

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	My-Linh Thai	
Position Sought	Washington State Representative	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address:	Phone:
		Fax:
	Website:	
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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?	-	-	I am principal of legislator group currently working on this issue.
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?	-	-	As one of the seven members of the house engaged on police accountability policies, I have worked closely with families who have lost people to police violence and seen the shortfalls of our civilian review system. Lack of investigative and decision-making power means independent civilian review is not the best next step in police

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

My idea of public safety is one in which a diverse community of all individuals can gather, assemble, work, play, and live without fear. A community where clean air and water is accessible to everyone, and the law is applied equally regardless of one's race, gender, sexuality, or income.

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 will take the pledge. I am in a working group to create meaningful police reform legislation that hopes to address many of the issues presented in the plan.

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?

Meaningful police reform must begin by engaging with police and labor unions to understand where these organizations currently stand. I support efforts to bring everyone to the table and determine how to uphold the union's core purpose of protecting its workers while still pursuing solutions to the underlying issues of institutional and systemic racism. Collective Bargaining Agreements are important to protecting workers – law enforcement officers included – but must not stand in the way of important and overdue reforms.

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

The recent and historical frictions between police and those they serve has created an environment that fails to attract a diverse group of citizens to working in law enforcement. Just as

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we strive to diversify our teachers to reflect their students, we must diversify the police workforce so they look like the communities they serve and protect. This is one of many important steps that must be taken to address the racism embedded in our law enforcement system. If this underlying systematic racism is not addressed, technical and procedural changes will be negated by the influence of racial bias. Meaningful and lasting police reform must thus begin with comprehensive education in history, social studies, and physiology to reduce the prevalence of these biases.

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	My-Linh Thai	Date: 9/25/2020
Printed Name	My-Linh Thai	