

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: Marianna Everson

Position Sought: Washington State Representative, LD 19, Position 1

Campaign Manager: Team

Consultant: None

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Campaign Phone: 360-964-0499

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Campaign Address: PO Box 333. Montesano, WA 98563

Do you request the endorsement of the Progressive Caucus? Yes

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Labor

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

Yes, I support raising the minimum wage to living wage, tied to inflation. The current “Fight for Fifteen” needs to be updated for today; \$20 an hour, minimum, and coordinated with rent control and consumer protections so the people can enjoy their raise, rather than have the gains made be eaten up by landlords.

What legislation would you support to make organizing unions easier?

I will fiercely and unequivocally oppose any and all attempts to gain ground on “right to work (for less)” policy. I will propose legislation that increases penalties for companies who interfere with workers organizing a union. Corporations must not be allowed to exercise the following practices: Interfering with, restraining, or coercing employees against their rights; Interfering with the formation of a labor organization; Discriminating against employees to encourage or discourage forming a union; Discriminating against employees who file charges or testify; Refusing to bargain collectively with the employees’ representative. Additionally, I would pursue policies to make it more difficult for public entities to outsource functions and services to non-union contractors, and to mandate “insourcing” to unionized public employees wherever possible.

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Education

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

Universal testing is not the answer. Teachers and students need to be freed to teach and learn in the style that maximizes the growth of the individual. Teachers need all the resources necessary to help each individual student.

What is your opinion of charter schools?

I support the way the French have organized education; no private schools at all - pre-K through college. When we have universal public school, every child benefits because every education dollar is spent equitably. The quality of your education should not depend on how much money your parents or community has.

Environment

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

I would promote the development of alternative energy systems by continuing and expanding tax incentives on individuals who invest in electric vehicles, wind and solar; I would support securing opportunities for Public Utility Districts (PUD) to invest in renewable technologies like wind, solar, and new technologies as they come forward. On the coast, I am interested in

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harnessing the power of the movement of the ocean in a clean and sustainable way. Also for the PUD to upgrade the electrical grid and supply internet service to every home. By expanding the PUD, we promote public control of energy systems.

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

It is way past time that we make a massive public investment in renewable energy production. We must have the courage to stand up to private energy corporations and build a public system that competes and eventually overcomes the corrupt energy system we have now. No more nibbling around the edges and increments. Public Power; Public Transportation; and make the polluters pay for it, not the people.

Finance/Taxation

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

I will fight for the formation of a Washington State Bank, so we can invest in each other. As for as monetary reform, I have studied Modern Monetary Theory and federally taxes do not pay for anything. State-wide and locally, yes. Lets fix our regressive tax system in WA!

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

Tax the rich: Wealth Tax and a progressive income tax. End the sales tax. Fund the Washington Families Tax Credit.

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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.

On day one I will sponsor the Whole Washington Health Trust in the House because healthcare is a human right. I will fight as hard as I can to guarantee coverage for every person in our state because people should not be dying because they can't afford healthcare. Healthcare should not be tied to employment.

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

We must fully fund both programs and then expand them.

Security/Public Safety

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

I absolutely support demilitarizing the police force and support civilian oversight of law enforcement. But, we must also address the economic, medical and social causes of crime in

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the state. We must create an economy that leaves no one out. We must make treatment for behavioral health issues universal. And we must be actively anti-racist. When we create equity in these areas, there will be less motivation for crime, and less need for Law Enforcement; therefore no excuse to have a militarized police force.

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

The Patriot Act is one of the most violent actions taken against the American people. Blanket surveillance systems should be abolished.

General

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

I have been active in the democratic party since 2016. I have held elected positions in the party since 2018 including PCO for Montesano 602, State Committee Member for Grays Harbor, and formerly - Treasurer for LD 19. I am an FDR democrat. I am a progressive because I helped to write the most progressive platform in Washington State's history, and took those principals into writing the most progressive platform in Grays Harbor County history as a member of the platform committee locally. I fight for policy that improves the lives for regular Americans, not big money interests.

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

As stated above, I was part of the platform committee, so I am one of few who have actually read the platform. I agree with everything in it, though there is room for growth as well.

- 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.

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

I have held elected positions in the party since 2018 including PCO for Montesano 602, State Committee Member for Grays Harbor, and formerly - Treasurer for LD 19. I am a dues-paying and voting member of the Washington State Progressive Caucus since 2018, member of the Veterans and Military Families Caucus, and I'm in the finance committee for the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

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

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The majority of the people representing us are distracted by what their big-money donors want. They are doing the bidding of the people who finance their campaigns. I will fight to pass the American Anti-Corruption Act in the State of Washington to end the corrupting influence of money in politics.

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

When we end the corruption in our government, we can get to work on all the equally important issues that make life a struggle; systemic racism, poverty and inequity, ecological devastation, and the military economy

- 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?

LD 19 was historically a strong blue district due to the strong union presence that used to exist here. When the timber industry exhausted our natural resources, gathered the profits or our labor, and left us to die, the strong unions took a massive hit. Democrats in our district rode on the coattails of FDR for the last 80 years, and as those policies have been stripped away, Democrats have seen their support declining. For the first time since 1928, more people voted for the Republican for president in 2016, and they elected the first republican in as many years to the State Legislature, Jim Walsh, my opponent.

Solidarity still exists in the hearts of people of LD 19, and I intend to rally people around that principal; we are all in this together; “an injury to one of us is an injury to us all”.

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Walsh takes his marching orders from the right-wing power structure of the likes of Koch Industries and uses his position to divide us.

With Marianna For The People, we fight hard to bring us together by running our campaign as an organizing tool and solidarity network. We will help people remember that we hold the true power in this district, and we can use that power to make this a place where everyone thrives!