

# Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire 2019

**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:** Beth Doglio

**Position Sought:** House of Representatives, WA-10

**Campaign Manager:** We are in the process of hiring a campaign manager.

**Consultant:** Erin Schultz and Christian Sinderman, NWP Consulting

**Campaign Email:** info@bethdoglio.com

**Campaign Phone:** 360-628-0935

**Website:** BethDoglio.com

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 301, Olympia, WA 98507

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

## Labor

### Do you support raising state and federal minimum wages? To what level?

Everyone ought to have a living wage – I'm proud Washington has the highest minimum wage of any state in the country thanks to the labor movement, now it's time to bring that nationwide. The last time the federal minimum wage was increased was more than a decade ago – that's way too long to go without giving America's working people a much-deserved raise. In Washington, we've shown that a high minimum wage doesn't crash the economy, but actually grows it. I support increasing the minimum wage federally to \$15, phased in over several years and indexing it to match inflation, so that we don't allow the federal minimum wage to stagnate again.

### What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I strongly support the PRO Act. Though it is not expected to get a fair look in the Senate this year, I would proudly support it next session if I am elected to Congress, including serving as a co-sponsor. While states are continuing to pass laws that gut the ability for workers to organize, we have an obligation to stand with the labor community and strengthen federal protections for workers. This is a truly comprehensive bill that would go a long way in enshrining ambitious – and necessary – rights for workers, including card check, reversing 'right-to-work' laws, and prevention of employer interference in union organizing. As I have in the Legislature, I would also work individually and collaboratively with unions and labor groups to fight for their specific priorities.

As a legislator, I served as a member of the Labor and Workplace Standards committee, passed a bill to allow part-time state employees the right to organize, and worked with the Building Trades on strengthening our prevailing wage laws.

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## Education

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

We certainly need to reduce the weight and importance put on standardized tests. These kinds of evaluation measures create perverse incentives – teachers teach to a test, not the skills and tools kids actually need to succeed, and schools in low income neighborhoods are viewed as low performing regardless of context when their scores come in lower. Worse yet, when teacher and student performance are evaluated based solely on these results, it leads good teachers to avoid neighborhoods and schools in need of the most help, and students face escalating pressure to score highly in order to graduate on time.

There can still be a place for tests in our schools, but we have got to be using multiple data points, not just one style of test that can be misleading. We need to take a more holistic measure of student growth – looking at how much students have learned, not just how well they can take a test. If elected, I would work with teachers (and with their organizations like AFT, WEA, and NEA), students, parents, experts, and school administration to support testing and evaluation reform that actually makes sense for all the different kinds of schools and students around the country.

### **What is your opinion of charter schools?**

I do not support charter schools. Public funds should go to public schools. We should be focused on creating the best public schools possible, not diverting those resources elsewhere and then wondering why our schools aren't seen as better performing. I do support creating different programs within our districts that give children and their families options that approach learning in different ways. We have many fine programs throughout the 10th CD and I would look at ways to increase funding for a variety of creative programs through magnet type funding at the federal level.

## Environment

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

This is a critical issue to me and it's a main reason why I jumped into this race. We must develop a clean energy economy – and we need to do it now, there can be no further delay if we're going to prevent irreversible warming of the planet.

I support a total ban on new leasing of public lands for fossil fuel extraction, along with an end to offshore drilling. Our planet as we know it simply cannot survive continued expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, and in fact, we need to continue our push to close existing coal plants and other fossil fuel infrastructure.

We need to protect our public lands, national parks, and our country's natural resources. That means both prioritizing conservation and cleaning up already existing pollution. We've got to end subsidies and tax breaks for fossil fuel companies (generating billions that could go toward clean energy development) as well as actually hold them accountable for the pollution they've created.

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

I think investments are key – frankly, we need to put together one of the largest infrastructure and investment bills in the history of our country – a policy based Green New Deal. By making large investments in the research, development, rapid expansion, and implementation of renewable energy, we can put our country on the right track to 100% clean energy. That will also require viewing this effort through the lens of environmental justice, making sure disenfranchised communities who have faced the greatest burden of pollution are the first to receive support.

