

ACLU People Power Washington

2022 Policing and Public Safety Candidate Questionnaire – State Legislature



[People Power Washington – Police Accountability](#) strives to bring just and equitable public safety to our local communities through relationship building, education and policy reform. We champion policies that divest from police and reinvest in community-based solutions and alternate crisis response, decriminalize non-serious offenses, and implement accountability and enforceable standards for police officers and agencies. Our vision is for public safety in Washington to be community-driven and to meet the needs of all people equitably.

Our group's work advocating for police accountability in our local communities has made us well aware of the important role our local government and elected officials play in driving policy around this issue. Appreciating the impact the Washington State Legislature has on our day-to-day lives, our hope is to empower voters with a non-partisan resource to understand how to vote their values through a lens of police reform and re-imagining of public safety.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name	Matt Macklin
Position Sought	26 TH LD HOUSE POSITION 2
Campaign Contact Information	Website: www.mattmacklin.com Email: info@mattmacklin.com

Part I – Yes/No Questions

1. Do you support prohibiting traffic stops by armed law enforcement officers for low-level, non-moving violations such as vehicle registration violations and equipment failure?

Yes	yes
No	
Additional Comments	Under circumstances like, location, time of day, etc. *The Berkeley Model)

- Traffic stops are one of the most common ways members of the general public interact with police. For decades, there have been significant racial disparities in traffic stops, particularly for low-level violations, unjustified by the crime-fighting value. This undermines community trust, fairness, and wastes law enforcement resources.
- While there's a perception that traffic stops are dangerous for police, the reality is that they are far more dangerous for those being stopped, especially if they are people of color.
- As a result, Seattle and other jurisdictions, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and the State of Virginia, have restricted or banned traffic stops for low-level traffic violations.

2. Do you support establishing an Independent Prosecutor for cases of criminal conduct arising from police killings?

Yes	Yes
No	
Additional Comments	Removal of conflicts of interest is critical for true justice and confidence in the process.

- Police investigating themselves present an inherent conflict of interest. County Prosecutors work closely with law enforcement and rely on law enforcement for gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and providing defense to law enforcement.
- Prosecutors, exercising prosecutorial discretion, often fail to file criminal charges even when unarmed citizens are killed at the hands of law enforcement.

3. Do you support a state law that would remove obstacles, like qualified immunity, when suing police officers for violating a person's civil rights?

Yes	Yes
No	
Additional Comments	I support a statewide standard similar to those set under the CRA 1982

- Today when someone's constitutional rights have been violated or they are seriously injured or killed by the police, victims or victims' families can only sue police or the department under federal law 42 USC 1983.
- This federal law includes the legal principle of qualified immunity, which protects government officials performing discretionary immunity from civil suits unless the plaintiff shows that the official violated "clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known."
- In essence, there are little to no consequences for when law enforcement commits the above actions.
- State legislation could give individuals a legal remedy under state law that does not currently exist.

4. Do you support a state law that would authorize the Attorney General's (AG's) Civil Rights Division to investigate a law enforcement department where there are patterns of misconduct?

Yes	Yes
No	
Additional Comments	Plus, standards required for removal of the oversight

- Today, in order to hold a law enforcement department accountable for patterns and practices of misconduct such as discriminatory policing, the US Department of Justice is the only entity that can investigate the department and bring a lawsuit or consent decree to effect change.
- State legislation could authorize the AG's Civil Rights Division to investigate systemic practices that deprive individuals of rights protected by the Washington Constitution, to address the most harmful practices in a department and ensure a minimum quality of policing across Washington.

5. Do you support strengthening law enforcement accountability by establishing statewide protocols for complaints, investigations, discipline, and disciplinary appeals for serious misconduct?

Yes	Yes
No	
Additional Comments	Including a statewide disqualifying database that prevents job-hopping of unqualified officers

- Holding officers accountable through termination or suspension for serious misconduct at the department-level is important for maintaining public trust and confidence in law enforcement.
- Currently, procedures for administrative accountability are determined separately for each police department or sheriff's office across the state resulting in inconsistencies and lack of public trust.

6. Do you support ending long term solitary confinement?

Yes	Yes
No	
Additional Comments	An 8A violation

- The UN Mandela Rules define long term solitary confinement as torture.
- Human beings have a basic biological need to establish and maintain contact with others. The deprivation of human contact causes severe psychological consequences including depression, anxiety, paranoia, PTSD, psychosis, self-harm and even suicide, which interfere with rehabilitation of incarcerated people.
- The use of solitary confinement does not reduce violence or staff assaults in prisons.

Part II – Free Response Questions

What is your idea of public safety? What are tangible ways to measure progress toward this goal?

Public safety is a multifaceted process. We spend too much time and money on addressing the symptoms of a more significant problem. Reinvestment in MHS, addiction services, and housing will exponentially return investment. Public safety is currently approved as a responsive service rather than preventative, as it should be.

What would you do, as a state legislator, to further your idea of public safety?

Investment in services that prevent crime and safety degeneration in communities is key. Access to healthcare and mental health services is critical. As a legislator, I will propose measures that invest in a long-term resource allocation solution like funding pipelines to provide more providers and access points in the community, multi-use centers that build communities within communities, and measures that include and hold law enforcement accountable to policies and behavior on a community level.


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

Most of the measures and reforms being considered are too idealistic for firm implementation. Without firm and set criteria of what is or is not acceptable, we run the risk of abuse of discretion. The first place to start raising the standard is in individual officers' records. As mentioned, I favor the implementation of a database that records negative conduct findings by an officer acting in the state. I recommend a statute that codifies disqualifying actions or actions over time, that holds officers accountable, and prevents "department-hopping" to avoid negative actions or records.

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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.

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: 6/29/22
Printed Name	Matt Macklin	