

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.

This was included in their email: As a non-partisan organization, we do not endorse candidates.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name	Julia Reed
Position Sought	House of Representatives, 36 th Legislative District, Position 1
Campaign Contact Information	Website: www.votejuliareed.com Email: info@votejuliareed.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	x
No	
Additional Comments	Traffic stops have significant racial inequities, causing Black and Brown drivers to be disproportionately targeted, often leading to situations that escalate dangerously without having a significant impact on crime. I want police resources to be used to actually fight serious crime not to pull over motorists for low level offenses.

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	x
No	
Additional Comments	When police officers kill, they should be held accountable and those killings should be investigated by an independent body. It is critical that anyone who

	serves the public is held to the highest standards of conduct, especially those empowered with high use of force
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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.

In addition, it is essential that family members of those killed by police are represented by a lawyer, including having access to a public defender, during inquests following police shootings.

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	x
No	
Additional Comments	Like any public servant, police officers should be held to the highest standards of conduct and accountability

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. No one should be above the law, especially those in a position of public trust.

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	x
No	
Additional Comments	Police departments and police officers should want to work in environments that are free of misconduct. People served by police have the right to know that when misconduct occurs, it will be investigated vigorously. The Attorney General, as the people's representative, should have this power.

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	x
No	
Additional Comments	A patchwork of accountability measures that vary from city to city can allow too much misconduct to slip through the cracks, with bad cops moving from department to department. Statewide accountability would help ensure people have confidence in the people who work in our police departments.

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	x
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No	
Additional Comments	Solitary confinement causes lasting damage that continues to harm society after people are released from prison. It is cruel and I do not think it serves a meaningful rehabilitative or safety purpose.

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 to me means that communities feel safe from violence and criminal behavior, and that safety is rooted in the community's prosperity, interconnectedness, and community-based accountability for criminal activity. It means that if law enforcement is involved, they are working to respond to and in the service of what the community has asked them to do, not what law enforcement agencies alone think is best. It means that police officers are held accountable for their actions, just as every day citizens are, and that there is transparency, trust, and respect for communities at the heart of all public safety decisions.

I think the COVID-19 pandemic has really underscored how few resources are available in our state for people experiencing a mental health crisis, and how much we place on our first responders to address what is more than an emergency problem but a need for long-term, consistent care. In the state legislature, I will prioritize funding for mental health care, including beds for mental health patients (adults and children), services, counseling, and mental health responders who can support other emergency services in addressing crises.

Furthermore, I am also committed to addressing the scarcity and poverty that is at the root of so much crime. Lack of access to jobs, education, housing, mental and physical healthcare, food, lead to increases in crime in our communities. The legislature's responsibility is to address scarcity in our state, and as a legislator this will be a priority.

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

As a legislator, prioritizing public safety will mean ensuring that all of my constituents feel secure and protected in their environments. I am committed to listening to communities about their safety needs, and to standing by them even when it's politically inconvenient. It takes time to thoughtfully implement reform on all levels and that police are taking responsibility for their part of training and implementation. I will work to ensure that communities are seeing the effects of legislation to protect their safety.

I will also push for expanded investment in housing, mental health care, jobs, education, and access to green spaces, which are tools that meaningfully support lasting public safety and healthy communities. And I will increase investments in community programs like the Seattle Community Safety Initiative which support non-carceral, non-police based safety solutions statewide.

We must also recognize that the systems in place to keep us safe and promote accountability are the same systems that continue to attack and discriminate against our communities of color. As a legislator, I intend to prioritize comprehensive police and criminal justice reform to ensure that these systems can serve the community in a positive manner.

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

Even as crime has gone up, the commitment to police reform hasn't changed in Seattle. We have the intelligence and the resources to keep people safe from crime AND police misconduct.

As a Black woman, this is a personal issue for me. I have a Black brother, a Black father, and a Black boyfriend. I know what it feels like to have them go out the door and know what might happen to them. I know what might happen to me. I also have police officers in my family, and as contributors to this campaign. We need police departments and unions to do their part and partner with the state to implement systemic reforms and accountability so that our communities can be safe.

When I'm addressing issues like police accountability and community safety in Olympia, it will be through the lens of watching my Black father, brother, partner walk out the door every day and worrying if they will come back. It will be as someone who lived on Capitol Hill in the summer of 2020, with teargas coming in the window and helicopters overhead as police confronted racial justice protests. It will also be as someone who has close relatives who are police officers, and with an understanding that we have to focus on changing the systems that create violence, scarcity, distrust, and lack of safety in our communities, more than individual hearts and minds.

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	Julia Grant Reed	Date: 06/14/2022
Printed Name	Julia Reed	