

# ACLU People Power Washington

## 2020 Police Reform

### Candidate Questionnaire



<b>Candidate Name</b>	Jamila Taylor	
<b>Position Sought</b>	30th District State Representative, Position 1	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	<b>Mailing address:</b> PO Box 3996 Federal Way, WA 98063-3996	<b>Phone:</b> (206) 486-5493 <b>Fax:</b> N/A
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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	✓		
	Banning tear gas	✓		
	Use of body cameras	✓		
2	Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police?	✓		
3	Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police?	✓		
4	Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force?	✓		
5	Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions?	✓		

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

## Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

Throughout my career I've addressed challenges within the public safety continuum — from preventing youth violence to advocating for the safety of domestic violence survivors and seniors at risk of exploitation. My advocacy on criminal justice reform has taken form in many ways. First, I want to ensure that people who have a felony conviction know that they have a right to vote in Washington. I helped produce a voter engagement video about restoration of voting rights (<http://www.diversevotes.org>). I hope to encourage these potential voters and nonvoters to engage in our political advocacy process. They have a vital perspective to share. I want to listen.

Next, I have advocated for reforms all along the public safety continuum such as: (1) over-policing practices; (2) the school-to-prison pipeline; (3) the foster care-to-prison pipeline; (4) access to courts; (5) evaluating candidates for judicial positions on their knowledge and awareness of intersection of racial disparities in the legal system (both civil and criminal);(6) anti-poverty strategies; (7) access to resources for victims from marginalized communities; (8) restorative justice policies; (9) increasing access to community-based supports and alternatives to incarceration; (10) increased access to economic/educational opportunities for those with criminal convictions. And there are so many other issues that address public safety from a whole "new" paradigm. As a civil trial attorney, I am constantly educating the court on disparate impact and racial injustice relevant to the matter at hand—mostly in the family law context. My work as a family law attorney with an expertise in domestic violence cases, has led me to be advocate for alternatives to incarceration as a response to DV. Many of the survivors I represented simply wanted the abuse to end, not necessarily to have the accused abuser jailed. This requires a more complex understanding of the intersection of family law and criminal law and how some people cycle between the two systems. Earlier this evening I interviewed for my Neighbor to Neighbor Series Twyla Carter, former Senior Staff Attorney in the Criminal Law Reform Project and now the national policy director for the Bail Project, and Stephan Thomas, Director of Strategy and Implementation at Prosecutor Impact. They both shared innovated strategies to address racist practices in the criminal justice system while at the same time combatting the perception of what is "public safety." It was eye-opening for me, even with my strong knowledge of the legal system.

This is just a brief list of advocacy I have been involved in and want to support. I'm excited to continue tackling these and other critical issues in the legislature. I will work with legislators who are champions on this effort such as Rep. Roger Goodman.

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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 taken the #ElectedsForJustice pledge. As an attorney I have advocated for criminal justice reform throughout my career and as I move forward, I will work with legislators who have championed this effort such as Rep. Roger Goodman.

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?

Yes, the recent PubliCola article by Anne Levinson, "[For Real Police Accountability, Here Are Two State Laws We Must Change](#)" highlights the efforts I think we should pursue in state legislature: (1) Exempting police misconduct and disciplinary systems from Washington collective bargaining law; and (2) Overhauling the law enforcement decertification law. My hope is to meet with stakeholders to discuss how meaningful reforms can be enacted while at the same time protecting CBAs and the unique position law enforcement has with its use of union bargaining.

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

I think that police reform is an evolving process. As reforms are implemented, the lure to implement strategies to return to problematic practices remain. My knowledge is relatively limited on specific accountability measures. I recently started a position at the Public Defender Association as a staff attorney in the LEAD Legal Services – Racial Disparity Project. With this new role, I am quickly gaining knowledge from a closer view of the work we do on the inquest processes and strategies within the police brutality litigation context. I also look forward to an opportunity to work with ACLU and ACLU People Power Washington to develop more strategies, especially for the small and medium size municipalities.

**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



Date: 9/30/2020

Printed Name

Jamila Taylor

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