

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Candidate Name | Brett Borden | |
| Position Sought | State Representative #1, District 9 | |
| Campaign Contact Information | Mailing address: PO Box 822 | Phone: 509-595-5192 |
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Part I – Yes/No Questions

| Please answer the following questions | | Yes | No | Additional Comments |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Do you support statewide policy for: | | | |
| | Banning chokeholds | X | | |
| | Banning tear gas | X | | |
| | Use of body cameras | X | | To be on at all times, specifically. |
| 2 | Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police? | X | | This is perhaps the most important single thing that can be done towards reforming to a system that serves the people's interest. |
| 3 | Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police? | X | | |
| 4 | Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force? | X | | |
| 5 | Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions? | X | | While I support private union membership, I have concerns on public unions because their interests by nature tend to be at-odds with that of the public they are meant to serve. |

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|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 6 | Do you support decertification for serious misconduct by law enforcement officers? | X | | |
| 7 | Do you support ending police use of and access to surplus military equipment? | X | | |

Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

I take a literal view of public safety. This means that law enforcement should be focused on investigating violent crimes that threaten individuals. No victimless crimes, no revenue-seeking, no public control nonsense. Police should be more like emergency services and not a ubiquitous part of our daily lives.

Have you taken the [#ElectedsForJustice pledge](#)? If so, what actions do you intend to take to support the 5-part plan? If not, what points are barriers to your support, and why?

I was not aware of the Pledge until now but upon reading it these are all areas of agreement and I have contacted the organization offering to sign it.

Under current state labor law, Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) with law enforcement unions are often a barrier for meaningful police reform. What efforts do you support that differentiate police unions from other labor unions so that change can happen without eroding other workers' rights?

In my view, the key is separating public and private unions in such policy. Public employees by nature are in positions meant to support the public good, but when the interest of the union becomes insular and in direct opposition to the benefit of the people that crosses the line. As such, I would potentially support some legislation limiting areas in contracts that clearly run contrary to public interest, such as in transparency and the protecting of bad actors.

Are there police reform/accountability measures that are not addressed here that you think would be productive to pursue?

I see two omissions of importance: first and foremost, the sheer amount of victimless crimes we have on the books in state law that enable the police to have cause to come in contact with individuals, whereby abuse may result either directly or in bringing non-violent people into the criminal justice system for erroneous reasons. There needs to be a focus on ending the criminalization of non-violent conduct simply because some politicians might not like it. Second, the cessation of civil forfeiture whereby the State is able to steal property from individuals who have not been convicted or in some cases even accused of a crime, for the purpose of profiteering off legalized piracy. 90% of seized assets go directly to local law enforcement and the victims have little legal recourse. No surprise, the victims of civil forfeiture are often also people of color and the

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poor, who may suddenly find themselves without a vehicle or a home and in even greater dire straits for no reason whatsoever.

I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete, and correct to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.

Signature Brett R Borden

Printed Name Brett R Borden

Date: 9/8/2020