

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform



Candidate Questionnaire

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|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Candidate Name | Tarra Simmons | |
| Position Sought | Position 1 23 rd Legislative District. | |
| Campaign Contact Information | Mailing address: PO Box 774 Tracyton, WA 98393 | Phone: 360-218-7443 Fax: |
| | Website: electtarrasimmons.com Email: Info@electtarrasimmons.com Twitter: Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ElectTarraSimmons | |

Part I – Yes/No Questions

| Please answer the following questions | | Yes | No | Additional Comments |
|---------------------------------------|---|------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Do you support statewide policy for: | | | |
| | Banning chokeholds | YES! | | |
| | Banning tear gas | YES! | | |
| | Use of body cameras | YES! | | |
| 2 | Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police? | YES! | | |
| 3 | Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police? | YES! | | |
| 4 | Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force? | YES! | | |

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|---|--|------|--|--|
| 5 | Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions? | YES! | | |
| 6 | Do you support decertification for serious misconduct by law enforcement officers? | YES! | | |
| 7 | Do you support ending police use of and access to surplus military equipment? | YES | | |

Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

To me public safety can be a lot of different things. Public safety can be how we treat people with addiction, reforms we put in place for law enforcement, and even how we treat people without housing. I think about public safety more as a goal, and whether we as a community feel safe. Right now there are people in my community who do not feel safe because of their skin color, including my own children. We have work to do to make sure the public feels safe.

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 I have proudly taken the #ElectedsForJustice pledge. One of the first things I want to address is use of force. We need to ban chokeholds, and have more restrictions on when police can use deadly force against people. We must also start holding officers who use excessive force more accountable. While I do not support the current "justice" system, until we build out restorative justice programs, cops who kill should be prosecuted and that rarely happens.

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?

We need to recognize that law enforcement unions are already very different than other unions. What's going to be in a law enforcement union contract is going to be greatly different than teachers, nurses, or trade union contracts. I believe because law enforcement unions cover such different topics, they can be treated differently without negatively impacting the collective bargaining agreements of other unions. I have refused police union money in my campaign.

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

We also need to be looking at police reforms that address the school to prison pipeline. If our goal is to truly reform the system, we have to also change the way police interact with our youth. I would like to see the elimination of the use of police officers in schools. If they are present, their should be standardized training and their role should be limited to protection from external threat.

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.

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| Signature | //s// Tarra Simmons | Date: 9/20/20 |
| Printed Name | Tarra Simmons | |