



2020 Candidate Questionnaire

About AFT Washington

AFT Washington represents approximately 6,500 education professionals working in community and technical colleges, regional universities, early learning, and K-12. Our members work with all ages of students, from young children in pre‑K education settings to adults in higher education, as well as all facets of education. Our members are bus drivers, maintenance workers, faculty, paraeducators, food service workers, custodians, success coaches, grounds crew members, and more.

Together, with our members and national organization, we advocate and fight for:

* Safe, welcoming, and thriving neighborhood schools for every student, and high-quality, affordable post-high school opportunities to fulfill our paramount duty to help *all* students succeed, at every level;
* Economic and advancement opportunities, for everyone;
* Affordable, high-quality healthcare for everyone;
* Democracy, pluralism, and voting rights by involving the voices of students, parents, and the community, side-by-side with educational employees and elected officials;
* Racial, social, financial, and civic equity, and fight back against discrimination, hatred, and bigotry.

We hope you will take this opportunity to complete the questionnaire below and allow us to better understand your candidacy. Completing the questionnaire is required for consideration of endorsement or possible campaign contributions. If our Committee on Political Education (COPE) decides they would like further information, we may ask you to participate in an interview.

To be considered, return your completed questionnaire via email,by close of business, **May 28th**, to **aftwashington@aftwa.org**. If you have questions, please leave a message at 206-242-4777.

Candidate Biographical Information

**Name:** Click here to enter text.

**Candidate for which office:** Click here to enter text.

**Party affiliation:** Click here to enter text.

**Political background** *(offices held or currently hold, offices ran for, party positions, etc.)***:**

Click here to enter text.

**Community or organizational memberships** *(past and present)***:** Click here to enter text.

**Current occupation:** Click here to enter text.

**Current employer:** Click here to enter text.

**Are you currently a member of a labor organization?** Click here to enter text.

**If yes, which labor organization, and how long have you been a member?** Click here to enter text.

**If not currently a member of a labor organization, have you ever been?** Click here to enter text.

**If yes, which labor organization, when, and for how long?** Click here to enter text.

*General*

1. **Why are you running for this elective office?**
2. **What qualities distinguish you from other candidates for this office?**

*Revenue and Education*

1. For decades Washington State has had the most regressive tax system in the country. **How will you approach finding new sources of revenue to both invest in Washingtonians and create a more progressive revenue system?**
2. The *McCleary* court decision resulted in a significant investment in our PreK-12 public education system and yet, the full need has not yet been met. Similarly, HB 2158, the Workforce Investment Fund, represents additional investment in higher education, and yet higher education remains underfunded. **Do you support additional investments in public education and if so, what will you do to achieve those investments?**
3. Public education, from K-12 through Post-High School has seen state disinvestment for several decades. Several stakeholders have filled the gap: students (tuition represents 45% of the cost, vs. 20% in 1988), employees through wage stagnation (full-time faculty earn 12.4% less than peers in other states and 40% of staff are at least 25% below market salaries), and part-time faculty (who continue to earn, on average, 54% of their full-time counterparts).  **What will you do to increase the funding of community and technical colleges in order to invest in the employees? Do you support pay equity for part-time faculty?**
4. We often see non-education professionals defining the problems and solutions to the exclusion of those doing the work. This excluded group includes not only higher education faculty, but also paraeducators, and classified staff – food service workers, bus drivers, custodial, and other school-support staff. **How would you incorporate the expertise of AFT Washington members into policy and legislation? Please give specific examples how you will address this.**

*School Choice Proposals*

1. Some proposals for education funding or reform call for the use of taxpayer money to support private and religious schools. This approach includes vouchers, charter schools, tuition tax credits and education savings accounts. Decades of experience and research show that these approaches undermine the public investment in public education, are not more effective and actually negatively impact student learning.

What is your opinion on each of these proposals?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PROPOSAL** | **OPPOSE** | **SUPPORT** |
| Vouchers |  |  |
| Charter Schools |  |  |
| Tuition tax credits |  |  |
| Education savings accounts |  |  |

Comments:

*Collective Bargaining*

1. **Do you support every workers’ right to collectively bargain for better working conditions, and their right to join a union?**
2. We see ongoing attempts to weaken unions and diminish working conditions here in Washington State and at the federal level. **What policies can** **support unions and workers’ rights and how will you work to enact such policies?**

*Social Justice*

1. What do you see as **your role** as a state official in addressing racial, social, and economic inequities in our educational system? **Please specifically address each issue.**
2. We are faced with numerous threats to social justice, including ongoing threats to our immigrant communities, the housing affordability and student debt crises, and more**. Where have you shown leadership and taken action on issues of social justice in the past? What will your social justice priorities be if you win your election?**

Campaign Information

**Are there any additional comments you would like to provide that you believe are necessary in understanding your candidacy?** Click here to enter text.

**What is your overall campaign budget?** Click here to enter text.

**How many volunteers are currently working on your campaign? What is your goal for volunteers working on your campaign?** Click here to enter text.

**To date, how much money have you raised and obtained pledges for?** Click here to enter text.

**Please provide any endorsements you have received:** Click here to enter text.

**Campaign address:** Click here to enter text. **City:** Click here to enter text.

**Zip:** Click here to enter text.

**Campaign phone:** Click here to enter text. **Home phone:** Click here to enter text.

**Email address:** Click here to enter text. **Website address**: Click here to enter text.

**Campaign manager:** Click here to enter text. **Phone number:** Click here to enter text.

**Treasurer:** Click here to enter text. **Phone number:** Click here to enter text.

**Consultant:** Click here to enter text. **Phone number:** Click here to enter text.

