Washington State Progressive Caucus Questionnaire 2020

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 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: Glenda Breiler
Position Sought: State Representative for LD 22
Campaign Manager: Chiara Diangelo
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Campaign Address: P.O. Box 2394
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?

Yes, $15 for federal, $20 to state.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

Protecting workers from retaliation from their executives.

Education

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

Our children who graduate high school will spend more than 13,000 hours in K-12 classrooms. Let's make those hours well spent using the best available research on childhood and adolescent development and educational pedagogies.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

I am not a fan of charter schools.

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For the past 20 years, I have worked in higher education at institutions such as the University of Washington, Edmonds Community College, Western Washington University, and Evergreen State College where she currently works as the Director of the Evergreen Longhouse. I speak from experience when I say our communities deserve to see positive changes within our educational institutions. As a Colville tribal member, I have experienced first-hand the effects of historically driven education inequality and I have dedicated large parts of my life to working with underserved and marginalized, low income, and first generation students.

Environment

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

My family has lived on the waters of Washington State for thousands of years and it is in my lifeblood to protect these lands from the damages that our energy industries have done. We have the ability to harness energy from the wind and the sun, and I plan to pass legislation to expedite the implementation of these alternative sources.

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

We need to incentivize the investments into renewable energy production. Making it easier and cheaper to use these forms of energy will expedite the implementation of these methods.

Finance/Taxation

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

Support legislation to implement a public state bank when I'm elected.

What solutions do you propose to fix WA State's highly regressive tax system?

We need to pass a capital gains tax and an income tax on the wealthy in this state to ease the burden placed on working families. I will support this type of legislation when proposed.

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.

We need a single payer system now. This recent Covid-19 outbreak has shown just how imperative it is for it to happen sooner rather than later.

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

I would support a capital gains and income tax to fund Medicare For All, and push for legislation to shift us back to public pensions versus the 401k retirements we're going with that are too dependent on the markets.

Security/Public Safety

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

Police have been abusing my people since the first colonizers arrived and I will make it a priority to increase accountability across the state.

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

Facial recognition is a threat to our privacy everywhere, and I plan to block legislation that grants law enforcement the ability to use it. I'm running for a statewide office, so I plan to focus on state security, and that includes the security of my constituents, even when it's from the people that are supposed to provide the security.

General

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

Yes and yes. I'm a progressive because progressive policies are the only way to advance our society forward without leaving the rest of us behind.

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

Not that I have seen so far.

- 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 election, but I have participated in multiple other elections, most recently the Bernie Sanders presidential primary.

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

No

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

In our lifetime our essential Salish Sea, Coastal and Columbia River ecosystems face irreversible collapse. Our Southern Resident Orcas are dying, to recover their populations we need comprehensive action in restoring our salmon populations within the Salish Sea. With almost 50% of historic diet for L and K pods coming from the Columbia River, no action is comprehensive without restoration of the mighty Columbia. Our communities in the 22nd Legislative district are ready to elect a champion for future generations. I will do everything I can to safeguard our ecosystems for generations to come.

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

If elected, I also plan to focus on environmental protection, education accessibility, affordable housing, protection of women's rights, and creating new jobs around renewable energy

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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?

My district is pretty democratic, and I will mostly be running against other democrats. I believe I have a great chance to win this race. I have been building authentic connections among people here for years through my activism to protect our coast salish seas and plan to keep this kind of passion in my campaign.