

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: Senator Liz Lovelett

Position Sought: State Senate Seat for the 40th LD

Campaign Manager: Kevin McCrea

Consultant: NWP Consulting

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Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes

Labor

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

-Yes absolutely! All state and federal minimum wages should be updated and adjusted to regional costs of living.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

-There is a lot of work to do around the Janus decision with our State employees. I was proud to sponsor a bill this past session to vest collective bargaining rights to Administrative Law Judges.

Education

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

-Testing is only a snapshot of a child's progress in school. I don't think that it should be used as a graduation requirement or be tied to a teacher's evaluation. I was proud to support efforts to expand pathways to graduation and give kids more options to succeed.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

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-I think Charter Schools are fine so long as they aren't funded with public school dollars.

Environment

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

-I live in Anacortes and can be in our Community Forest Lands in under a minute from my front door. I grew up enjoying the parks, camping areas, hikes, swims and boating opportunities of our amazing district. As a parent, I love to share these gorgeous and important places with my daughters. While on the Anacortes City Council, I added language to the Anacortes' Comprehensive Plan to prevent the sale and transfer of our water rights to corporate entities. I co-sponsored a bill at the state level to add additional conservational measures to public water rights.

-Additionally, last session, I supported the permanent protection of Blanchard Mountain, funded Moran State Park, invested in Camp Orkila, and appropriated funds for the Lummi Community Park. I believe in the positive power that recreation and celebration of our incredible natural spaces provide for our community.

-I was proud to sponsor the Senate companion bills for the biggest solar wins this session: C-PACER (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency), Community Solar, and PV Module recycling. I strongly believe that we must prioritize enfranchising the lowest income earners among us for the green energy future to make the progress we need.

-I oppose expansion of fossil fuel and coal resources. I am in full support of transforming our energy sector to clean and sustainable sources. My goal moving into the next legislative session is to pave a path towards alternative fuels and continued investments in public transportation and on-site energy generation to lower our reliance on fossil and coal-based resources.

-I strongly advocate for a reform of city zoning laws so that cities can provide the necessary affordable housing to their community, preventing the urban sprawl and subsequent development of our forest lands.

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

-I am working on and supporting solutions utilizing alternative fuels and low-carbon fuel standards to energize our economy with alternative energy programs that would particularly improve the lives of low-income families, and improve our transportation sector by providing needed funds for our public and multi-modal travel. Additionally, I co-sponsored a Cap and Trade bill that had a 35% mitigation fund for workers in oil industry-dependent communities last session. I believe that bold climate action and community economic preservation are not mutually exclusive if we focus on creating jobs that will serve us into the future.

-I am so excited to work on getting these types of innovations and technologies into Washington to start the work of changing our energy system. As a member of the Senate Transportation Committee, I am excited to continue working on electrifying and cleaning up our transportation sector. I co-sponsored the Forward Washington budget because it puts a carbon fee on transportation to make big investments in alternative modalities of travel. I believe there is a lot of work to be done to achieve bold greenhouse

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gas reduction targets sector by sector. I also co-sponsored and championed funding for two hybrid-electric ferries for the state in the past budget cycle with a goal of having a fully hybridized fleet over time.

-I was proud to vote "Yes" on the 100% Renewable Bill with the goal to phase out coal by 2025 and attain 100% renewable by 2030. It is a heavy lift, but with the Just Transition framework I believe it is possible. My goal moving into the next legislative session is to pave a path towards alternative fuels, low carbon fuel standards, and continued investments in public transportation and on-site energy generation to lower our reliance on fossil and coal-based resources.

-I favor solar, wind, bio/renewable diesel, tidal, hybrid propulsion, and hydrogen energy.

Finance/Taxation

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

-I am currently on Team State Bank in the Senate helping to generate a business plan that would support public works and housing investments with the ability to expand the concept and model over time.

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

-Firstly, I couldn't agree more! I signed a formal request with 15 of my colleagues asking the supreme court to review the income tax eligibility case. I think now, given the fact that our state is dependent on a sales tax, and because our consumer economy is likely to be severely impacted by Covid-19, it's a good time to push for tax reform.

-I co-sponsored and supported any and all progressive tax reform bills- Progressive REET, cap and trade, progressive B&O, Capital Gains, Model Toxics Control Act, and taxes on big banks and out-of-state investment firms.

-We were very close to having the votes to pass a Capital Gains tax in the 2019 session and I think there is potential to finish that effort in the next session. I would also like to do work on B&O reform and excess compensation payroll tax. I have been working on a concept around autonomous units having a fee to offset job loss, as well.

-These revenue reforms provide relief for middle to low income folks and target areas that can most afford it - aiming for a more equitable taxation.

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 a full proponent of Medicare for All.

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

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-I oppose policies that suggest cuts to social security.

-To reiterate, I am a full proponent of Medicare for all.

-I believe ensuring adequate funding for social security and expanding benefits are crucial first steps in providing the safety and security for the seniors of our country.

Security/Public Safety

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

-I have been supportive of body cameras, Keep Washington Working, banning private detention centers, and providing adequate resources for our First Responders and police to receive counseling.

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

-I will continue to support the efforts around data privacy that are sure to return for consideration next session. I was also proud to support legislation this session that prevented majority foreign-owned companies from investing in our elections.

General

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

-I consider myself to be a Progressive Democrat and I lead through honesty, hard work, and approachability. I am a legislator that is grounded by my life experiences. There have been times that my family and I have lived just above the poverty line. These perspectives drive my everyday work, because I know there are working families in our district who need someone in Olympia fighting for them who has had the kind of experiences they have. Democrats support working people, fight for climate action, work for social justice and equality, lead with science, and do our very best to bring all people in to participate in democracy- I am proud to have a record that supports all of those ideals.

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

-I believe in the Democratic ideals of equality, inclusion, and choice. I think that the party platform captures the need to prioritize people and planet in our policies.

- 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 Anacortes City Council and remained on the council for 5 years (2014-2019) before moving into the State Senate. This will be my second Senate campaign after winning my Special Election in 2019.

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

-I was a caucus delegate for Bernie in 2016; it was my third caucus.

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

-I want to help reverse and mitigate climate change. My interim work is focusing on carbon pricing, ferry electrification, and climate resiliency in land use.

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

-Another primary focus for my career to date and future legislative action is investing in affordable housing and homeless services. These types of investments have a positive net gain for our communities and overall well-being.

-One concept I have is the creation of a small loan program that would assist middle to low income households with the purchase of a PV array for their home that's signature would be an amortized payback equivalent to their current energy bills. Additionally, there are many fantastic models that show that the development of low-income housing that incorporates net-zero energy principles are financially feasible and improve health and environmental outcomes. In summary, the legislative priorities are:

- Getting our most vulnerable neighbors the services and support they need at a community level.
- Creating a path to affordable housing for all ages and incomes through regional collaboration and strategic land use, zoning, and financial modeling.
- Recognizing and investing in housing as a foundation of public health and community well-being saves money and lives in the long run.

- 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?

-The 40th is a very blue district. We are planning a large digital campaign to reach out to our current supporters and potential supporters. Through phone banking and digital town halls, we will strengthen the relationships with our previous supporters, plus do everything we can to build new relationships. Once the Covid-19 travel restrictions end, we will start an aggressive field campaign to earn the vote from our current supporters, and additionally bring new supporters onto our team. Thankfully, we have a large volunteer support network in the district to help reach out to our constituents and encourage them to Get Out To Vote!