

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 Dr. Lelach Rave

Position Sought Representative for the 46th of the Washington State House of Representatives

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Part I – Yes/No Questions

Yes

No

Additional Comments

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

No

Additional Comments

I am running to make our communities a safer and more supportive place. I support preventing armed officers from making these stops which can lead to a situation of violence against individuals from marginalized communities and can lead to fear and anxiety.

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

Yes

No

Additional Comments

Yes, I believe that police should be held accountable by an external source like an Independent Prosecutor.

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

No

Additional Comments

Yes, I would. Obstacles such as qualified immunity hamper accountability and are unjust. Qualified immunity restricts recourse for victims whose civil rights have been violated by police. I believe we should work to expand police accountability.

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

No

Additional Comments

It is imperative that we hold the police accountable, especially in cases with repeated misconduct. By only allowing the US Department of Justice to investigate departments, we seriously hamper our efforts to attain justice..

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

Yes

No

Additional Comments

By implementing uniform protocols, we can ensure that each department is being held accountable and that there is greater transparency in their procedures.

6. Do you support ending long term solitary confinement?

Yes

No

Additional Comments

Yes, I believe that long term solitary confinement is inhumane. We should be working to reform our carceral systems to focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment. Inhumane confinement is outdated, does nothing to benefit the prisoner or society at large, and should be eliminated at every level.

Part II – Free Response Questions

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

As a physician, I see everything through a health equity lens. Public safety to me means that every member of our community has the ability to develop, to maintain their health and wellness, and to reach their full potential without fear or threat. That is not a reality for too many whose lifespans are defined by the color of their skin or the zip code they were born in.

We should evaluate and measure who has access to important resources and social services, such as healthcare, childcare, education, and housing. We must also measure

rates of violent crime. We should measure how many people end up in the carceral system and how many end up in alternative, restorative justice programs. We should measure the success of preventative programs - mentorships, apprenticeships and other programs that allow young people to develop skills, earn a living wage and contribute to their communities.

We should work to fill the gaps in health inequity. One way I did this was by helping lead the fight to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates in the state of Washington so that poor children (disproportionately children of color) would have meaningful access to health care providers. Health equity also means safety from police brutality, poverty racism, misogyny, homophobia, and climate change.

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

As a pediatrician, I am trained to treat the whole child – this is the perspective I will bring to advocating for health and safety in Olympia. Taking care of the whole child requires considering their family context, home environment, development, mental health, physical well-being, and ability to thrive. That’s why I will advocate to strengthen our mental health workforce, invest in education, implement common sense gun reform, and champion environmental justice. We must work to fill in the gaps and ensure that all members of the community have access to the social services that allow people to thrive.

When it comes to law enforcement, over policing, incarceration, and police violence in our state disproportionately impact marginalized communities. And, we must have enough police to respond to violent crime when it occurs. Those officers must be trained so that they can respond APPROPRIATELY. And, we must have enough individuals trained in trauma informed care, crisis response and mental health intervention to augment the work done by police. This will allow police to do what they are best trained to do and allow well-trained professionals who are equipped to handle mental health crises, addiction and other issues handle situations that are best managed with de-escalation techniques and protect communities from excessive force. Such approaches have already saved lives in our state. In order to shape those reforms I will look to colleagues in the Black Members Caucus and the communities in my district most impacted by any policy. I will do whatever is in my capacity to support essential reforms as a pediatrician, parent, and legislator.

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

Gun violence in minority communities is, unfortunately, predominantly carried out by teenagers and young adults. We must work to put systems in place that decrease access to deadly weapons. We also should implement community policing where the police can

be part of a community's harm reduction and seen as allies rather than as dangerous enemies. There is much repair work to be done and training needed in that area. I will passionately support all of these solutions. I want to listen to the communities themselves so I that I can learn from them and advocate effectively on their behalf. I believe that people can and will tell you what they need.

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 Lelach Rave Date: 6/29/2022

Printed Name Lelach Rave