

ACLU People Power Washington

2020 Police Reform

Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate Name	Sherae Lascelles	
Position Sought	State Representative, District [43], 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		Unions should never be used to protect actors of state violence. In Seattle, we have seen the unions begin to step up to this credo with the expulsion of the Police Officer's Guild from the

				<p>Labor Council. The only problem with this move is that the labor council no longer has influence on the Police Officer's Guild's actions. As a harm reductionist and abolitionist, I will propose legislation that will disallow blanket protections for law enforcement laborers such as jail and prison guards, Washington State Patrol, and municipal police. These individuals are vested with the responsibility of human life. When they act out in violence, they should in no way be protected. This is a small step towards the reform we need on the way to abolition. We must also have independent investigations into acts of harm and violence by the police. The process must be streamlined and well funded so that anyone who has been harmed by law enforcement can be easily met with care, and those who do harm know they will no longer be protected.</p> <p>Unions should not have control over community access to accountability measures. They should not be a gate-keeper to holding police officers accountable for their actions.</p>
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

ACLU People Power Washington – 2020 Police Reform Questionnaire

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.

What is your idea of public safety?

Public safety to me is a world without police, which is an institutional relic of slavery and genocide and the means by which state violence is enacted. We often think that that which makes us unsafe is this construct of the malicious other-- somebody lurking behind a building, ready to pop out and inflict harm. However, most incidents of community harm are in fact products of larger community health/mental health traumas, wrought by centuries of systematic underinvestment and exploitation of multiply marginalized communities.

We live in a world where survival is criminalized. I hate the phrase crimes of poverty. To actually build community safety we need a cultural shift. We must stop thinking that community safety is a matter of stopping bad people who will do harm, but rather, a matter of harm reduction that will succeed when the community responds with care and a centering of those who have systematically been most marginalized and pushed out of circles of care. This method of community care and harm reduction is the way forward.

Steps for moving away from the carceral model of public safety and towards one of community care:

- Defund law enforcement, jails, and prisons
- Reinvest in communities
- Invest in diversion and restorative justice processes only as tools of immediate harm reduction while building up community investments.

Abolition of carceral systems cannot happen overnight. However, I will immediately work on legislation to divest from and defund a significant portion of the state budget that is now allocated towards our carceral system and immediately invest those funds in community systems that will provide care for those most impacted.

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 did sign the #ElectedsForJustice pledge. As a founding member of Decriminalize Seattle I am deeply aligned with these values, have actively participated in processes to defund the police at the municipal level, and plan to build coalitions toward these efforts at a state level as a member of the Washington State House of Representatives.

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?

Police have the profound power of holding law and life in their hands. As walking “enforcers” of law and justice, their responsibility is exponentially higher than other laborers. Therefore, in instances where there is question of misconduct, law enforcement officers should be held to the highest standard of scrutiny and culpability of any worker for any municipality or state institution. Police labor unions should not and must not be allowed to shield officers from this personal responsibility. This need not erode workers’ rights just as teachers and counselors being mandated reporters does not erode their labor rights. This is where we can start.

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

We need independent oversight of police misconduct. Community members who have experienced a police contact should receive outreach by a care team that includes an opportunity to report misconduct to a review board. I am an abolitionist, not a reformist, but I will work in community with other legislators to determine what community oversights and harm reduction measure reforms communities most impacted would like to see and legislate and fund it.

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>Sherae L. Lascelles</i>	Date: September 30th, 2020
Printed Name		