

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 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: Ivan Lewis

Position Sought: State Representative, 10th LD, Position 1

Campaign Manager: N/A

Consultant: John Wyble, WinPower Strategies

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Campaign Phone: 425-232-3370

Website: www.ivanlewis.org

Campaign Address: PO Box 433, Greenbank, WA 98253

Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes

Labor

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

I absolutely support raising state and federal minimum wages. I support increasing the Washington State minimum wage to \$15.00/hour with future increases indexed to inflation.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

Opposing right to work legislation is the most important measure. Particularly in the climate of false narratives, we must actively combat misinformation and the lie that is 'right to work'. I support legislation that allows workers their inherent right to collectively bargain. Supporting our workforce is the most important step forward to supporting our economy and our communities.

Education

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

I oppose all forms of high stakes testing for students, schools and faculty. High stakes testing causes undo stress on both teachers and students and doesn't promote quality education. Curriculum standards and evaluations should be an appropriate way of identifying a student's success and teacher evaluations should be a comprehensive look at their ability to teach and their student's success. High stakes testing is not the answer for evaluating education.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

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I oppose privatization of public institutions, including the use of charter schools in our free universal education system. We need to focus on improving funding and resources for public schools to help them succeed, not undermine their foundation.

Environment

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

Green energy must be able to compete within our current energy market. This means ensuring a robust green infrastructure, a just transition for labor, and incentives to allow green energy to fiscally compete. I vehemently oppose the privatization of natural resources and will be steadfast in my resolve to protect the public interest from corporate greed.

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

A transition to renewable energy requires a systemic shift of how we look at our infrastructure and energy sources. We do this by establishing a strong framework of renewable energy through public utility projects, new construction that utilizes renewable energy sources and robust opportunities for workforces to have a just transition to these green solutions. We must increase the resources available to the state's Clean Energy Fund and ensure we appropriately incentivize industry to encourage and help the shift to energy that is sustainable and clean. I favor solar, wind and geothermal energy.

Finance/Taxation

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

I support the creation of a Washington State bank for State managed capital and investment as well as for consumer services. I support legislation and proposals that deter predatory lending and ensure working class families have access to the banking resources they need.

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

I support the replacement of regressive tax structures with progressive ones. Therefore, any progressive tax reform that I would support would be geared toward closing corporate loopholes, reforming the State's B&O tax to be based on profits (not gross sales) and the implementation of other means, income and profit-based taxing mechanisms to replace the regressive taxes like sales tax.

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.

Healthcare is a human right, no one should face uncertainty when it comes to the resources necessary to treat or prevent illness or injury. I am a strong proponent for single payer healthcare, we must ensure that every single person has access to a doctor without fear of financial burden. The benefits in a single payer healthcare system are extensive, from ensuring guaranteed universal coverage for the individual to reducing overhead waste and lost revenue for providers.

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

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I support scrapping the cap on Social Security, reforming Medicare drug plans and including Medicare supplemental coverage within a Washington State 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?

I oppose the practice of providing surplus military equipment to local law enforcement (with the exception of some specialized units). We must also ensure strong separation within police forces of their policing and specialized units. I support the use of civilian commissions as it pertains to oversight.

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

There is very little that can be done by the Washington State legislature to protect an individual's rights in our current national security environment. With that being said, I vehemently oppose the warrantless violations of American's privacy under a broad claim of national security and would support legislation that moves to protect the privacy rights of Washington State residents.

General

- Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Do you consider yourself a progressive? Why?
I am a progressive Democrat. At the core of my progressive values I believe that everyone has a right to healthcare, a right to housing, a right to a living wage, a right to cradle to career education and the right to a decent way of life.
- What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (← click link to view) do you disagree with? Why?
In general, I strongly support our State's progressive platform.
- 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 previously ran for State Representative in the 39th LD. That experience, particularly in such a red district, helped solidify my progressive messaging and views. I have continued to fight for progressive issues and will continue that fight here in the 10th LD.
- Have you ever been a precinct committee officer or held other Democratic organization offices?
PCO Central Whidbey 4 (Appointed)
Chair, Young Democrats of Island County
Membership Chair, Island County Democrats
Bylaws Chair, Snohomish County Democrats (past)
PCO Wallace (past)
Chair, 39th LDDO (past)
- What single issue is the most important motivator for your run for office? What proposals do you have for dealing with it?
Without a doubt, the single issue motivating my run for office is that a failure to act right now will mean that my children and their generation will be far, far worse off than my generation and my parent's generation. Our politicians have become far too beholden to special interests than to

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what is right and just and kind. It's time that we finally implement the policies we have been fighting for for so many years: universal healthcare, cradle to career education, equal pay for equal work, housing first policies and conservation and environmental policies, just to name a few.

- Are there also important secondary issues? Describe your approach to implementing solutions?
As progressives, we often face the problem of how to prioritize the immediate issues, the top priorities, and the existential and moral crises. My views and approach on this are very simple: if we cannot address the immediate quality of one's life and the immediate burden of making ends meet, paying medical debt or getting the training or education you need for a good career, it is not possible for the average household to tackle the long term investments and solutions necessary for the issues that are not felt in their day to day lives.
- 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?
Last cycle Dave Paul unseated the Republican incumbent in Position 2. This year, with the retirement of Norma Smith, there is a clear opportunity for me to win the Position 1 seat. I proved in my race in the 39th LD that I could activate and engage progressive voters in a meaningful way, and I expect no different results in the 10th.