

## Candidate Information

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<b>Position Sought</b>	State Senate
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### 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?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>No</b>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

- 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?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>No</b>	

<b>Additional Comments</b>	
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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.

**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?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>No</b>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

· 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?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
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<b>No</b>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

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?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>No</b>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

- 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?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>No</b>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

- 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?

Every person in every community has the right to feel safe in their homes and in their neighborhoods. For too long, our criminal legal system has been disproportionately incarcerating black and brown people, devastating generations of families. Our public policy has not supported successful re-entry. Policies that limit access to housing, education and jobs set these individuals up for a life of crime to survive. We must consider the adverse effects that our public policy has on the criminal legal system, and work to craft legislation that supports both prevention and rehabilitation.

I serve on the board of the Rainier Beach Action Coalition where we work to advance community rooted public safety strategies by breathing life into our community neighborhood vision and plan for a Beautiful Safe Place of Life Long Learning where all can work, live, and thrive.

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

Our police officers must receive adequate training that focuses on de-escalation tactics when responding to people experiencing a crisis. They must also be held accountable when they ignore the basic civil rights of members of our community, leading to unnecessary bodily injury or even death. We need a more comprehensive approach to community and public safety that acknowledges and provides real resources to respond to individuals in crisis, particularly those with behavioral health challenges and developmental disabilities.

The third leading cause of death for children in the US is now gun violence. I'm committed to continuing to promote common-sense gun safety legislation to reduce the fear of gun violence for all in our state. I also support passing evidence-based gun violence prevention policies that will make Washington safer and save lives.

I commit to work with most impacted communities to advance BIPOC led economic development, youth and young adult programming, and access to culturally impactful health care and housing.

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

Police officers who abuse their power, ignore basic civil rights, and violate public trust need to be held accountable and removed from the law enforcement profession. In partnering with organizations like the ACLU, I am particularly focused on increasing accountability measures that have been far too lax for too long, and hearing from those most affected when crafting legislation.

**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

*Rebecca Saldana*

Date: 6/25/22

Printed Name	Rebecca Saldaña	
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