

# 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: Anneliese Feld**

**Position Sought: WA House of Representatives, 2nd LD**

**Campaign Manager: Yanah Cook is working closely with me, however I am seeking a more permanent manager**

**Consultant:**

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

## **Labor**

Do you support raising state and federal minimum wages? To what level?

I do support raising the minimum wage. I am not an economist, and the local economy is in such flux right now due to the rising home costs, it seems to be a fast moving target. I would consult with a reputable economist to discuss appropriate minimum wage levels for our state before deciding on a number.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

First of all, I am completely against right-to-work policies. Unions depend on large numbers for collective bargaining to be successful, and free-riders place a detrimental burden on unions. Whether or not it is acknowledged, every person who works has benefited from the prior work of unions.

If right-to-work policies are implemented here, I would encourage and support innovative reforms that would protect the right to organize. One area of legislation that may help to strengthen unions would be to investigate and strengthen laws against the misclassification of workers. Employers can misclassify workers as independent contractors to sidestep their ability to join unions or earn benefits. Strengthening these laws would be a step to helping union enrollment numbers.

Until the Supreme Court issues it's final ruling on Janus v AFSCME, it is hard to predict which innovative solutions may be necessary to protect unions. However, I look forward to working with union representatives to craft the most responsive legislation possible once the decision is published. I would also support any reasonable legislation proposals that unions feel would benefit them.

## **Education**

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

Our testing is not actually gauging aptitude or knowledge of our students, and I have posted a series of reasons why on my twitter account (@VoteFeld). This fight really has to be taken to a federal level to change the No Child Left Behind Laws; we must do away with standardized testing and the penalizing of schools not meeting testing benchmarks. If it were up to me, I would give much more control back to teachers. I do think there are standards each student should meet before moving up to the next grade, and we do a disservice to children that are passed along without meeting those, but standardized tests are not the answer. We should create criteria of knowledge for each grade and allow teachers to assess if their students have mastered the content in a variety of ways: written tests, oral tests/presentations, and/or creative alternatives.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

We cannot allow charter schools in our state, we need to invest more into our public schools. Parents with the means are welcome to send their children to specialized private schools if they so choose, but we must provide all students in our state with the opportunity to receive a quality, equal education.

## Environment

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

Just the first question is worthy of a dissertation. My husband is studying electrical engineering with a focus on renewable energy sources, so I feel I have some understanding of the topic, but I am no expert. From what I do understand, we already create much more clean energy than we use. We need to update our electrical grids to allow greater utilization of these resources.

As for preventing privatization of natural resources, we need to block offshore oil drilling, protect our forest lands, and we must have strict legislation to stop and reverse existing pollution in the Puget Sound from industry and storm water drainage.

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most?

Renewable energy is such an exciting topic to me, it is always changing. I love that we have wind turbines, and I have recently seen new water turbines, however as is they seem to endanger fish but at first look they could be improved to protect fish with a metal netting.

I think that having a mixture of renewable energy sources seems to be the most beneficial. However, I will admit, I have not investigated the costs of each form, amount of energy they can each harvest, or the individual impacts on the environment. I would love to sit down with anyone who has extensive knowledge on all of these issues to determine the best path for our states future.

## Finance/Taxation

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

I think that the idea of public banking is very interesting, and I believe that North Dakota utilizes public banking. I am still new to this idea, but from what I have read I love the idea of public banking and think that it is common

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sense to have the state benefit financially from managing it's own money. From what I have read thus far, I would absolutely support Senator Hasegawa's efforts to pass Senate Bill 5464 which would create a public bank.

What solutions do you propose to fix WA State's highly regressive tax system?

We need to do away with our high sales and excise taxes, and replace it with a progressive income tax. Yes, income tax measures have failed in the past, but that is because they violated our states constitution, which stipulates that all must be taxed the same rate. I would argue that our current system violates our constitution since taxes range from 16.8% to 2.4%, with those making the least paying the greatest proportion to state taxes. Historically, most people actually support an income tax, and I believe the time is right since even Republicans tried to pass legislation to ban a state income tax this year, but failed miserably.

## 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.

Out of 51 highly developed countries, the USA is the only without universal health care. I view quality health care as a right, just as I do the right to breath clean air and drink clean water; these these are necessary to be able to fulfill our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. With single payer health care, the health of all of our state will improve: 1) preventative care is cheaper and increases quality of life; 2) service providers will not need to work with multiple insurance agencies, decreasing administrative costs; 3) the insurance commissioner's work would be simplified by working with one plan, as would the administration of government programs, such as CHIP, Medicare, Social Security, etc.

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

This question sounds like there are policies in mind that you are referring to, but I am unaware of these. If you could specify this question, I would love to answer it better.

In general, I believe in the expansion of Medicare (Medicare for All), and I believe we need to address the unsustainability of our current retirement system. With the rising lifespan and unpredictable healthcare costs, people are working longer than ever to try to fund the end of their lives, and Social Security was originally meant to supplement retirement funds, not fully cover retirement.

I am against high-fee 401(k) plans, however options like Roth-IRA's are a great alternative since they are taxed when making contributions making it easier to plan for the future. A possible solution may be to start a public bank that manages Roth and/or state retirement accounts that would be guaranteed.

