

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 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: Tammy Morales

Position Sought: Seattle City Council, District 2

Campaign Manager: Supreet Kuar

Consultant: Prism Washington

Campaign Email: Tammy@votefortammy.com

Campaign Phone: 206-399-0478

Website: www.votefortammy.com

Campaign Address: PO Box 20655 Seattle, WA 98102

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 dollars an hour.

Education

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

They are not a sufficient way to determine success for our children. I would lower the stakes and consequences of these tests, as well as work to phase them out completely. There are many other proven methods with critical thinking lessons that can be utilized to measure success. Students show strengths and weaknesses in multiple different areas; we should celebrate and amplify these unique strengths and not punish shortcomings.

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Environment

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

I plan to propose and follow through with implementing a Green New Deal for Seattle. Our public transportation system should be switching entirely to electric by yesterday.

Finance/Taxation

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

I would love to see my city create a public bank or invest with one at the state level. This is a heavy lift, but one I will be proud to do, and it is long overdue.

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 am definitely for Medicare for All. It is common sense and the resistance to it is clearly fueled by corporate interests. It saves lives, money, and time to have a single payer system.

Security/Public Safety

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

Seattle has fallen out of compliance with the consent decree placed on it, so there is much work to do when I get in office to ensure we get them back in compliance. I plan to go further to find ways to reduce negative interactions between police and our people, eliminate bail, and invest in more diversion programs that are more effective and less costly than using our jails as a quick solution.

General

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

I am a progressive Democrat. It is the party that is open to my values, has the ability to make the changes to our society that are needed, and is willing to adapt to the times. Being a progressive Democrat also means I am frequently frustrated with my party for not fighting hard enough, but I still feel welcomed by being able to voice my concerns within the party.

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

The principles expressed in this platform are key to a healthy democracy. I will constantly push the party to fight harder for these values that they support but are not putting enough effort behind.

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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?

I ran for this same position in 2015 and lost to the incumbent by 344 votes. I learned that hard work will get you far, but preparation and strategy are just as essential. I have an amazing group of people from my community that are helping me with this race and I am confident that we have done everything needed to win this election.

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

Yes. I'm an acting pco and have been off an on for the last several years. In 2016 I served on the endorsement committee for the KC Dems.

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

It's almost impossible to narrow it down to just one issue because there are many that are equally important. And the urgency of one issue doesn't necessarily make one less urgent. For my district, the most important issue in this race is displacement, because it affects so many people and so many other issues are tied to it. People are being displaced due to multiple factors, such as rising rents, property taxes, lack of affordable housing, homeless sweeps, and lack of environmental equity. I plan to implement multiple policies to help fix these, such as land use policies, low income housing subsidies, landlord and tenant standards, and a Green New Deal for Seattle.

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

As previously implied, I don't like to consider other issues as less important. I plan to get many things done in office, so many issues will get worked on at the same time. I want to invest in better childcare for our working families, bring better equity for our schools, create better health care options, reform our criminal justice system, and implement progressive taxation to hold our large corporations accountable to re-investing in our city. I make sure that the communities that are most impacted by these issues are at the forefront of developing my policies and that race and social justice is centered in all policy implementation considerations.

- 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 not in a heavily Republican area, but we are seeing a rise in conservative voices in my region. It is mostly focused on our homeless situation and they are constantly calling for the most punitive solutions possible, which is also the most expensive. We need to be bolder in our progressive policies and stand behind them when we bring them forward. People usually tend to show up more in city halls to fight against things they don't like. I want to empower my communities to show up and support progressive proposals to display that these types of policies are what we want as a whole.