

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire

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: Tamborine Borrelli

Position Sought: Congress WA CD 10

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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

Worker's salaries have not kept pace with the cost of living for some time, as a result, many of our fellow citizens are working multiple jobs to afford basic necessities. I support a minimum wage of AT LEAST \$15 per hour, however, according to some estimates if the minimum wage were adjusted for inflation it would be around \$21. People who work help create vast wealth for billion dollar corporations. A higher minimum wage would result in a greater quality of life as well as contribute to stimulating the economy.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I would support and/or co-sponsor legislation that would make organizing unions easier and protecting them from all those who seek to destroy them. Unions are directly related to the vitality of creating and maintaining a viable middle class.

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing?

I think it is an ineffective method to impose on the children and does not support a balanced or integrative approach to learning. A High Stakes testing learning environment is only teaching our children how to 'test' and are missing integral aspects of the learning process that cultivate creativity, adaptability and most importantly, 'critical thinking'. In this way we train children how to take orders to prepare them for the workforce instead of cultivating great minds who could grow up to solve some of our world's most pressing issues.

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

The current generalized system is not effective because it is based on standardized test scores to evaluate teachers and students. Equality does not necessarily mean it is equitable. I think teachers should be evaluated on their ability to develop a balanced curriculum that allows them to reach the individual student and in order to do that the class sizes must be smaller. In order for them to be smaller we have to have fully funded levies that will support construction of new classrooms instead of temporary pods that do not support an adequate learning environment. In this supportive atmosphere the children will be able to be evaluated on their comprehension of facts, and ability to be creative and adaptive as critical thinkers which are all skills that prepare them to be successful in life.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

I see Charter schools as being dangerous for two reasons. 1) They take away crucial funds from our children in public schools. For instance, here in Washington, in the absence of fully funding McCleary (which the latest report says won't happen till 2019), the last thing we need is for any funds to be directed elsewhere. 2) Charter schools are privatized and when profit is involved there ceases to be any regulation in regard to choosing quality educators. Unfortunately, in the end the children of public schools suffer from lack of adequate funding and the children of charter schools suffer from potentially inadequate or subpar curriculum.

Environment

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

This is one of my favorite subjects. My priority would be to develop and invest in building a 21st century Clean Energy Economy that not only will produce tens of thousands of new jobs but will begin to rebuild our infrastructure in a way that is congruent with and supportive of the environment. Privatization of any natural resource is not in the best interest of the planet or the people because history proves that when there is profit to be made the well being of our environment and our health are subsequent if considered at all, as they are treated as a mere expendable commodity. I will support and/or co-sponsor legislation that will fiercely protect our natural resources from the greed and exploitation that is privatization.

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

What types of renewable energy do you favor most?

Investing in quality, modern housing stock that produces energy instead of just consuming it is just one idea that I have to help kick start a green economic boom. A robust and properly maintained infrastructure network is essential for us to be a player in the 21st century global economy. We need to expand funding for these projects instead of stifling innovation. As Representative of CD 10, I will always support policies and legislation that invests in developing alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy technology that will benefit the people of WA State and especially employees who will need living wage jobs transitioning out of fossil fuels into the Clean Energy Economy.

Another example of possible projects to invest in is found in a small Dutch town north of Amsterdam. In

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recent years they installed a solar powered bike lane. This is a modular bike path with integrated solar cells that also includes space for telecommunication lines to be layed directly underneath the road. We have so many bright, forward thinking people who can develop technology that provides alternative solutions to old problems. In these ways, WA State could lead the way as an example to the rest of the country to model after by not only solving current infrastructure issues but by creating new ideas that will allow future generations to never have the same challenges again.

Finance/Taxation

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

I am an enthusiastic supporter of a state owned banking system. It just makes sense to have financial institutions that are able to facilitate the banking needs of our citizens all the while generating and retaining revenue for the state. I am also interested in exploring municipal broadband and utilities. Presently, our largest broadband and utility companies are owned by Australia and Canada.

How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America?

First and foremost, Corporations need to start paying their fair share of taxes. It's time to permanently close Corporate tax loopholes and impose such stringent regulations that Corporations pay hefty fines for outsourcing jobs out of the country. By closing these tax loopholes and enforcing stricter legislation, we can make sure that the letter, and the spirit of our tax law is upheld.

Capital gains should be taxed, period. The very poorest people in the country are surrendering the largest percentage of their income than any other group of people. That just isn't fair. Families and individuals who are benefitting from their capital gains can afford to contribute and they should.

We need to go back in the direction of the NEW DEAL tax plan. FDR, on August 30th, 1935 signed in the Revenue Act of 1935 wealth tax with the WPA (Works Progress Admin) which while Americans in that era were going through one of the worst financial crises in our history, the Government put the American people back to work building schools, roads, bridges, national parks, flood control and other infrastructures. Although it's doubtful that his tax plan of 90% to those making \$400,000 (comparable today to 4mil) would go over well but 50% should be the VERY LEAST that the wealthy contribute to our infrastructure. Just as it was back then, there ARE wealthy Americans who are all too happy to pay their fair share.