Energy efficiency tops the list. The best and cheapest form of energy is the energy we don't use. Investing in deep energy efficiency retrofits akin to my first in the nation Green Buildings bill is a must along with strong building codes that put us on the path to net zero buildings by 2050. Beyond that, I believe carbon reduction policies should remain technology neutral and allow for the ingenuity of the nation to lead us into a carbon free future. We must continue to push for the Investment and Production Tax Credits at the federal level and I have been very engaged in incentivizing solar at the state level including priming a community solar bill aiming to make the clean energy transition accessible to low income people this year. While the climate crisis offers a severe challenge for our country, it also provides a real opportunity to push America to create a clean energy economy that can lead the world. With the right leadership, American can revitalize its manufacturing sector (and labor protections alongside it), producing solar panels, wind turbine parts, state-of-the-art batteries, electric cars, and more. We can create millions of good paying, union jobs, along with investments in a 'just transition' and workforce training, so that no one is left behind, and all can participate in the clean energy revolution.

## **Finance/Taxation**

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

After the Wells Fargo scandal, the latest in a series of major examples of wrongdoing by this country's financial systems, it's more clear than ever that we need strong, stringent regulations on America's banks, rather than gutting existing regulations as the Trump Administration has done. We cannot allow banks to take advantage of America's consumers and run rampant in regards to corruption – something has to be done.

I'd gladly work to implement some of the anti-corruption plans proposed by Senator Elizabeth Warren, taking on shell companies, addressing offshore accounts, and expanding disclosure requirements both at home and abroad. And, I'd also be interested in learning more about how we can expand access to public banking in every community in the United States, especially minority and marginalized communities who in some cases have the least access to wealth, including from local banks, but still ought to be able to buy a house or start a business.

This isn't an issue that will be solved overnight, but also certainly won't get solved on it's own. No amount of 'self-regulation' will lead to the change we need.

I believe Washington State has a unique model with the Public Works Trust Fund that provides low interest loans and technical assistance to communities for a variety of infrastructure projects (sewer,

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water, roads). Serving as the lead negotiator on a bill to improve this program, I would explore work in this space were I to be elected to Congress.

## **How would you restructure the federal taxation system to address the growing problem of income inequality in America?**

Step one: Reverse and eliminate the Trump tax breaks that went almost exclusively to the wealthiest Americans and the largest corporations. Workers have hardly (if at all) seen wages rise, instead savings went to stock buy-backs and other methods of growing corporate wealth. We've got to address that and reverse the trend of giving the rich and corporations tax breaks when they're already not paying their fair share.

Income inequality is one of the most serious and destructive problems facing America. In addition to expanding protections for workers and strengthening the right to organize, the tax code is one of the most important levers we have to address income inequality. We have to create a progressive tax system in this country that ensures everyone is paying their fair share, if elected, that's something I would make a priority to fight for. As a state legislator, I introduced a bill that would have levied a surcharge on companies whose CEOs make more than 50 times their median employee. I find corporate CEO pay in this country reprehensible when so many are living on the edge. It just really pisses me off. I would work on policies to tax the rich, their capital gains and inheritance.

## **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. It's clear our healthcare system is broken and costs are out of control. We need a streamlined system that ensures everyone has access to healthcare, regardless of income level or zip code. Moving to an MFA system will be incredibly difficult, and it's important that we build out a transition plan that makes sense for getting everyone covered, collaborating with stakeholders and service providers to address their concerns and needs, and developing a funding source that is stable and reliable.

Again, the amount of excess in CEO pay and reserve funds in our healthcare system is reprehensible while 70 million people remain un- or underinsured. Healthcare is a right and there is no question in my mind that we can have a system that cares for every single person in this country that will leave middle income people with more money in their pocket at the end of the day. Excessive co-pays, premiums and deductibles in a system with in and out of network providers, surprise billing, and catastrophic incidents leading to Go Fund Me campaigns has got to go.

I will work with and sign onto bills put forward by other progressive leaders in Congress to help further develop this plan, and I'm also committed to working on other reforms to bring down the cost of healthcare in the event we do not elect a pro-MFA majority in the next session.

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

I will always oppose cuts to Social Security and to Medicare. We need to enhance and protect these bedrock American services. Outside of Medicare for All, I have a number of ideas on how to build on

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Medicare, including lowering the age to join and allowing the United States government to negotiate drug prices, all of which should bring down costs and improve care. While conservatives seem dead set on weakening Social Security and Medicare, I will be an unyielding advocate and vote for protecting and strengthening them.

