

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: P. Bret Chiafalo

Position Sought: Snohomish County Fire District 1 Fire Commissioner (Position 1)

Campaign Manager: Shaun Olsen

Consultant: Alex Hendrickson

Campaign Email: PeterChiafaloForFireDistrict1@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 206-281-8191

Website: VoteBret.com

Campaign Address: Committee to Elect P. Bret Chiafalo

12918 Mukilteo SPDWY C23 #284

Lynnwood, WA 98087

Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes, Please

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 believe in raising minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour. In localities with higher average citizen expenses it should be more.

Education

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

I am against high stakes testing. We need to evaluate teachers in ways that can adjust for individual students and teachers. Standard tests cannot do this.

Environment

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

I believe we can divest from any bank that supports fossil fuels. In addition, we can have subsidies for households that install things such as Solar Panels.

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Finance/Taxation

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

I will support it in any way possible. As fire commissioner, I don't know how that will be. I will always speak out in support of public banks.

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 100% in support for single payer health care. Period. Health is a human right.

Security/Public Safety

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

I would compel local and state law enforcement to not accept military vehicles. I would also encourage any law enforcement entities to have strong de-escalation training.

General

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

I consider myself a Democrat and a Progressive. My beliefs line up almost exactly with the state platform.

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

Reading through it, I do not see anything I actively disagree with.

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 ran for Presidential Elector and created an organization from scratch called Hamilton Electors. Started with 3 people and ended up with thousands of high level volunteers. I appeared on national television and we raised almost 1 million dollars in under 40 days.

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

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I am a Current PCO, the 2nd Vice Chair of the 21st LD Democrats and was 1 of 12 Democratic Presidential Electors

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

For Fire Commissioner, my main goal is to complete a contract with the Union. IAWW Local 1828 have gone without a contract for 2 years. My proposal is to work to bring the Board and the members of the union together and actually start truly communicating.

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

One of the fire stations has "Possible Asbestos" that has not been tested or addressed. I plan on making an immediate motion when elected to test and remove any asbestos in the station.

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 attend many local LD Dem meetings and attend the Progressive Caucus when I am able to attend the quarterly state meetings.