

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	Chukundi Salisbury	
Position Sought	Washington State Representative 37th District. Pos. 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	o		
	Banning tear gas	o		
	Use of body cameras	o		Concerns about data privacy and facial recognition. Facial Recognition software has demonstrated a clear racial bias, and is ripe for abuse by law enforcement. I support Sen. Hasegawa’s bill, SB 5528 to place a moratorium on its usage.
2	Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police?	o		

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3	Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police?	o		
4	Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force?	o		
5	Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions?	o		
6	Do you support decertification for serious misconduct by law enforcement officers?	o		
7	Do you support ending police use of and access to surplus military equipment?	o		

Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

My idea of Public Safety is where we have a society that actively invests in the underlying root causes of behavior that leads to unsafe situations, however, we still need a society that has an appropriate and proportionate response when situations do occur. I've made an effort in my non-profit work to address these underlying roots causes such as founding the 100 Black Parent initiative or the Youth Green Corp to work on giving disadvantaged youth an equal playing field. This approach, however, needs to be coupled with a serious and thorough reassessment of our law enforcement system.

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 absolutely agree with the #ElectedsForJustice pledge and believe it is a vital step in undoing generations of systematic racism and unequal policing. I intend to vigorously pursue this pledge once in office. I have elaborated on it below:

We've known for years that the militarization of the police is a critical threat to the safety and rights of our citizens, and makes our communities less safe. The Defense Department's 1033 program has allowed millions of dollars of deadly militarized equipment to flood into our police departments. Over 4 million dollars of this equipment has entered King County alone. I would be interested in pursuing a bill like the 2015 Montana House Bill 330 in Washington state to ban local

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police departments from receiving this equipment. Likewise, I would be interested in legislation to mandate the return of this equipment.

We absolutely need to pursue restrictions on the use of excessive or deadly force by police. I believe that I-940 was a critical first step forward in setting clear restrictions on the use of force in Washington. However, as of August, there have been 30 incidents involving potentially deadly force used by the police since I-940 took effect in January. It's clear we need to consider additional steps in strengthening I-940 and other measures to better protect our community such as stricter rules on the use of deadly force and stronger enforcement measures. Furthermore, the failure to follow through on the independent investigation provisions of I-940 following the shooting of Said Joquin by officer Mike Wiley was a travesty. I believe that we need to strengthen our independent oversight boards with subpoena powers and other necessary investigative powers, and assure they are truly independent and not populated with police coworkers. Police should not be investigating themselves.

Striking a balance between protecting labor rights, which have been under siege for years, and the urgent need to transform our law enforcement system is one of the most important challenges facing our state. As a 23 year union member I am a strong supporter of collective bargaining rights. I have also been a leader in calling for the removal of police accountability from the collective bargaining process. This needs to be coupled with strengthening the decertification process of officers as a way to address serious misconduct.

I believe that we need to pursue a strategy of police obsolescence, replacing many police functions with unarmed professional community based alternatives specifically trained in de-escalation. We have enjoyed success with community policing officers within the 37th district. I want to be able to use the resources of the state to fund and expand these community based alternatives. I believe that these community alternatives should be filled with trained social service professionals and will be better equipped to respond to emergencies and provide health and social services.

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?

We must abolish [RCW 41.80.020](#), which prevents all jurisdictions within our state from implementing accountability policies outside of the scope of bargaining. This law has allowed law enforcement unions to leverage labor rights in a way that does not benefit our communities. This can be changed on the state level via the legislature and I plan to work on this immediately.

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

We need to end no-knock raids. They are a blatant violation of 4th amendment rights and should never have existed to begin with. I will work to abolish this violent practice on day one of my term.

I believe that police reform/accountability measures are incomplete without a reassessment of and divestment from our racist prison system. We especially need to close the private Immigration Customs Enforcement detention center in Tacoma, which currently operates without oversight. Furthermore, I believe our work is not complete by simply addressing over policing in the present. We need to work to undo decades of harm wrought by over policing on the BIPOC community such as felony disenfranchisement. I want to see SB 6228, which restores those voting rights, reintroduced and passed next session.

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	Chukundi Salisbury	Date: 9/30/2020
Printed Name	Chukundi Salsibury	