

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: David McDevitt

Position Sought: US House of Representatives, WA-03

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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?

Yes! America is thought of as having opportunity, but families are struggling now. \$15 per hour is a good start, but it is likely that the minimum wage should be higher.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I would oppose “Right to work” laws. I would fight to overturn the Citizens United Decision. I would oppose legislation intended to limit voter rights, and would work on legislation supporting early and automatic voter registration.

Education

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

We need public schools that give kids an opportunity to achieve their full potential, but there are no standardized kids; Each kid is unique with different strengths. Schools need to have professional teachers that can address the individual student needs. I oppose linking student test scores and teacher evaluations because it causes teachers to teach-to-the-test instead of needed skills. I support invest in our children’s education through smaller class sizes, more after-school initiatives, and universal pre-K programs.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

Most parents want a good quality local public school with professional teachers. More parents oppose charter schools because of the profits siphoned away to corporate interests.

Environment

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

I believe we need to discontinue subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. I support legislation to reduce air and water pollution, including greenhouse gasses, and encourage both energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. We know how to implement clean alternative energy systems, and that reducing fossil fuel dependence will make America stronger and our kids safer. We need to protect our natural resources because the need to guarantee that our drinking water is safe by protecting our community’s water tables, rivers and streams.

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

We have developed amazing renewable energy technologies, including solar mirrors and panels that harness the sun, efficient wind turbines, hydro-paddle technologies and jet fuel from algae. We can increase investment in these technologies with effective policy, to include tax-credits, research, and direct investment. We can and should build a healthier, more secure future by leading the world in clean energy solutions because this development creates clean energy jobs, strengthens local economies and helps us gain control of our energy future.

Finance/Taxation

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

We need to have more effective anti-trust and anti-monopoly laws that are enforced. As such, we must address the size and limits for banks and investment management institutions. Economic power usurps political power and democratic institutions decline. The ability to use personal talents and skills gets suppressed in the market for labor when there's only one game in town hiring. Barriers to entry have led to a decline in business startups and economy is less dynamic. Inequality grows and the top 1-2% gather all the rewards.

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

Every citizen should have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream, including having a good wage, the ability to buy a home, and educate their children and grandchildren. Along with citizenship is a duty to contribute to the common good; this means everyone should contribute their fair share of what it costs to run the government and protect the common-good. The federal taxation system should be restructured to assure that everyone is contributing their fair share.

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.

Health care should be considered a right. As such, Health care should be available to all people and that the health care system should be less reliant on using a system of for profit insurance companies. Moreover, the health care system should be able to negotiate fair prices for medical equipment and drugs. All doctors should be paid fairly based on their services and work.

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

We must protect our senior citizens. Social Security and Medicare must be protected. We need to enhance social security by raising or eliminating the Cap on income, which is used to determine the premium contributed. We should likely raise the Cap from \$118k to at least \$250k. In addition, we should be use a COLA tied to an index for the elderly, like the CPI-E. I would protect Social Security and Medicare from being cut or privatized.

Security/Public Safety

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

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enforcement?

The militarization of the local police forces can be stopped by remove the ability of the military to sell assault weapons to the general public. We need to build alliances with police departments to create reasonable gun control laws that get these weapons out of the hands of the general public. I believe that community policing and establishing diversity task force teams with community members is important to developing goodwill.

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

We need to do a better job of assuring probable cause when police are executing search and seizure. We need to do a better when seeking to wiretap and for what reasons. And we need to protect the judiciary and the selection of fair and just judges, committed to the canons of judicial ethics.

General

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

Yes. I believe that our society functions better when we are all able to participate in the economy and pursue the American Dream.

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

None.

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 US House of Representatives WA-03 in 2016. This is my second run.

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

Yes. I have been the PCO for the 49th LD precinct #200, not precinct #173.

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

I am first motivated by the desire to help as many people possible. This may take the form of standing up for appropriate investment by the federal government in the area of transportation and infrastructure, our health care system, and our social safety net, including social security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

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

I believe we need to look seriously at our military spending. We spend more than the next ten largest countries in the world. I believe we would be much better off by reducing this spending and investing in our own country, in transportation and infrastructure, including expanding broadband access to rural communities, in implementing use of alternative energy, and in education.

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?

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I do believe the 3rd Congressional District is perceived to be heavily Republican. But, I also believe that there is a reasonable possibility of winning in 2018 because our representative fails to represent the vast majority of people when it comes to their needs. Our economy has changed since 2010 and our congresswoman has lost touch with the people of the District. I will focus on creating the connections with the local people throughout the District by holding events and raising funds by asking for small amounts from large numbers of people.