

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	Hadeel Jeanne
Position Sought	State House Representative 46LD Pos 1
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Part I – Yes/No Questions

- **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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

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

Yes	X
No	
Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecutors, exercising prosecutorial discretion, often fail to file criminal charges even when unarmed citizens are killed at the hands of law enforcement.
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- 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

- 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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- **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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

- **Do you support ending long term solitary confinement?**

Yes	X
No	
Additional	

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<p>Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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Part II – Free Response Questions

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

I truly believe that everyone, and not just a select few who have historical power, deserves to feel safe in their communities. To me, this means investing in upstream solutions to reach root causes of crime in our neighborhoods. When peoples' needs are met and they have deep bonds in their community, they can thrive where they live, in peace and safety.

The most frequently cited measures of public safety are rates of reported crime, but by the time a crime has been committed it is too late, the safety of the victim and the public have already been violated. While we have a goal to reduce the crime rate, the way we will do so is by focusing on the indicators which show whether we are taking care of everyone or if we are letting some fall through the cracks. How many people are we forcing to live on the street because they can't afford a home, making them more vulnerable to crime? How many kids are failing to graduate from school because we aren't providing funding for teachers and support staff? What is the unemployment rate and are we providing a jobs guarantee so that no one is forced into poverty due to the lack of employment opportunities? Specifically, what is the rate of unemployment among those released from prison? If we are not providing opportunities for incarcerated people then we are setting them up for failure and hurt our own communities. These are all more tangible measures of our success in building public safety than looking at the crime rate alone.

I also want to call out that our conception of public safety must include our jails and prisons as well. According to the Washington State Department of Corrections, only 55% of people in Washington State prisons are currently vaccinated against COVID-19 compared to 74% of the general population. Many prisons have remained in lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreaks, which means that prisoners are confined to their individual units for 22 hours a day and are limited from family visits and other activities. It is well known that prisoners face elevated rates of physical and sexual violence. This violence harms the victims, traumatizes witnesses, and results in extended

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sentences for the perpetrator. When combined with the fact that people of color are massively overrepresented in our prison population this becomes a racial justice issue as well. We must do more to protect the health and safety of our prisoners in order to help them survive and reintegrate into society.

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

- The way we approach policing must be addressed and changed. So much justice-informed work went into HB1054 and HB1310 to improve interactions between police officers and community members with these bills, and HB 2037's passing to undo all of that work was disappointing and continues to put our marginalized communities, who are more likely to be subject to police violence, at risk. Included in that demographic are our houseless neighbors, who are subject to horrific sweeps and the most recent legislation coming from Edmonds which has made sleeping outside illegal.
- We must invest more in upstream solutions that will address the root cause of crime in our communities. That means aggressive investment in things like mental health and addiction services, housing, and jobs that allow people to be productive members of society. It also means scaling up investments in the community based programs that are known to prevent crime, but are chronically underfunded.
- I support passing Tara Simmon's HB 1282 which would modify earned release times for prisoners with good behavior. This would provide the Department of Corrections with more tools to incentivise good behavior from prisoners and would reduce our prison population by shortening sentences for those prisoners who have demonstrated they are ready to be released. The money saved by doing this could then be invested into funds for victims and the sorts of upstream supports which prevent crime in the first place.

Are there police reform/accountability measures that are not addressed here that you think would

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be productive to pursue?

I do not believe that police accountability measures should be subject to collective bargaining. The trust that we place in the police must come with the condition that they will be accountable to the people and we must be able to get bad cops off the street. The recent \$1.5 million settlement Kent paid to get a Nazi police officer to resign was outrageous, and shows that current contracts protect police officers who are dangerous to the community.

I support the recommendations of the "Whose Streets? Our Streets!" Seattle Neighborhood Greenways workgroup to eliminate the need for armed enforcement for most traffic violations through the use of street design and engineering. We can modify streets such that drivers are forced to travel at safe speeds, which will protect drivers, pedestrians, and other road users while eliminating the need for traffic enforcement.

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: 06/26/2022
Printed Name	Hadeel Jeanne	