

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: Mary Hall

Position Sought: Thurston County Auditor

Campaign Manager: Veronica Witcher

Consultant:

Campaign Email: ElectMaryHall@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 360-456-6928

Website: ElectMaryHall.com

Campaign Address: 10445 Mullen Rd SE, Olympia WA 98513

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? **At a minimum of \$15 hour nationally. However, I also think it should be adjusted to reflect the cost of living in a given area. It also needs to automatically adjust to the rate of inflation.**

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? **This is not applicable to my position and not a topic I've researched. With my limited knowledge on this topic I don't support it.**

What is your opinion of charter schools? **Strongly against.**

Environment

What can be accomplished at the local level to promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources? **We need to get more progressive environmentally conscious democrats elected in the state. We need to increase voter turnout for democratic voters across the state to gain more of a majority, so more legislators feel safe voting for environmental policies.**

Finance/Taxation

What will you do to support public banking at the local level? **Not applicable to my position.**

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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. **My first political work was with Washington Citizen Action working on Single Payer Health Care in the late 80's. We have too many uninsured/underinsured people in this country. Medicare for all would eliminate wasteful administrative costs of insurance companies. Industries go by the wayside all the time due to many factors. Insurance companies are a wasteful and unnecessary industry.**

Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? **Not applicable to my position.**

General

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why? **Yes, and Yes. I've been a democrat my entire life. I grew up in a union household and believe the purpose of government is to create a social safety net. We need to eliminate corporate welfare, monopolies, and overturn Citizens United. I also believe in public funding of campaigns. I support single payer health care and/or Medicare for all, public funding of education and major tax reform to benefit the 99%. I have major concerns about the conservative takeover of our press.**

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

I'm not aware of any part of the party platform that I can't support.

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 against State Representative Gary Alexander in 2013 for my current County Auditor position. I ran unopposed in 2014. I was the first Democrat elected to this position in 71 years. What I learned from that campaign is that it takes a lot of hard work and dedicated volunteers to get elected. It's taxing physically, mentally and emotionally.

Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices? **No**

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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 increase voter participation in our democracy. We are being barraged with propaganda to discourage people from participating. Passing Same Day Registration, Pre-registration for 16-17-year old's, and Automatic Voter Registration are great steps to increasing voter access. Now we need to empower first time voters and new voters to vote and take back our democracy and elect people who have their best interests in mind and vote accordingly. We have a great voter access model here in Washington State which needs to be the foundation of a National Voter Registration Act 2.0. Motor Voter (the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA)) passed in 1993 when we had control of the House, Senate and Presidency. We need to begin shaping this legislation so when we gain control back it's ready to go.

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

This isn't secondary, equally important is securing our election systems from any infiltration. I worked with our county IT staff to do a top to bottom security analysis before the 2016 election and remain diligent today. We keep abreast all the identified threats and ensure we are adequately protected. We are always looking for ways to improve security. I'm championing a county-wide cyber security task force to ensure we are using the best tools available and educating staff.

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? **As an incumbent with a strong record of accomplishments, I have a good chance of winning. Thurston County typically elects Democrats; However, they also elect Independents to county offices. My opponent is an Independent with strong Republican support and Glen Morgan is working on his campaign. We need unity in our party to ensure we don't lose ground.**