

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	Tracy Rushing, MD	
Position Sought	State Representative, LD-14 position 1	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: PO Box 508 White Salmon, WA 98672	Phone: 509-426-7136 Fax:
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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		
2	Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police?	X		
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		

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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 believe public safety should be formulated to meet the needs of the community. I work with law enforcement officers each day in the emergency department, and I see the difficult situations they face. I see that improving our community's resources would help them be more effective stewards of public safety. I support a focus on evidence-based interventions including mental health, education, and de-escalation training for police, which cost us less in the long run. Public safety should rely less on costly measures of last resort, such as incarceration. Our current crises are a sign we have over-burdened our police with social issues that would better be addressed at the root-cause, not with increased force.

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?

Yes. Transparency and accountability are important for any publicly funded system, especially so if they are tasked with public safety. How we fund our system of public safety and law enforcement should be based on objective data and our community's needs, utilizing tools such as behavioral health and education where force or incarceration have proven ineffective or harmful. These strategies help our communities and they relieve a burden we have long misplaced on our law enforcement officials.

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?

Much like our expectations for medical professionals, there are certain aspects of a law-enforcement officer's job that are not negotiable. These include the safe and indiscriminate treatment of those in their care. Collective bargaining is an excellent tool for ensuring fair wages, hours, and benefits. Our expectations for a publicly funded service like law enforcement include accountability to those in their care, and this accountability is not negotiable.

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

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There are many avenues to reform, accountability, and how we optimize our social resources. I advocate for conversation between our community and our law enforcement to elucidate our needs, and for using objective data to create our policies and funding models.

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	<i>Tracy Rushing</i>	Date: 9/20/2020
Printed Name	Tracy Rushing, MD	