

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire 2019

**Submission Note:** The submission deadline for this questionnaire is 12:01 PM PT, ten days prior to the membership meeting where the candidate's endorsement will be considered. Please refer to the questionnaire deadline and meeting date here:

<https://waprogressives.org/endorsements/endorsement-policy-and-timeline/>.

□ This questionnaire must be submitted to [waprogressives@gmail.com](mailto: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: James Bible**

**Position Sought: Bellevue City Council**

**Campaign Manager: Clarence Gunn**

**Consultant: Riall Johnson**

**Campaign Email: [jbible@jamesbibleforcouncil.com](mailto:jbible@jamesbibleforcouncil.com), [info@jamesbibleforcouncil.com](mailto:info@jamesbibleforcouncil.com)**

**Campaign Phone: 425-64-8514**

**Website: [www.jamesbibleforcouncil.com](http://www.jamesbibleforcouncil.com)**

**Campaign Address: 14205 SE 36th St. Suite 301 Bellevue, WA 98006**

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

## Questions:

### Labor

Do you support raising the minimum wage in your local jurisdiction if state and federal action continues to be stalled? To what level?

Yes, \$20 an hour is barely sufficient for a living wage.

### Education

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

High Stakes standardized testing has disproportionately hurt communities that don't have the resources to prepare students for a universal test that is not adaptive to their communities. Even by studying for these tests, we are telling many kids that their priorities are not important.

### Environment

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What can be accomplished at the local level to promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources?

I will advocate for proposals that will move to make all city and county vehicles used by my city electric, starting with public transportation.

## Finance/Taxation

What will you do to support public banking at the local level?

The city gets to choose which bank it uses. It's possible to create a city bank, and I would definitely support that, although the most plausible route at this time is a state public bank, which my city could easily switch to. More city officials voicing support for this path can help empower state officials to make this happen.

## 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'm for a single payer system. It's maddening that we still refuse to change our current system after countless other countries have shown us how much better single payer is.

## Security/Public Safety

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

If you know my history, I have spent most of my career keeping law enforcement accountable. Establishing trust between our communities and law enforcement can only come with accountability. On the city council, I can ensure that certain standards are met by police in Bellevue.

## General

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

I am a long time member of the Democratic Party. I am definitely a progressive. I have spent my life fighting for the rights of civil rights of people of color as an attorney, and I usually only see the progressive wing of the party do the same.

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

The WA democratic platform seems to cover a lot of good issues. As far as I can tell, it's hard to find anything to disagree with. I just wish there was more action being done around them. Intention does not mean much without action, and I hope to provide a means for more action by the Democratic Party.

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- 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 campaign.

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

I was a State Committee Person for the 41st LD.

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

Representation. I have always been concerned that many voices from marginalized communities aren't being heard in my city council. Bellevue is a wealthy city and often the issues affecting poor people can get swept under the rug. I plan to make sure there is significant outreach to include more voices at council hearings and policy implementation. This is the best way we can ensure human and civil rights are protected on the council.

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

I plan to address many issues in my campaign. green space protections, affordable housing, and living wages. My approach to implement these is to start with the communities most impacted by these policies first.

- 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?

The incumbent for the position I am running for is a Republican, and there is a significant conservative presence in my region. I do believe I have a great chance at winning, as other democrats in my region have as well. My campaign just started last week, yet we have already gotten the endorsements of the King County Young Democrats, 41st LD Democrats, and the 48th LD democrats. I plan to gain even more momentum and support as the campaign progresses.