

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	Ryan Johnson	
Position Sought	39 LD Position 2	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: 3532 172 nd St #102 NE Arlington WA 98223	Phone: 425 312 3160 Fax:
	Website: www.friendsofryanjohnson.org Email: friendsofryanjohnson@gmail.com Twitter: Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RyanJohnsonFor39th	

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		
3	Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police?	X		
4	Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force?	X		
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		

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7	Do you support ending police use of and access to surplus military equipment?	X		
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Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

Equal justice and standards for all, regardless of race, wealth, or social status. A police force that is trusted by all of the public, and worthy of that trust.

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?

I support it, my plan will go a little farther.

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 a Teamster and have been since 2004, I am familiar with CBAs. At no point in my contract, nor any other contract I have heard of, are any union members allowed to break laws. We need to change laws first, and the contracts will conform to the law automatically.

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

These are the reforms I would support as a legislator, and as a citizen. All of these points are explained in the vid, and feel free to ask questions.

1. Adopt the military rules of force, and military rules of deadly force for our civilian police immediately. "I thought he had a gun" and "I was scared for my life" were one way trips to Leavenworth for me as a Navy police officer, because saying both of those things when there was no clear and present danger to myself or others meant that I had violated the first rule of deadly force, which was "know what you are shooting at." "I thought he had a gun" when he didn't meant I did NOT know what I was shooting at, and there was no danger, therefore, as an officer I would have gone to prison. There is a reason there are so few shootings on military bases, and that is because the military has far higher accountability standards than our civilian police.

2. Body cams, dash cams, and interior car cams would be required, and they will be on at all times. The cops do NOT get to turn them on and off at will. Tampering with these devices would be an instant felony charge

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tried by a special prosecutor, an immediate unpaid suspension, and upon being found guilty, permanently prohibited from being a police officer. All charges against a suspect would be dropped if an officer is found tampering with any cameras.

3. Electronic logging/tracking required on ALL police vehicles (I would extend this to all municipal vehicles in the state, including school busses). This is not some pie in the sky requirement, every commercial vehicle (with very few exceptions) in the country over 26,000 pounds uses a similar system everyday, I have been using one for years, and it is one of the first things police look at if I get in a commercial accident. If it's good enough for every truck driver in America to have to use, it is not too much to ask our police to use it. It's satellite tracked, you can't erase it, and it does not lie.

4. End civil asset forfeiture in all forms. This has been massively abused across the country, it is time to prohibit it, in ALL forms.

5. No knock warrants of ALL types will now be illegal. These are too dangerous for police, citizens, children, and pets to continue.

6. End the program of police in Washington getting surplus military equipment. If a situation is that bad, call in the National Guard.

This list can be added to, but everyone is asking what reforms we should make, I have just listed six of them that should not be controversial in any way.

How would I pay for it? The money saved from lawsuits alone will pay for this. Everybody acts better when they are on camera, and we will find this out when these changes are made. Everybody benefits from these changes, and all video and tracking info will be available through public records requests, so the public has access to them as well as police.

This is from one of my Zoom meetings meeting on Police Accountability, we do these every two weeks. I am a former Navy Reserve Base Police officer, and my friend Ryiad Cooper is a former combat vet with multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. We compared the rules of force and deadly force to what the military uses, both in America and overseas. There is a reason shootings do not happen on military bases, and that is because accountability is written into the UCMJ, and they don't screw around, they will lock up the police officer for excessive force, no questions asked.

https://youtu.be/iPP_tzKm2Gw

Please watch this video, it has been very well received by all those who have watched it. We discuss so many issues, from cops shooting dogs, to tacking police(police have far less tracking than truck drivers), deadly force, we tried to cover everything in ways that people can understand.

I would love to talk to you about this video, and ways to change the system, and I will happily have you on one of my Zoom meetings if you would like to present at one. Please let me know what you thought of my video and presentation, and please spread it far and wide.

Feel free to contact me at friendsofryanjohnson@gmail.com or 425 312 3160 at any time. I would love to speak with you on these issues.

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	Ryan Johnson	Date: 9/19/20
Printed Name	Ryan Johnson	

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