

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: Lisa Parshley

Position Sought: Olympia City Council

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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?

Minimum wage needs to be raised and these raises need to be matched to cost of living and inflation changes over time. We need to legislate an equation that would ensure that the minimum wage is evaluated and automatically changed based on these two factors and others deemed important to the equation. We need to stop having to legislate this every 10 years or so. I am in favor of the first minimum wage change to at 15.00/hour, with a phase in period with reasonable metrics to ensure the change is occurring in a timely universal manner.

I will support any initiative or policy or ordinance or legislation increasing the minimum wage

Education

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

- 1) I am fundamentally against high stakes testing, particularly the linking of school funding and teachers' salaries to the outcome of these tests. If a testing system was required or needed to assess curriculum I would ask those who do the work and who are those with the experience to provide an effective and more accurate method to provide metrics for our education systems. Teachers are the best people to be developing these tests. I would empower and support having a teacher based testing system as it will likely be the fairest and most accurate metric of our school system.*
- 2) I am against any system that ties school funding to any metric as these generally favor the upper middle and upper class schools and school districts. We already have issues with unequal funding between the*

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schools of lower income and neighborhood of color and those of upper income and neighborhoods of caucasians.

Environment

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

The answer to this question must be a multiple prong approach.

- 1) First by acting as the example our city can further this transition. We need to show our people and small businesses how to make the conversion to alternative energy. By making this transition we show leadership in this issue.*
- 2) Olympia is already part of the Global Convent of Mayors, which mandates a lowering of our carbon foot print. The city has already begun with simple changes (e.g. changing to all LED lights) and it has developed a climate action plan that fulfills the convent we have joined. I would say that we can do better, by creating on every unused surface solar and wind power farms on city or abandon properties. I would also enforce moving the purchased power to alternative sources. Lastly, I would insist we lower our carbon foot print further than the convent suggests.*
- 3) Providing incentives for households and small businesses who help with the effort to switch from carbon based power to alternative energy sources. These incentives could be tax rebates or consideration in building permits. Incentives could also be given for those who install alternative energy generating systems on their property, such as adding to the number of solar units providing and selling energy.*
- 4) Using the city as the organizer, we should help develop a CO-OP for purchasing electric cars. These have worked in Colorado and would help reduce our carbon foot print.*
- 5) We as a city needs to make sure while we are locally encouraging and switching to alternative energy sources we do not increase the global carbon foot print. Our city is a sea port with moderately active shipping occurring. We could work with the Port of Olympia to stop shipments that directly benefit carbon based energy production. If necessary we could enact ordinances that stop these kinds of shipments.*
- 6) Lastly, privatizing of natural resources is happening because there is a profit to be made. We can make sure as a city we only purchase from progressive, local, green energy companies.*

Finance/Taxation

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

To the best of my knowledge it has not come before the city council. Generally, I support public banking options (municipal banking options). I would support any initiative or action by the city council to explore and implement such a system.

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 for a single payer health care, as health care is a basic human right not a privilege. It is pretty simple issue, health care should be available to all our people regardless of socioeconomic or ethnic background. Based on our current national politics and recent passage of the republican health care

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repeal of the ACA and punting to the state the question about Medicare locally we are going to be facing this question. Primarily the state will be responsible for answering these questions, but that doesn't mean each local government should not sit down and look at this issue and find a way to ensure all people of our community have access to health care. I will support any effort locally or statewide or nationally that provides health care to all our people. I support universal single payer health care.

Security/Public Safety

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

- 1) *First we have to publicly admit we have a problem with over use of physical force during police action. That someone of color is many times more likely to be profiled and become the victim of that physical force. Black lives do matter.*
- 2) *I support body cameras and training in forms of restraint that do not involve use of guns or physical force. Believe it or not we could even look to the methods used in training military police. They train their officers to use other means of restraint than guns and extreme physical force. They have the lowest rate of complaints, accidents, or deaths associated with police activity.*
- 3) *We need to include our community in the oversight of the police. We need a working group that includes members of the all the groups at risk. As a city we have to empower this oversight group and to empower the police department to work with them for solutions.*

General

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

I am a progressive. This last year has only solidified my stance. I believe in social justice that leaves no one behind due to color, sexual preference, sex, or religion. A living wage should be guaranteed with the right to organize for workers (ensuring a strong unified voice). Taxes should not be regressive and reforms of the tax code to ensure a shift to fair taxation should be pursued. I am strongly prochoice with a strongly support groups like Planned Parent Hood. I believe Planned Parenthood should be fully funded to ensure adequate and safe family planning and women's health. I believe in free, good, universal education from kindergarten to 12th grade. Higher education should be accessible to all high school graduates without exception.

Global warming and the risks to our environment are no longer something we can afford to discuss in the future tense. Environmentalism is a vital part of progressive platform. Impact of global warming does not respect political, social, or economic boundaries. We must recognize that those of lowest income and of color already and will carry the largest burden of environmental risks and global warming. Global warming and environmentalism is a progressive issue.

I am also a democrat. It is my sincere hope that the democratic party can use the energy and increased activism make a strong shift towards an overall progressive platform. We seriously need to review the last two years and listen to the people.

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

After reading the platform I find it hard to come up with any serious disagreements. It is a good document that is far reaching and progressive in a general sense. If we could enact this platform we would have a more just, economically progressive, environmentally sound, and educated society.

There are few minor things that could be improved such as no specific statement on preventing loss of insurance due to pre-existing health conditions or that we are going to take another three years to reach a minimum wage increase to 15.00/hour when a living wage may need to be higher in three years. Under the transportation portion of the platform it could have been stronger in supporting a shifting from carbon based fuel to alternative fuel drives.

