

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: 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: Douglas McKinley

Position Sought: US Congress, House of Representatives, 4th CD

Campaign Manager: None yet

Consultant: None Yet

Campaign Email: doug@mckinleylaw.com

Campaign Phone: 509-628-0809

Website: dougmcKinley2020.com

Campaign Address: PO Box 1880 Richland WA 99352

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 indexed to inflation.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I support the Employee Free Choice Act. I would ban right to work laws nation-wide using federal pre-emption.

Education

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

Testing is counterproductive and racist. My preference is best set forth in the following article:

Stewart, S. & Haynes, C. (2016). An alternative approach to standardized testing: A model that promotes racial equity and college access. *Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs*, 2(1), 122-136.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

Charter schools are a scam and a drain on the public school system. They should not receive tax dollars.

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Environment

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

I would vote to end fossil fuel subsidies, and increase subsidies to green energy. I would vote to ban fracking.

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

I favor wind and solar most, given that they are the only forms of energy that are consistently falling in cost. My local area believes nuclear energy can be safe and efficient. I am not convinced, but open minded to these arguments, and recognize that I would have a duty to represent these constituents.

Finance/Taxation

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

I support the formation of a state owned bank for Washington, and I am hopeful the Washington legislature will pass it into law. The US Treasury is already a de-facto public bank. I am not sure I understand the question about "monetary reform." I would not support a return to the gold standard.

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

Before I answer, I would point out that Washington State's tax system is even worse than the federal system. I would force any company over 50 employees to pay a minimum tax equal to all public benefits received by their employees. I would tax capital gains at a higher rate than ordinary income. I would end the carried interest rule. I would make marginal rates on incomes over a \$500,000 threshold much higher than the current tax code.

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.

A single payer system is both preferable and inevitable. It lowers costs and covers everyone. However, barring a serious change in the composition of the government, I do not believe it is feasible in the current environment, but the coronavirus might be changing that, because so many people are losing their health care along with their job. At a minimum, we need to pass a public option that has the ability to negotiate drug prices along with all other services to bring down costs. I believe that will begin a domino effect that will lead to universal health care under a single payer system.

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

Social Security lifted millions of seniors out of poverty, and it needs to be protected. I would oppose any change to inflation calculations that would lower payouts for seniors. I would support an increase in benefits. Medicare also needs to be protected. The best way to protect Medicare is to expand its base to include younger, healthier Americans and lower its costs. See my previous answer.

Security/Public Safety

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

Ultimately, nothing will change until police are held to the same standards of care and responsibility as all other citizens in state and federal courts. Officer misconduct is directly traceable to officer immunity. Civilian oversight would likely help, but if there is no penalty to individual officers for excessive use of force, I would expect the excessive use of force to continue, with or without citizen oversight.

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

The Europeans seem to be getting along just fine with their privacy protections. I suggest we try the same.

General

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

I consider myself both a progressive and a Democrat. The Democratic party is responsible for every good thing the government has done since the Roosevelt administration, the Republicans have fought us every step of the way, and there are no viable alternatives at the present time. I consider myself a progressive because, in my view, most of our problems, be they economic or social, are the result of us not pushing toward equality, equity, and justice hard enough or far enough and the core of the progressive movement is furtherance of moving the nation and the world towards equality, equity, and justice.

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

I could probably find something, but it would be pretty nitpicky. I am also up against the deadline for this being tomorrow.

- 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 small, unfunded campaigns twice, for state senate in 2014 and for this seat in 2016. I ran primarily to make sure the Republican incumbent did not run unopposed, and had opposition on the ballot. I have assisted in every election in this area since 1992. This campaign will not be like the others.

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This campaign will be fully funded, and the most technologically sophisticated race ever run in Central Washington.

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

I was Benton County State Committee Man for 4 years, between 2014 and 2018.

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

My campaign will be focused most intently on economic inequality and immigration issues, since those are the issues that are most pressing to my constituents.

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

Beyond just wages and taxes, economic inequality captures everything from healthcare to rent control and public housing to education spending and student loans, so those issues will necessarily be a part of my campaign.

- 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?

Normally, I would say that it is next to impossible for a liberal democrat to win the WA 04 congressional district. That has certainly been the experience since Jay Inslee held this seat in 1992. However, I believe we are at a watershed moment in American history, and this election might see turn out patterns and hostility to the incumbent Republican party unprecedented in our recent history. We will clearly be seeing unemployment that has not been seen in 30 years. I will capitalize on that opportunity with the most sophisticated voter identification and turn out system ever used in Central Washington. I know from first hand experience, Vote Builder lacks the data to get the votes we need to win elections. I have already built the best data model, by far, ever used to target voters in Central Washington. When I am done populating that model with telephone numbers and email addresses, it will be the best system, bar none, ever used here. And my intention is to share it with my fellow progressives in every race from mine to PUD commissioner.