

# ACLU People Power Washington

## 2020 Police Reform

### Candidate Questionnaire



<b>Candidate Name</b>	Liz Berry	
<b>Position Sought</b>	State House of Representatives, LD 36, Pos 2	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address: PO Box 9100 Seattle, WA 98109	Phone: 206-923-9296 Fax: 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	x		
	Banning tear gas	x		
	Use of body cameras	x		
2	Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police?	x		My org, WSAJ, has worked on this issue at a federal level for over 60 years. I am ready to lead on it.
3	Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police?	x		My org, WSAJ, was a major funder of 940 in 2018. I am ready to lead to expand this.
4	Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force?	x		

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*People Power is the grassroots arm of the ACLU - while we adhere to ACLU principles, we are volunteer-driven and do not work for or officially represent the ACLU. People Power activists work in and from their local communities to further civil rights and liberties for all.*

5	Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions?	x		
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?

To me, public safety means everyone feels secure and is given equal opportunity to thrive. Public safety means investing in communities, not policing communities. In my eyes, budgets are moral documents. We must look at how we are funding law enforcement and instead reallocate dollars toward social and intervention programs and other measures that will provide meaningful change for our historically underrepresented communities, specifically our Black community. This includes greater investment in mental health services, community-based interventions and support in our schools for Black children and youth.

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 was a proud signer of the pledge. Taking action on these issues is one of my top priorities in the Legislature next year. As Executive Director of the Washington State Association for Justice, I am proud to lead an organization that has worked for decades to hold powerful police departments and state and local governments accountable for police misconduct and systemic racism. As the largest civil justice advocacy organization in the Pacific Northwest, we worked with stakeholders to pass Initiative 940 which makes it easier to prosecute police officers for negligent deadly shootings and requires de-escalation and mental health intervention training for law enforcement officers. But it is not enough. In the legislature, I will demand these reforms and bring my years of experience in the legal-advocacy community to be a leader in Olympia.

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 am proud of my long history with organizational labor and am grateful that so many labor unions and labor champions have stepped up to support my campaign. I see police unions as being distinct from other labor unions because of the power that police officers hold in our society. A carpenter does not carry a weapon and is not sworn to protect our community. Therefore, I stand with the MLK County Labor Council's decision to expel the Seattle Police Officers Guild. In the legislature, I will be a strong advocate to exempt police misconduct and disciplinary systems from Washington collective bargaining law so that every local and state law enforcement agency can establish strong, effective, and transparent accountability mechanisms that serve the public.

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

I am ready to tackle decriminalizing homelessness and poverty, vacating marijuana convictions and abolishing the death penalty once and for all. We must also be doing more to support reentry services, diversion programs and reform our foster care system. Policing and criminal justice are intimately connected and I believe we should be having these conversations congruently. I am proud to be endorsed by criminal justice advocate Tarra Simmons and when we are both elected to the House next year I look forward to working on these critical issues with her.

**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>Liz Berry</i>	Date: September 22, 2020
Printed Name	Liz Berry	