

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	Shirley Sutton	
Position Sought	32 nd LD State Representative, Position 1	
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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		I support WA AG Ferguson's continued investigation of the failures to adhere to I-940
3	Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police?	X		Yes, I support I-940 and will represent the resolution in favor of I-940 from the 32 nd LD
4	Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force?	X		I also support civilian commission with subpoena power
5	Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions?	X		Standards of policing are issues of professional standards, as expected by the public, and not a decision made via union negotiation.

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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		The use of military weapons against civilians is a war crime, anyplace in the world.

Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

As a basic principle I embrace the idea that individuals and communities most affected by policy need to be at the table. BIPOC communities have traditionally been excluded from participation in discussions about public policy on safety -even within their own communities. This model cannot succeed.

I think that public safety begins with meeting the basic needs of communities.

The recent BLM protests and violent police response underscores the need for substantive systemic reform for policing. The historic record on police violence, including murders, home break ins, fatal traffic stops, violence against peaceful protestors, violence against media and children, etc. call for the policy changes below as a bare minimum:

No Qualified Immunity for police

No door-busting raids, i.e., no knock warrants

Decertify violent police and those with records of misconduct, spousal violence, corruption and and failure to meet professional standards

As part of continued certification, police should study, pass exams, retrain, learn foreign languages of people living in community, etc, in order to maintain certification

Remove violent police from employment and prosecute for crimes. Liability for violations of policy and law shall be the responsibility of individual officers, not the public.

Replace police in schools — with counselors, psychologists, tutors and school nurses, and social workers

Community commissions with subpoena power to investigate police records

Establish community police oversight commissions

Abolish private prison systems

Eliminate solitary confinement, force feeding and other trauma-inducing methods

Invest in restorative justice systems rather than retribution-based systems.

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?

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I am not currently an elected official, so cannot sign. I'm a candidate for state representative, 32nd LD, Position 1 and former Lynnwood City Council Member. I look forward supporting the 5-part plan if elected to the state legislature and would write and take leadership on: demilitarizing the police, restricting the use of excessive and deadly force, requiring accountability and transparency in police contracts, giving subpoena power to citizens oversight boards and support communities in redirecting police funding.

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?

Police unions should NOT be defining the terms of internal investigations, decertification or firing terms for bad / repeat offending officers. While crime scene investigation requires police work, officer involved shootings should always be investigated independently and promptly (vs. allowing officers involved to access legal counsel before they are questioned at the scene).

"Less lethal" crowd control weapons of war should be completely banned for crowd control and street policing.

The term and use of the term "unlawful assembly" should be extremely limited and not arbitrarily defined and implemented by officers.

Also, police must report all external donations from Seattle Police Foundation and any other private interests and fully report how the donations are spent. If the funds are used for weapons, training or technology, there must be full transparency and accountability to the public for how the funds are used.

Judge (ret.) Anne Levinson's article has some excellent suggestions in this regard. Some require legal changes: 'Police, like all employees, deserve contracts that provide for fair wages, benefits, and good working conditions. But there is no reason to continue to accept the argument that standards and practices to address police misconduct must be considered "working conditions" that cannot be determined by police management and local government leaders outside the bargaining process.

Police have been granted extraordinary powers to use discretion in a range of ways that have enormous impact on the public, including taking away liberty and the use of deadly force.

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Legal and procedural safeguards against police abusing these powers in ways that undermine public trust should not be subject to the give and take of bargaining.'

<https://publicola.com/2020/09/18/anne-levinson-for-real-police-accountability-here-are-two-state-laws-we-must-change/>

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

I feel that the measures outlined here are an excellent start. These systemic changes will require time and persistence.

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	Shirley Sutton	Date: 9/29/2020
Printed Name	Shirley Sutton	