

Submission Note: The submission deadline for this questionnaire is 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: The Washington State Progressive Caucus supports candidates 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: Jason Call

Position Sought: US Representative

Campaign Manager: Gray Petersen.

Consultant: We have a strong team. I could provide names if needed. People who worked on Sarah Smith's campaign and other organizers.

Campaign Email: [callforcongress@gmail.com](mailto:callforcongress@gmail.com)

Campaign Phone: 425-691-6631

Website: [callforcongress.com](http://callforcongress.com) (Launching weekend of 8/24)

Campaign Address: PO Box 1887, Marysville WA 98270

Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? YES

#### Labor

Do you support raising state and federal minimum wages? To what level? **Currently I am supporting a \$20 minimum wage. By the time \$15 is implemented federally, it won't be enough if we continue current rates of inflation. Start fighting for \$20 now, and when \$15 passes, start fighting for \$25.**

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier? **I support the Employee Free Choice Act and the repeal of Taft-Hartley. I support the elimination of 'at will' employment. I support federally mandated worker representation on corporate boards.**

#### Education

What is your opinion of high stakes testing? How would you change the way students and teachers are evaluated? **I was a public high school math teacher for 18 years. I firmly oppose high stakes standardized testing. I opt my own kids out of these tests every year. (You can too - the quickest way to break a bad system is non-participation.) I have seen first hand the impact of these tests on teachers' capacity to focus on their students,**

on the time the tests take away from learning and engagement, and the impact that using these tests punitively has on school funding. At the 2014 WEA RA, I wrote 4 NBIs regarding standardized testing - that the WEA takes positions of yearly evaluations of standardized testing effectiveness, that we take a position of support of opting out, that we oppose their use in teacher evaluations, and that the WEA sanction a statewide boycott of standardized testing.

Student and teacher evaluations are a complex thing to get into on a questionnaire. A wide range of input in evaluation is sometimes appropriate, sometimes not. One of the things that helps students learn the best is a healthy student-teacher ratio. Overcrowding of classrooms necessarily limits student-teacher contact, which impacts learning. It's hard to justify evaluating a teacher based on student performance or growth metrics when the situation is less than ideal. I've been in ideal and non-ideal teaching situations, and the differences are stark. Student growth, however, should be a factor in teacher evaluations, but I also believe there are other more holistic factors that can be applied.

What is your opinion of charter schools? **No thank you.**

Environment

How would you promote development of alternative energy and prevent privatization of natural resources? **I am supportive of the Green New Deal and believe that we need to end the use of fossil fuels as energy sources. Energy sources and natural resources are vital to human existence and generally should not be privatized.**

What are your plans for increasing investments in renewable forms of energy production? What types of renewable energy do you favor most? **I believe in investments in mass transit, especially rail and electric bus. I have owned a hybrid vehicle since 2010 (made in USA, Ford), and I have a 4kW solar system on my house. My solar panel inverter was made in Marysville (my home town) and my panels are US made. I believe we should subsidize homeowners and property owners in retrofitting buildings with panels. I'm also supportive of other forms of renewables, such as wind and geothermal. I also believe we need to change our national consciousness in terms of energy consumption. The US military is the largest polluter on the planet. A reduction in military energy needs will be huge...this is a rabbit hole, because it ultimately requires the US to not be an imperialist nation.**

## Finance/Taxation

What would you do to facilitate implementation of public banking and monetary reform? **I'm in support of a Washington State bank (not a federal issue, but I have publicly supported it). I believe the Fed should be audited. I believe in federal limits on credit/loan interest and fees. I support the principles of Modern Monetary Theory.**

How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America? **Tax the rich. (Do I need to say more?)**

## 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 in full support of HR 1384 National Improved Medicare For All. I am a board member of Whole Washington and am excited to launch this year's campaign to bring single payer healthcare to Washington State. We will be filing an initiative to the legislature in 2020 (and please everyone help gather signatures and donate at [wholewashington.org](http://wholewashington.org))**

What policies do you oppose and what policies would you promote with respect to Social Security and Medicare? **I support increasing and expanding Social Security, and I am in full support of all aspects of HR 1384. The current Medicare system is insufficient. It does not cover enough and providers often do not get paid enough. HR 1384 will expand coverage and increase payments to providers.**

