

# 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: Allen Miller**

**Position Sought: Olympia City Council**

**Campaign Manager: Rhenda Strub**

**Consultant: Joe Hyer**

**Campaign Email: allenmillerforolympia@gmail.com**

**Campaign Phone: 360-754-9156**

**Website: <http://www.voteallenmiller.com/>**

**Campaign Address: 120 State Ave. NE, #1045, Olympia, WA 98501**

**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. The level should be raised to \$15/hour and the wage should be tied to the cost of living.

## Education

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

As a former school board member I successfully advocated against high stakes tests. Research shows high-stakes tests have a disproportionate negative impact on students in poverty and those learning English, regardless of their actual academic abilities. In Olympia, we implemented a system of one test at the beginning of the year and another at the end. Test scores were made only part of an evaluation. Observation of how a teacher interacts with a student and how a student interacts with a teacher and learns critical thinking skills are the best evaluations.

## Environment

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

I would convert all streetlights and traffic signals to LED. I would retrofit city buildings for energy and water conservation. I would require solar panels on all city buildings. I would replace gasoline powered vehicles with electric vehicles in the City fleet. I would have the city purchase only green power. I would require the use of only biodiesel in City trucks that could not be electric.

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

## Finance/Taxation

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

I would work to establish a public bank through either an ordinance or a Charter Amendment through the Thurston County Treasurer. The bank would be a legally separate entity from the city or county, incorporated under state charter as an independent banking institution.

## 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 would support Medicare for All since the great advantage of universal, government-provided health insurance is lower costs. Canada's government-run insurance system has much less bureaucracy and much lower administrative costs than our largely private system. Medicare has much lower administrative costs than private insurance. The reason is that single-payer systems do not devote large resources to screening out high-risk clients or charging them higher fees. The savings from a single-payer system would probably exceed \$200 billion a year, far more than the cost of covering all of those now uninsured.

## Security/Public Safety

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

I would work with the Chief and staff to ensure that the police department is run with a community policing philosophy. In addition I would establish a civilian review board to hold police accountable. Rather than budgeting for military-type weapons, I would budget for body cameras for all police.

## General

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

I am both a Democrat and Progressive. I was raised by parents who supported Franklin Roosevelt's progressive policies which helped the country during the Great Depression. In 1972, I turned 18 and was able to vote for McGovern and have voted for the Democratic candidate ever since because of their progressive policies. I marched against the Vietnam War, coordinated the first Earth Day at my high school in 1970, and have advocated for civil rights for all.

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

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

I support the complete Platform.

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 successfully ran twice for the Olympia School Board. I have learned that door belling is the key to success.

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

No.

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

We need to solve the homelessness problem in downtown. My proposal would involve an increase in a walking and/or biking patrol downtown and the ability of anyone to call 911 to have a social worker respond to a person who is homeless. The case worker would then have the ability to take the homeless person to a triage center and get the person a bed, meals, and address the underlying issue whether it is mental illness, job loss, or addiction.

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

We need to build more housing downtown for a variety of income levels. I would use zoning incentives to make sure market rate housing developments have less expensive housing included.

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?

Olympia is heavily Democratic and my door belling and advocacy at candidate forums will continue to build the connections.