

# ACLU People Power Washington

## 2020 Police Reform

### Candidate Questionnaire



<b>Candidate Name</b>	Representative Gerry Pollet	
<b>Position Sought</b>	State Representative 46 <sup>th</sup> District Pos. #1	
<b>Campaign Contact Information</b>	Mailing address: 7750 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE Seattle WA 98115	Phone: Fax:
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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	Y		
	Banning tear gas	Y		
	Use of body cameras	Y		I have been a longstanding advocate to require all police to wear body cameras, and believe all footage from public locations should be available to the news media, civil rights and community groups without charge.
2	Do you support abolishing qualified immunity for police?	Y		
3	Do you support de-escalation standards and accountability for police?	Y		
4	Do you support independent, civilian review of complaints of police use of force?	Y		

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5	Do you support eliminating investigation and discipline of use of force against civilians as topics for collective bargaining by law enforcement unions?	Y		See <a href="#">news coverage</a> and my recent correspondence regarding UW Police contract and bargained language preventing disclosure or use of evidence of misconduct after three years.
6	Do you support decertification for serious misconduct by law enforcement officers?	Y		I've proposed specifics to have police decertified through a statewide commission independent of individual police agencies.
7	Do you support ending police use of and access to surplus military equipment?	Y		

## Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety?

We need to understand that systemic racism that shows its effects in policing and jailing of people of color starts with our education system and the grossly unequal access that children of color begin life with from lack of health care to not having life-changing early learning through our public schools and postsecondary opportunities. That is why Gerry supports universal early learning and greatly increasing support for public education, transforming curriculum (including being a supporter of ethnic studies in all public schools) and championing free public access to all qualified residents (regardless of immigration status) to postsecondary education and workforce training. Gerry is engaged in developing legislation regarding police, race and force. This includes renewing my effort to require all police to wear body cameras and ensure that the video is available promptly to community, civil rights groups and news media. I've been a longtime advocate to reduce youth entangled in the juvenile justice system and youth jails – which is where we see African American male youth disproportionately begin to be incarcerated. I'm actively working on legislation to address the inability of police to be disciplined for violating civil rights and use of force.

Continue reading more at <https://gerrypollet.com/fighting-racism-gun-violence/>

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'm actively working on legislation to address the inability of police to be disciplined for violating civil rights and use of force. I'm working to have the UW Police Contract reflect the principles that union negotiations should not result in barring disclosure of misconduct or an agreement not to consider serious misconduct that reflects a pattern extending more than three years:  
[https://www.thecentersquare.com/washington/washington-lawmaker-demands-review-of-university-of-washington-police-contract/article\\_61620e3a-f2d8-11ea-a06c-0faa0d3aeea4.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/washington/washington-lawmaker-demands-review-of-university-of-washington-police-contract/article_61620e3a-f2d8-11ea-a06c-0faa0d3aeea4.html)

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[http://www.dailyuw.com/news/article\\_06cec2c2-f46f-11ea-adc6-df2e946a5351.html](http://www.dailyuw.com/news/article_06cec2c2-f46f-11ea-adc6-df2e946a5351.html)

Seattle's new contract has similar provisions that I have objected to. I am also working to develop legislation to ensure we have an independent statewide body oversee police misconduct and termination of a police officer's commission. We can't let the local police agencies continue to protect themselves and their officers.

You can read more on my work and views on fighting racism in policing: <https://gerrypollet.com/fighting-racism-gun-violence/>


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've been responsible for documenting that bargaining cannot legally undermine other legal duties for disclosure of misconduct records. Many jurisdictions have included such provisions as a result of police union influence and inadequate independent legal advice to public officials. Nor can bargaining preempt constitutional duties and restraints on use of force or biased policing – as Judge Roberts has repeatedly sought to make clear to Seattle.

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

As discussed above, disclosure of misconduct is essential. Many of our police union agreements improperly require removal of misconduct records in three years, commit to redacting the names of officers involved in misconduct, and create other barriers to disclosure.

**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		Date: September 28, 2020
Printed Name	Gerry Pollet	

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