## Security/Public Safety

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

This is an area where the federal government must work with local and state government to implement effective police and criminal justice reform. The level of police violence in this country is wrong, and disproportionately affects men of color at a rate that is wholly unacceptable. I not only voted for I-940 in the legislature (and on the ballot), I dropped the first bill of the session on this topic in 2016 - HB1000. This initiative will lead to significant reform in how we train our police and how they are held accountable in the event of police violence.

The final bill we passed in the legislature included reforms approved by both police and by activists – getting consensus on this issue is not impossible, it just takes real work. If I am elected to Congress, I am confident I can work with activists, criminal justice reform experts, local governments, and police leaders to develop reform that actually addresses this issue and creates safer communities for police and neighbors both.

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

I strongly believe we can have national security without violating the right of Americans to privacy. It starts by actually looking at how we can curtail the overreach of the Patriot Act and the NSA's extensive domestic surveillance program, where we have little data to support the notion they are actually keeping the country safe.

We need to make sure that our intelligence agencies are following the law when they spy on Americans – that means legal warrants signed by a judge based on real, probable cause. It also means we need to hold our intelligence agencies accountable, demand actual data for how these programs are being used, and, working with legal scholars, national security experts, and privacy activists, determine how these programs can be reformed to protect our privacy and our country.

## General

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

I do consider myself both a Democrat and a progressive. I believe in ideas and values that will make this country better for everyone – equity, diversity, fairness, and justice. I've spent my life and my time in the legislature fighting for progress on the issues Democrats care about: the environment, choice, an economy that works for everyone. And now I'm running for Congress to support ambitious and progressive policies like a Green New Deal and Medicare for All. This is all to say, my values are progressive values and my goals are progressive goals, and that's the unwavering vision I would bring to Congress, if elected.

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

The link is not working.

- **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, and was elected, State Representative in 2016, but I have been an organizer all my life. Starting with fighting to pass the ERA through the legislature in my native Illinois, I developed an understanding that we need to act to put our values into effect – otherwise, it won't just happen on its own. I helped elect Jolene Unsoeld to Congress, worked as an organizer at NARAL to help elect Congressman Adam Smith, and have participated in countless local and state campaigns since then. At Climate Solutions, I was the campaign director for the Power Past Coal campaign. Across every campaign, I've learned how to set smart and achievable goals, communicate a clear and distinct message, and build coalitions that convince voters and win elections. I am happy to provide a complete list of campaigns I have worked on - there are many!

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

I ran for PCO in Seattle not knowing that Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson was the PCO, and didn't win! While I haven't ever been an officer, I have been active with the 36th District Dems, the Thurston, Lewis and Grays Harbor, Monroe, IN County Dems. Many years of meetings!

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

The single greatest motivator for my run for this office is that the stakes are too high – on climate, on guns, on housing, on choice, on issues affecting working families – we need progressive leadership. We're just not seeing the leadership we need at the federal level. My top priority is climate change – we have a limited amount of time to act and the consequences of failing to do that are severe. As mentioned earlier in the questionnaire, we need to move to 100% clean energy, along with clean buildings and clean transportation. I will apply my decades of experience on this issue, along with the bold legislation we've passed here in Washington state, to fight for a Green New Deal, environmental justice, and the detailed and specific policies that will allow us to defeat this crisis.

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

Our nation's housing crisis is unacceptable. The cost of housing has soared, the supply of housing stock has dwindled, and too many neighbors are sleeping on the streets instead of in safety. I'm committed to increasing funding for affordable housing, building that housing, and then working to improve services and support for the homeless. We need leaders who understand this is a multifaceted issue, and one that will require cooperation and collaboration between the federal, local, and state governments. I've been a leader on this issue in Washington state, securing millions for affordable housing and services, and I'll bring the exact same approach to Congress.

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- **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 running in a particularly Republican district, but I do think it's important to do outreach to all of my future constituents. I've lived in the district for 22 years – while we may not agree on all the issues, we share the same communities and many of the same values, and, if elected, I will represent everyone, not just the people who voted for me. My service as a legislator has proven that I can maintain my progressive values and work across the caucus and the aisle to actually get things done.