## Security/Public Safety

How would you act to stop the militarization of local police forces and establish civilian oversight of law enforcement? **I oppose the militarization of the police. I support increased oversight of police conduct. I support police forces to represent their communities. I support federal investigations of any police involved shootings. I support increased screenings of police applicants to reduce hiring of police with racist and violent tendencies. I believe that it is vital to elect mayors and city councils that will implement stronger oversight, and hire police chiefs that have a real interest in public safety.**

How would you preserve national security while protecting American's right to privacy? **The Patriot Act & Patriot Act II overreach constitutionality and breach the 4th Amendment. I do not support domestic spying. I also believe that, generally, our government keeps too**

many secrets. I am opposed to living in a security state, ostensibly under the eye of Big Brother (under His eye?) I believe we can maintain national and domestic security without violating civil rights.

General

- Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why? **Yes, I am a Democrat. I participated in my first primary in 1992 (and voted for Bill Clinton, who ended up with no delegates from my precinct). I have not always voted for Democrats, but I have never voted for a Republican or a Libertarian. I have voted for Green Party candidates. I currently represent the 44th LD on the WSDCC. I have chaired the Snohomish County Platform Committee, and introduced many resolutions to both the Snohomish County Democrats, the 44th Legislative District. The Snohomish County Platform Committee wrote the majority of the current Reasonable Firearms Control resolution. I wrote the resolution for candidates to reject PAC contributions from health insurance and pharma industry, and the resolution to oppose DCCC blacklisting policy. I was involved in the creation of the Separation of Church and State Caucus (SOCAS), which I currently chair. I am a member of the Progressive Caucus, the Environmental Caucus, and a founding member of the Economic Justice Caucus. Yes, I am a Progressive. I hold that word close and dear. I believe in fairness and justice. I am anti-fascist and anti-racist. I am anti-imperialist. I oppose oligarchy and support democracy.**
- What parts, if any, of the Washington State Democratic Party Platform ( [click link to view](#)) do you disagree with? Why? **I think the State party platform is a badass document, and I'm proud to have helped write it. Now, let's get some Congressional representation that reflects it.**
- 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 Marysville City Council in 2017. I did not make it through the primary, but I received 28.5% in a first effort with no campaign manager and no real team. I have a great team right now, and it will only get better. I have been involved in campaigns since I volunteered for Howard Dean in 2003, where I got to know many activists that I still work with. I volunteered for Dennis Kucinich in 2007, and then for Barack Obama in the 2008 general. (Less enthusiastic in 2012...) I volunteered for I-1433 (minimum wage) and I-735 (overturn Citizens United) in 2016, I-1600 (single payer) in 2018, and back in 2012 I was the 11th highest volunteer signature gatherer in the state for I-502 (legalize cannabis).**

- Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices? **Yes. I have been a PCO in the 44th LD since 2016. I formerly was State Committee for Snohomish County, and am currently State Committee for the 44th LD.**

- What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? What proposals do you have for dealing with it? **I believe that our current representation is insufficient, not progressive, and corporate owned. Our current representative supported the 2005 Bankruptcy Reform Act, TPP, refuses to support M4A, and only in a very limited sense has made motions towards the provisions in the GND. He has been in office for nearly 20 years, and I believe it is time to DEMAND BETTER. If we are going to have a progressive as President in 2020, that President will need progressive support in Congress. The Squad needs to grow its membership.**

- Are there also important secondary issues? Describe your approach to implementing solutions? **The thing about being a progressive is that ALL issues are both important and connected. While I believe that the climate crisis is of singular global importance, healthcare is as important nationally, and should be supported concurrently - along with criminal justice reform, economic reform, and a host of other issues. We can do it all at once with enough people who are motivated and activated. Furthermore, time is running out on the planet.**

- 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 a reasonable chance of moving to the general election. At that point it will be up to the people to decide if they want real change. I am a progressive leader on a number of activist issues, and will continue those efforts - locally if I lose, nationally if I win. CD2 is a D +10 district. There is almost no danger of losing this seat to a Republican, and it is ripe for progressive representation.**