

# ACLU People Power Washington

## 2020 Police Reform

### Candidate Questionnaire



<b>Candidate Name</b>	Jesse Johnson	
<b>Position Sought</b>	State Representative, 30th Legislative District	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address: PO Box 4972 Federal Way 98003	Phone: (253) 678-2658 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	✓		
	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?

Keeping the public safe requires keeping every member of the community safe and keeping the peace. That is very different from our current system of policing and law enforcement which profiles and targets communities of color at a much higher rate. I believe public safety also requires holding law enforcement officers, and those in power, to a higher standard with extensive training on bias and de-escalation.

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. As a community member, educator, Federal Way Councilmember, and now as a State Representative I have been actively working for police accountability and safer communities.

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?

I believe that it is important to recognize that research shows a clear connection between union contracts for police officers and increase police violence. I support the effort of labor activists who are advocating to expel law enforcement unions from the labor movement. I strongly support protecting the rights of labor unions to collectively bargain but law enforcement unions have displayed that their collective bargaining is used to protect officers who have engaged in misconduct. The defense of police officers who commit disciplinary offenses against citizens does not contribute to enhancing the wellbeing of workers and of the community.

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

- Civil forfeiture reform: currently civil forfeiture allows police to seize and keep or sell property that they allege is a part of a crime. I believe that this a measure of police


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accountability that needs to be reformed as it has become a power that is abused by police to turn a profit

- I support eliminating the flow of surplus military gear to local law enforcement agencies. Decreasing the militarization of police will increase community safety.
- We need to increase the protection of the 4th Amendment that protects citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures. The denial of this right by law enforcement agencies has affected people of color disproportionately.

**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: 09/19/20
Printed Name	Jesse Johnson	