

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: April Berg

Position Sought: State Representative 44th District position 2

Campaign Manager: none

Consultant: Riall Johnson, Prism Consulting

Campaign Email: info@aprilberg.com

Campaign Phone: 425-200-4668

Website: www.AprilBerg.com

Campaign Address: PO Box 14893, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes

Labor

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

I support a living wage for all workers. I support a \$15 an hour minimum wage as a base li

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I will support legislation that will strictly define whether a person is a contractor or employee. I will support legislation and policies that encourage union growth.

Education

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

I do not think that high stakes testing is the best way to evaluate students or teachers. Students exhibit comprehension and mastery through tests and projects during the course of the school year. These items should be used for evaluation.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

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I do not support for profit charter schools in any form. Policy and fiscal oversight is lacking in most charter school models and as a result, I do not support public financing of charter schools.

Environment

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

I will work to prevent the privatization of natural resources. Commoditization of natural resources will lead to increased costs for consumers while decreasing quality control and potentially eliminating our ability to protect these resources. I will support the development of alternative energy.

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

I support renewable forms of energy production. This includes using wind and solar to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity.

Finance/Taxation

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

I support public banking at the local level in order to provide commercial banking services to businesses that may not be able to utilize the federal banking system.

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

Washington has one of the most regressive tax systems in the country. I will support tax legislation that will fund public works, healthcare and education without increasing our dependence on the current regressive tax structure.

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 support Medicare for All. I believe healthcare is a human right. Medicare for All will enable communities to be healthier and service providers will have the ability to provide healthcare vs. sick-care.

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

I oppose policies that would decrease funding for Social Security or Medicare. I will promote policies that expand Medicare to as many people

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Security/Public Safety

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

I would oppose sending surplus military items to local police forces. I am in favor of establishing civilian oversight committees and taskforces.

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

National security can be preserved without sacrificing privacy. I will not support legislation that diminishes individual privacy rights.

General

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

Yes, I am a Democrat. I believe in a woman's right to choose and reproductive freedom; I believe in economic security and that every worker should have the right to organize; I believe that we must combat climate change; and I believe that healthcare, education and housing are human rights.

● What parts, if any, of the [Washington State Democratic Party Platform](#) (□ click link to view) do you disagree with? Why? I agree with the Democratic 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 have run for and won the position of School Board Director for the Everett School District. From my campaign, I learned how to run and win a grassroots campaign that stayed true to progressive values.

● 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? **The most important issue I will focus on will be economic security. All workers are essential in our economy, I will work to represent all workers as our state goes back to work. I will work to ensure safe working conditions, living wages and job security.**

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Specifically I will work on legislation that focuses on the intersectionality of employment and healthcare.

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

Other issues I will focus on are education and transportation. I will work to update the prototypical school funding model, change Bond passage rates to 51% and decrease the disparity in graduation and discipline rates for our students of color.

Reliable, accessible and affordable transportation is the foundation to economic and educational success. Investing in transportation creates living wage jobs, allows workers to access jobs outside of their community and allows students access educational programs and apprenticeships across their school districts.

- 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 running in a swing district. Currently the seat is held by a democrat. I will win this seat.**