As for ensuring that elderly can live with security after retirement, I think we need to get creative with our policies. Some ideas that I have, however I would want to consult with a reputable economist before fully committing to these ideas, would be to freeze property taxes after a certain age to make costs more predictable and to fully cover medical care and prescription drugs. From speaking with my own grandparents and others in their generation, these two issues seem to be the hardest to plan for since inflation can drastically alter property taxes, and no one can plan for future medical problems, or their rising costs.

I am absolutely opposed to cutting Medicare and/or Social Security benefits. We all contribute to these programs, so we should all benefit from them when we need to.

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## Security/Public Safety

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

I think that we should be concerned with police forces in general, not just with their militarization. I believe in community policing, and training that helps officers understand their internal biases and how to respond appropriately to them. I also believe in giving them greater training in de-escalation techniques. I think that by focusing on community policing, the community and police force can create bonds of trust, resulting in safer communities.

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

Well, I think we all need to come to terms that we have all given up our right to privacy with the PATRIOT Act, as well as voluntarily through our engagement in social media. I personally conduct myself in a manner that assumes that all of my calls, emails, and anything I do in public may be recorded in some way. Having acknowledged this, I do not think that we should grant additional access to our privacy to state agencies, and since I am not running for a Federal office, many of these issues will be out of the scope of the office I am running for. There is definitely a delicate balance between individual rights to privacy and national security, and I do not trust that anyone knows the answer to how to best balance this issue as of yet.

## General

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

I am absolutely a Democrat, and I do have progressive stances. I consider myself Democrat and Progressive because of my values to protect individual freedoms and social justice, and my priorities to reform social justice, ensure all people have access to health care and a good education.

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

The only part I take issue with is the labeling of genetically modified organisms, however I do support it. With the implications for human health, I think it's important to not only label foods as genetically modified, but how they are modified. There are not many forms of genetic modification, herbicide resistance, pest resistant, virus resistant, and modified metabolism, so labeling the specific form of modification would not be difficult yet it could provide valuable information.

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 election, and this is my first campaign. I have worked tirelessly as a social worker, and I have volunteered my entire life working with homeless populations, starting with my first coat drive at 5 years old. I have also participated in/lead teams at advocacy days, letter writing campaigns, and I have interned at the State Capitol. So far in my own campaign, I have learned that above all, being genuine and willing to listen are the most important elements to always have in place. People are willing to forgive some missteps as long as you are approachable, will listen, and are trustworthy. I'm still learning, but I have some amazing people with a lot of experience around me giving me tips all the time.

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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?

It is hard to choose one, because it was not just one that motivated me to run for office. I didn't start the year thinking, I have a 1-year old and a 4-year old, I'm writing my dissertation and helping my husband start a small business, I think right now is the perfect time to run for office! I was so upset about the school shootings, and mass shootings in general, about the lack of support for education, the high costs of students loans, the gender pay gap, the fight over which public toilet people can use, the reality that a cop can be judge, jury and executioner and face no charges, the issues with water pollution, all things that can be dealt with on a state level that my representatives were not taking appropriate action on.

To just choose one seems disingenuous because if elected I will be addressing all of them. For the sake of this question, let's say gun protections. No one need assault rifles; I have hunters in my family and the only mammal an assault rifle is used for are humans, we don't need to hunt humans. We need to ban assault rifles. Similarly, we need to ban high capacity magazines; we do not live in a war zone, and you do not need 60 rounds of any caliber to protect your home. I would support a state buy back program along with these bans. I also support universal background checks with absolutely zero exceptions, and there should be penalties for lying on a background check. We need a minimum age for firearms, 21 has been proposed and I agree with that age. We also need

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

Gender pay equity has already been addressed, but there is more we need to do. Other developed nations have protections in place that provide paid maternity and paternity leave, as well as protections for women's upward mobility and pay scale even after maternity leave. Women should not be penalized for having children, none of us would be here if our mother's had not made that decision, so our legislation should reflect that.

For the police issue, we need community policing, and we need better and more comprehensive training. I think less focus should be placed on having undercover police cars handing out traffic violation tickets, and more focus on being publically seen and engaging in communities. In an ideal world, we would all know the names of our community officers, and we would have good rapport. There would be a decrease in fear on both sides this way. As for training, officers need to understand that we all have internal biases, but that we need to be aware of them and take control of the way we interact with people in spite of our biases. De-escalation training is also a major need, as is legislation to protect the rights of families and individuals who have been subjected to police violence. These are all solutions that can be mandated through legislation, and I would work hard to get bills passed that accomplish these changes.

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 in a heavily Republican area; however I would not be running if I didn't think there was at minimum a reasonable chance at winning. Andrew Barkis, my opponent, was appointed to his position in February 2016, and then won that seat in November 2016 as an incumbent with a relatively small margin of votes over his opponent. In the time he has been a representative, he has done very little to

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serve our communities. He has voted against women's interests, he has voted against children in schools as well as criminal justice systems, and he has voted against voter rights and government transparencies. Regardless of an individuals' political party affiliation, when presented in the correct manner, there are some issues that transcend party. I will focus on these issues during my campaign.