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 campaign for public office. However, I was very active in Oregon during the anti-homosexual initiatives being pushed by the Oregon Citizen Alliance. I worked to defeat their initiative outlawing homosexuality in Oregon. I was very active in old growth movement during the 1990s in the NW including working with local and regional groups to reduce subsidized exports, reducing acreage allowed during clear cutting, and overall protection of current old growth stands.

Lessons from these experiences is that you should constantly be in the public eye through printed material (social media, web presence, Facebook, Instagram etc), participation in events, and accepting speaking opportunities, and take advantage of any chance to interact with the public. Door to door campaigns for issues or candidates serve a very important role in any campaign as it allows communication of an issue or candidate but also allows a time for listening. Ultimately, it takes a true effort on many levels and ability to build a coalition of like minded people.

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

No I have not.

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

There are several very important issues facing Olympia. Singling one out of the many is difficult. If I was to say which one edged the others in importance it would be the environment and our expected growth in the next 10-15 years. We live in a sea level city with a direct impact of global warming in our future. Our city is predicted to grow by some 20,000 people with about 5000 of those located in our downtown. These two are interrelated issues. Growth will have to be planned in accordance with the encroaching sound and in a progressive manner. A growth that does not worsen local, regional, and global environmental issues and global warming, a growth that is progressive in nature, and a growth that has a far reaching view to protect future generations.

Olympia City Council has a "Downtown Strategy" which is a plan to deal with the expected growth. It is a reasonably good plan except in several areas; such as addressing sea level rise, promoting progressive

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values, and enforcement of the plan. It also has plan for ensuring multiple levels of housing or dealing with homelessness.

- *First sea level rise, I would strongly say no option should be taken off the table. It may become impossible, financially and physically, to defend the downtown from encroaching water. Thus, retreat from downtown should be honestly and openly discussed along with all other plans.*
- *Ensuring that there is housing for all levels of incomes is a tricky issue. Many cities have tried to unsuccessfully ensure their growth provides all levels of housing. I would convene a task forces that would explore what other cities have attempted; focusing on what did work and what failed and why. Using this information, it would be my hope to develop an effective plan to ensure all levels of housing and add this to the "Downtown Strategy".*
- *Like most cities who are dealing with growth, how do we truly control and shape our growth. My answer would be to ensure appropriate zoning and ordinances are being developed and enacted in conjunction with development and approval of the plan. This will give the teeth to the planning commission and our permitting office. Basically, we need appropriate zoning and ordinances to ensure green, progressive, and effective planning of our growth.*

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

Secondary issues are very close in importance to the answer above.

- *We face a serious and verging on human rights issue in Olympia, our homelessness. Olympia is the metropolitan center for all of Thurston county, along with Lewis, Greys Harbor, Mason, and south Pierce County. As such we have the highest population of homeless. Homelessness is not crime. It deserves serious and humane consideration. Our city must step up now, not 5 or 10 years from now but now.*
 - *Housing first has repeatedly been shown as the best first method to address homelessness. It should be a priority for our county and city.*
 - *City council is considering a housing initiative, "Home Fund", which would provide housing for the most vulnerable members of our community. Home Fund is a non-partisan collation of non-profit and private organizations. Olympia City Council needs to be urged to put this initiative on the ballot.*
 - *We have many committed progressive small business owners in the downtown area. I would love to get these businesses and any other willing small business owners together as a collation to help end homelessness. This group could work together with the housing first and any other support or service group to add power and support any of these issues.*
 - *We need to provide more 24 hour bathroom facilities and laundry and showers. This will be a goal for our city for those not homed in any of the above efforts.*
- *Additionally, we like many cities face questions of social justice and how to develop a progressive economy. We need to increase our progressive stance on business and transparency in our city's business and finances and encourage progressive small business practices. We need to evaluate our policing methods and ensure we are not using excessive force or have fallen victim to racial profiling. As we grow in the coming decade we need to encourage new businesses that are progressive minded. This can be achieved in three ways; by example, by incentives, and when needed by law.*
 - *By example:*
 - *Olympia City as a business can be an example for progressive treatment of workers. We should review pay and what defines a part-time employee. Minimum wage for these employees should be 15.00/hour, phased in through a timely and inclusive manner.*

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Definition of part-time employment should be reasonable and achievable, such as 36 hours per week. If the city sets the example it is easier to stand tall and expect other businesses to do likewise.

- *Our city can promote and actively evaluate our police departments methods of restraint and evaluate if racial profiling is active with the force. Our city's police chief has reached out to at risk communities and has asked for input from such groups. I would go one further and institute an oversight commission on police activity.*

Incentives:

- *Incentives could be in the form of tax breaks or waving of impact fees for new and existing businesses. Other incentives could be explored to promote voluntary increases in minimum wages and changes in the definition of part-time.*

By enforcement:

- *Legal changes should be explored that sets metrics towards a living wage for the people of Olympia. This could be achieved through initiatives. If serving as example and by ensuring incentives work to change the business and political environment of Olympia, passage of any legal obligations will be much easier.*
- *Fairness in taxes and developing a less regressive tax system would also be a priority in the coming years.*

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 greater Olympia area in general leans towards progressive democratic values. However, there is a portion of the electorate who have some right leaning or outright republican values. These should not be discounted as being able to sway the election but in general the democratic candidate has an edge.

I see having a predominantly left progressive democratic community as a positive. It gives the progressive movement the opportunity to produce and grow the example of how a city with progressive values can thrive and change our society. Growth will happen but we can shape it to ensure progressive, green, just city that serves as the example for our area and state. I would like to continue this work and be part of this movement.