waste in packaging and recycling what is necessary. We can work on making developers cover the costs of their development, have them use recycled and green materials, and install heat pumps, energy efficient appliances and even solar panels on new construction.

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

## Finance/Taxation

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

Well, after getting in line to open an account? All kidding aside, it's about educating voters on the benefits. In addition to bringing access to the 20% of the population that is unable to get an account at one of the large commercial banks, there are reduced costs of financing state and local projects through our own bank at lower interest rates.

## 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.

Absolutely no question about single payer: 1) I just believe it is immoral to profit on the backs of sick people. 2) Medicare is extremely efficient, something along the lines of 3-4 % in administrative costs, while our "for profit" insurers whine about "only" having 20% to cover overhead and profits. 3) All the information available suggests that, while there is a tax increase to cover costs, that increase is more than offset by the savings; not just in premium costs, but also in co-pays and deductibles. 4) This will also benefit folks who are already on Medicare by eliminating their co-pays and the need for supplemental insurance policies. 5) Without exception, no one will have to worry about being denied care for pre-existing conditions. 6) Insurance companies can still sell "specialty" policies for things that they don't cover now, and single payer probably won't either such as cosmetic surgery or experimental treatments.

## Security/Public Safety

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

Beyond supporting the destruction of surplus military supplies, recycling them, and not mandating that local police forces be allowed to purchase them; I am not sure. This is a systemic issue and deeply rooted in racial animus. I believe that the mandate to allow local law enforcement agencies to buy excess military supplies was an extension of the racist policies embedded in the 1994 crime bill. So, other than absolutely supporting education on what exactly white privilege is; and admitting that it drives police policy; I don't have a good answer.

## General

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

I believe in the fundamental core of the Democratic platform: equality, justice, opportunity, that government absolutely has a place in protecting these things. Without a strong government protecting these things we end up with laws in place that impinge on basic rights. All humans, regardless of color,

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

background, economic status, religion, gender identity or orientation, or anything else should have equal protection and standing; anything less than that is not full democracy. I am a progressive because I believe some things are simply our right as human beings that others would have you believe are privilege.

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

I am unable to get this through the link provided, but I would say that if there is less than full support of single payer, I'd object. If there was less than full support of marriage equality, I'd object. If there was anything less than full support of protections for transgendered individuals, I'd object. If there was anything less than full support of immigrants, especially full support of a path to citizenship for people brought here as children, no matter how long ago that was, I'd object. If there is anything less than full support for the legislature to fully fund education, I'd object. If anything detract from full economic justice, I'd object.

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?

Gathered signatures for 735 and door knocked for same. Door knocked for Pramila. What did I learn? That people aren't as scary or mean at their doors as some would have you believe. That people are more than happy to talk to you about what they consider important.

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

I am currently a PCO (SHL-0903) I am the PCO coordinator for Shoreline in the 32<sup>nd</sup> LD, and I have been active in training new PCOs in King and Snohomish Counties.

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

Shoreline, like almost every other city in the region, is in the middle of a development boom. There are environmental and social issues that need to be discussed surrounding this new growth. Carbon footprints, traffic patterns, housing prices, and increased homelessness are major concerns. We need more input, not less. We need more public participation, and not government officials trying to change the rules on citizen participation. We do not need government officials threatening to throw people out of meetings and calling for police intervention in city council meetings. It's a given that more people are going to live here. It's not a given that those who can't keep up are going to get run over. We have to be

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

more compassionate than that.

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

Things are connected, so none of these things exists in a vacuum. Homelessness has more than just economic causes; drug addiction and mental health issues are definitely part of the equation here. I am not sure how to change the entire ethos surrounding addiction and mental illness, but we certainly need a paradigm shift in “group think.” We have to stop thinking of these things as a moral weakness or criminal issue, and deal with it as a health crisis.

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 actually in a good Democratic area, although I am running against an incumbent who has been around for a while. I do believe that since the local LD declined to endorse the incumbent, I have better than even odds. I have to build the base that only connectedness can get since I am starting this run with no money to buy “name recognition.” Getting out in precincts and introducing myself will be one way. I am active at LD meetings now.