

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	Sarah Reyneveld	
Position Sought	LD 36 Position 2	
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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	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		
5	Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions?	Yes		

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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.

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?

For far too long, traditional concepts of policing and public safety have exacerbated persistent racial and economic inequities and police violence against Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

The killings of Manuel Ellis, Breonna Taylor, Phlando Castille, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Tony McDade, George Floyd, Raychard Brooks, and so many more are heartbreaking and outraging and highlight how deep-seated and ingrained racist systems are in our country. These tragedies have also highlighted centuries old racial bias in our criminal legal and policing system and the urgent need for structural change.

Police officers should be community guardians, not warriors, and reflect the values of the communities in which they serve. We must reduce the role of police in addressing societal problems, develop independent accountability and oversight mechanisms of police, embrace harm reduction and non-policing alternatives, and invest in community based social services that reflects the needs of BIPOC communities.

I am committed to working with impacted communities to change the culture of policing, hold the police accountable, and ensure that everyone is treated equally under the law. In the legislature I will fight to:

Strengthen Police Accountability:

- Increase transparency and accountability in police union contracts and limit the scope of what police unions may collectively bargain for to exclude use of force, police oversight, and discipline;
- Strengthen the de-certification process and establish a police misconduct registry so that law enforcement officers who are found to have used excessive force cannot work in law enforcement for another agency;
- Abolish qualified immunity (while this is primarily a federal issue, we can make progress at the state level; see Colorado’s recent enactment of the Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity Act - SB20-217);
- Increase police accountability through citizen oversight and giving subpoena and investigative powers to independent oversight boards;
- Prohibit law enforcement officers to cover their badges while on duty;

- Strengthening independent oversight and investigation of police use of force;

Work to end racial bias within policing:

- Strengthen police training on anti-bias, de-escalation, being trauma informed, and community engagement;
- Require law enforcement to collect data on all investigatory activities;
- Limit the use of deadly force by prohibiting dangerous maneuvers like chokeholds;
- Ban no-knock no-announce warrants;

Reinvest in communities:

- Demilitarize police departments and prohibit their acquisition of military surplus equipment;
- Redirect some police functions and funding to community-based social services;
- Embrace harm reduction and non-policing alternatives.

The legislature must also do more to fix our criminal legal system that disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and the poor. In the legislature I will fight to:

- Keep people out of the criminal legal system to begin with, reduce our prison population, and make zero youth detention a reality. The Legislature should invest more in quality early learning and K-12 education for all kids; sufficient mental health counselors, wraparound services, and development programs; and stop the practice of discrimination and disproportionate use of discipline against Black, Indigenous and People of Color to end the school to prison pipeline;
- Stop criminalizing poverty, homelessness, substance use disorder, and mental health by providing more resources for housing and treatment beds, mental health care, diversion programs from the criminal legal system, and more therapeutic treatment alternatives to incarceration;
- Promote successfully re-entry through access to education and workforce training for individuals while incarcerated and resources for successful reentry;
- Increase access to therapeutic alternatives to traditional prosecution and incarceration;
- Reduce barriers to housing, employment, and voting for individuals with felony convictions;
- Automate the vacation of old convictions when they are eligible for vacation to expeditiously and equitably clear criminal records.

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 this pledge and I am listed in the hyperlink provided in this question as a legislative candidate that has taken the pledge: (<https://fusewashington.org/news/five-reforms-police-accountability>). I believe this pledge is simply a starting point and that we must pursue big system changes as I have outlined above.

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?

For meaningful police reform, we must increase transparency and accountability in police union contracts and limit the scope of what police unions may collectively bargain for to exclude use of force, police oversight, and discipline.

Police officers serve a fundamentally different role in our society and communities than workers in any other labor union. The federal and state constitutions give police officers enormous responsibilities and powers that no other public employee or represented worker possesses. Police officers are entrusted to make judgments and exercise power to revoke an individual's freedom and liberty, with the use of violence if necessary, in the name of public safety and criminal law. When a police officer is unjustified in the use of violence or restriction of liberty against a citizen, the result is a violation of civil and constitutional rights, and sometimes serious injury or death. There are no other public sector union workers that are entrusted with this constitutionally granted power.

I support exempting police misconduct and disciplinary systems from Washington collective bargaining law. These efforts would differentiate police unions from other labor unions so that change can happen without eroding workers' rights. Limiting the ability of police unions to bargain for how a police officer is investigated and potentially punished for violating a citizen's civil and constitutional rights should have no impact on other labor unions who do not possess the same power over fellow citizens.

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

Yes. Please see my answers above. I believe the legislature should pursue the following police reform/accountability measures:

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Reinvest in communities:

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- Embrace harm reduction and non-policing alternatives.

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	Sarah Reyneveld	Date: 9/30
Printed Name	Sarah Reyneveld	