

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: Phyllis Booth

Position Sought: Olympia City Council Position 2

Campaign Manager: James Booth

Consultant: Beverly Torgeson, Doug Benson, Pat Arnone Jeff Booth, Jeffrey Booth Jr.s

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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?

I support labor. I am free labor myself. Raising wages is too long overdue the past 40 years. The economy would prosper more with a \$15 dollar wage at the very least and more. I just wish more people cared about other people. Greed has ruined America the last 40 years. I remember when people cared more and labor was respected and businesses cared more too.

Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? I am not a fan of high stakes testing. Too much teaching time is lost with chronic testing. I am 58 years old and we did not have this high stakes testing junk and I had a lot of fine low paid teachers who had a wonderful effect on my life. They deserved more pay, but they were wonderful teachers anyway. Yes, I had a few bad teachers, but mostly good ones. I think we should be evaluating our politicians and Wall Street barons and leave teachers alone.

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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? We can first educate people about alternative energy such as solar panels and how they can sell their energy. We can also start programs that further enhance our consciousness about alternative energy. At our Faith link Sunday school class, we discussed which cars use the least gas and have the best energy conservation. Lots of communication stirs up ways to live more respectfully in our current world. Unfortunately, our Port of Olympia ships our best timber and has for years. We simply have to combat the political apathy and educate people to come to public hearings and testify about ways to stop unhealthy developments. When you testify at a public hearing you should write the testimony down, make a copy for the council and keep one yourself. When you testify and if you sue the city say as an environmental group you have legal standing. However, it is very important that a great Hearings Examiner is hired as that person's decisions can have the most dire effects on the environment of a city.

Finance/Taxation

What will you do to support public banking at the local level? I went to a state bank hearing at the legislature and learned how Washington State would actually be a lot better off with that model. I belong to a credit union. I would encourage the city to do more business with credit unions. As a council member I am for keeping our money more local as too much goes out of the area in the form of bonds for our buildings.

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 for Medicare for All. Medical care should NEVER, EVER BE FOR PROFIT period. We are all one medical crisis away from being homeless. This issue is HUGE and shows how morally bankrupt the majority of our leaders are. I feel very strongly about this issue as I am a nurse and this issue is very personal, as I have family and friends who have suffered under our medical nightmare.

Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? First, I would listen well to all those who have been affected and gather their ideas for solutions. I have always felt that we need an appointed citizen review board that would consist of people who have been affected directly, have all economic classes represented, have all races and genders. That is, have a very diverse group in chronic conversation with one another and breed understanding and great solutions to advise the council. I am torn on this issue as we do live in a very dangerous world right now. Few places have Andy Griffith and Barney Fife and there are mass shootings. I need to study this issue more.

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General

- Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why? I consider myself a NON-CORPORATE DEMOCRAT. I am an Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat. I do not approve of the policies of Clinton nor Obama. I support Bernie Sanders and Tulsi Gabbard. The term progressive has been slandered too much lately.
- What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (← click link to view) do you disagree with? Why? I agree with most all of it and have read it more than once. What I have a problem with is that most all of our public officials do NOT seem to care about these ideas once in office. I will NOT follow their example.
- 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 city council in 2005. I have worked on tons of campaigns. Being a candidate is exciting and exhausting. It is very hard on your family life too, as you give up all forms of any leisure time. However, I am proud that I helped stop a tax payer funded conference center in Olympia Washington in 2003 by gathering 3,000 signatures myself.
- Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices?

I am going into my 8th year of being a precinct officer. I have been a legislative district chair and I have been a chief cook for Democratic functions and a chief custodian of setting up and taking down chairs and tables for meetings and bringing speakers and stuff for set up. I think this question ought to ask “who does the grunt work”? Leaders do a lot of the work, yes, but a lot of people do the unsung labor that few people notice like arranging meeting space, bringing supplies, taking people home who do not have cars, and people who designed these questionnaires, read them, etc.
- What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? What proposals do you have for dealing with it? I think our city council needs someone who will ask pointed, uncomfortable questions. I am not the type of person who is a “yes” person and goes along to get along. I do try to be fair, but I know that America has a long history of being absolutely cruel to poor people and people of color. I would like to educate people how to use City Government to empower themselves and work for the greater good of the community and not for selected special interests. I would like to get more affordable housing. I would like to work with the surrounding cities to use our public resources better.
- Are there also important secondary issues? Describe your approach to implementing solutions?

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- There are so many secondary issues as that would take a book. I want to get people excited about our city and create community and lots of buzzing conversations conducted with civility. We have had great role models in the past and present to follow. Eve Johnson, Mary Murphy, Chris Carson in how to fight City Hall for the needs of the 99 percent.
- 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 have been talking and listening to people all of my life about politics. People call me and ask who to vote for. I never met a stranger and I talk politics immediately with most anyone. No fear here. No one has accused me of being quiet about politics, ever.