

Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire 2018

Submission Note: The submission deadline for this questionnaire is September 5th 2018 12:01 PM PST. It must be submitted to waprogressives@gmail.com to be considered

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: David (Dave) Daggett

Position Sought: State House

Campaign Manager: Nathan Schneider

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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/hr

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I support collective bargaining and will support laws to protect our state from some of the terrible policy coming out of the other Washington.

Education

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

As an educator, it always made things difficult for me, and the whole class, when a student was at a much lower proficiency. I don't support passing a student along if he/she isn't ready academically. At the same time, it is an educator's job to make help each student improve. High stakes testing just gets in the way of an educator doing their job. It often leads to teaching how to pass a test instead of comprehension. This environment impedes student growth and infringes on the progress educators can make with students, which is why I don't support high stakes testing.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

They are a bad Idea. They'll take away funding from public schools where everyone has a chance at success.

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Environment

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

(1) Encourage the US Gov't to take another look at Low Energy Nuclear Reaction (LENR) technology that was prematurely dismissed in 1989. (2) Fight Trump's efforts to privatize everything. That includes passing laws here in Washington to protect Washingtonians from obvious attempts to undercut the EPA. (3). As an owner of a Volt, solar panels, and a tractor that runs on biodiesel, I strongly support state incentives for renewable energy and sustainable transport.

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

If there is a price put on carbon pollution, the market will likely find the most efficient pathway to get off fossil fuels. Besides LENR, my pet project would be a woodchip-to-biofuel (or biobutanol) refinery that'd be synergistically linked into our local lumber mill.

Finance/Taxation

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

It was bad monetary guidelines that led to the 2008 financial meltdown. Trump is returning us to those pre-meltdown days of lax policy. Once again, we need to protect Washingtonians from many of the deregulations that are aimed at helping special interests and billionaires and not the middle class.

What solutions do you propose to fix WA State's highly regressive tax system? *A capital gains tax, which would only affect the 1% (those making over \$667,000/year). I would use that money to help fund schools and lower property taxes, especially for our seniors.*

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.

Ensuring quality healthcare has been one of my main platforms. I'm fully aware that special interests like the pharmaceutical and insurance companies are making so much money right now on our present system that they will fight tooth and nail to protect it.

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

I support fighting back against Trump and the Republican's plan to cut Medicare & Medicaid by over \$500B, while giving the 1% another \$100B tax credit. That's bad federal policy and it hurts our state as well.

Security/Public Safety

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

I don't think it is a good idea to be giving the police equipment that was designed for the military. Instead, de-escalation training should be encouraged.

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

I was taught that there is a tradeoff in security and privacy. I support many of the compromise bills in the state such as the drone bill that restricted certain private use so that they don't invade others privacy or fall out of the sky and kill someone, but that also allows access to folks like Fire and Rescue so that they can be deployed to help save lives in incidents such as the tragic Oso slide.

General

Do you consider yourself a Democrat? **Yes**

Do you consider yourself a progressive? **Yes**

Why?

I have a lot of policy positions that I'm passionate about, although at this point in time I believe the most pressing issue facing our nation is the erosion of our democratic norms. We need democratic leaders to step up at all levels of government. That's why I'm running.

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

I disagree with any notion that says Democrats are not the party of fiscal responsibility. I strongly believe in the power of work for those who are physically and mentally capable of doing so. I support education that helps them get skills that'll be necessary for the workplace. This is one of the biggest complaints I hear against Democrats – that they coddle the poor and don't encourage them to work. That's simply untrue. We are the party that gets people back to work and provides for a strong middle class.

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 time running for office. However, we've been part of Faith Action Network, a progressive faith-based advocacy group, for many years. I learned that some legislators pass legislation that is based on their own personal enrichment, instead of what their constituents may want.

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

I'm PCO of Harstine Island, and webmaster/executive committee member of Mason County Democrats and the 35th LD Democrats.

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

Besides Trump, it is income inequality. A high earners Capital Gains tax would make our system less regressive and help fund education as well as reducing regressive property taxes.

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

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There are dozens. I mentioned rising property taxes and falling school funding. I realize that we have slowly added school funding, but we have not made any structural changes to prevent a loss again if there is a recession. We need to address our regressive tax system.

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?

Yes, it's a very republican area yet we won the primary. Special interest money will be flowing to my opponent. I need your help to win! We are doorbelling, phone banking, and raising money to get our message out to voters.