A Robinhood tax of .50 per every \$100 of Wall Street trade and transaction fees would generate \$350 billion that could fund a Single Payer system or go to funding debt free higher education.

Conversely, corporations, small businesses and individuals will receive tax credits when utilizing alternative energy sources instead of the outdated fossil fuel model.

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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 strongly support John Conyers HR 676 Medicare for All. On a state level, I support Whole WA creating a high quality single payer system for WA State. No one should have to worry about the outrageously inflated cost of healthcare possibly bankrupting them. It just makes sense from an accounting perspective to offer a single modern, streamlined state-administered system that would eliminate 20-25% of the overhead costs compared with traditional commercial insurance. Our health and the health of our families, should not be a line-item in an insurance company's annual budget. Furthermore, the effects on local citizens, service providers and government are all intertwined. Being burdened with outrageous premiums and deductibles, the average person's quality of life is considerably lessened. Service providers are seeing patients whose health issues are progressed in late stages because of the unaffordable premiums and co-pays being too high so there is a higher cost to treat them. Whereas, if they were treated at the first sign of illness it would have been considerably less to treat and more effective overall. The financial strain of exorbitant premiums, poor quality of life and compounded health issues results in a higher rate of public assistance to address these affects. We also need to address and ensure COLA (cost of living adjustment) for our retired seniors so that they are able to adequately address their housing, food and health care needs.

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

I strongly believe we need to commit to ensuring that the weakest among us are cared for with compassion and dignity. In addition to a single payer health care system, we need to be expanding our Social Security program instead of entertaining legislation that would reduce an already shamefully low amount given to our seniors. I have spoken to many who cannot afford their basic necessities and are forced to ration their food and medications in order to pay their rent so they can have a roof over their head. This is absolutely UNACCEPTABLE.

Security/Public Safety

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

Firstly, our police officers need to reflect the people that they serve. Our founding fathers statement 'Of the People, by the People and For the People' should be the creed our law enforcement is governed by. Our police officers need training in de-escalation to be more in the way of 'peace officers' then trained in militarized weapons, outfitted as if they were going into battle which inevitably invokes intimidation and fear in our communities, especially citizens of color. I would support policies and legislation supporting a community elected civilian review board that would be responsible for ensuring police officers are held to the highest of standards in the most challenging of circumstances. Lastly, if there is ever any report of impropriety on the part of an officer they will be remanded to desk duty until the civilian review board can assess the situation.

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

I don't believe that we have to violate Americans right to privacy in order to preserve our national security. I would support and/or co-sponsor policies and legislation that would allow the appropriate agencies to surveil only those persons who have been proven to be a threat to our national security. The caveat to this would be that under

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no circumstance would it be allowed to invade the privacy of American citizens at will and without any consequence.

General

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

I consider myself an Independent Progressive. I passionately share the values that would be considered 'progressive' including Single Payer Health CARE for all, tuition and debt free higher education, investing in alternative energy and most of all getting big money out of politics.

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

I was a part of the 2016 Democratic Platform Committee of Thurston County and was in alignment with the contents thereof. The link above was not working so I went to the website to see if there were any changes since I last read it. In reading over the executive summary, there is nothing within it that I disagree with. If Superdelegates were addressed and I somehow missed it, I would be vehemently opposed to it based on the fact that their inception was for the sole purpose of thwarting any progressive grassroots insurgence from 'the people'. The last resolution I remember from 2016 stated that 'we retain them and impose that they are bound by the vote of the people', which I suppose is tolerable.

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 State Senate in 2016. I learned the importance of talking to as many people as possible. Based on the % of votes our campaign had, the consensus was that everyone we were able to reach ended up voting for us. I also learned the extent that the establishment wing of the party would go to to ensure a progressive was not elected and how much they are committed, even to this day to fighting any progressive take over.

Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices?
None, besides being an elected 2016 National Delegate.

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

The single most important issue we face as a nation is getting big money out of politics. I support the anti-corruption act as statewide initiatives promoted by organizations as Represent US. On the federal level I will support and/or co-sponsor legislation that will once again make it illegal for Lobbyists to bribe politicians to favor the interests of corporations at the detriment of the health of our nation and its people.

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

Medicare for All HR 676 is as important as getting money out of politics. My approach is simply to be an unwavering advocate and supporter of this bill and revel at the thought of being able to fight for it in Congress until we are ALL covered.

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?

CD 10 leans democratic progressive although there are quite a few pockets of conservative moderates. Given that my platform leads with anti-corruption policies and Medicare for All, my chances of winning are favorable due to the fact that statistics say a growing number of Republicans, most Democrats and all Progressives care about those two issues the most. My opponent has publicly opposed HR 676 telling his constituents that he thought they were wrong for supporting it and does not acknowledge we have a corruption problem in DC. He would rather spend his time talking about Russia when all everyday people care about is how they're going to pay their bills. Additionally, running as an Independent gives me an edge for two reasons. 1) It will make it easier for Republicans who want Single Payer to vote for me and 2) It will also make it easier for some of the 300,000 registered voters who didn't vote last election because they have likely lost faith in the two party system.