

Governor Proposed Questions

Police Brutality

1. Given the recent events, I am going to start off with a couple questions that's on the forefront of people's minds. Right now, there is a huge spotlight on injustices that exist in policing and huge groups of people are demanding change through peaceful protest. Leaders around the nation are implementing quick and easy laws within their authority and jurisdictions to begin the steps toward more equitable policing in our nation. I am thankful you are assembling a team to generate solutions to eliminate disparate outcomes in policing.

What do you believe are some steps leaders can take, including yourself, in the next several months to begin taking action towards equitable policing for Washington communities? What is your commitment towards eliminating racism and discrimination in policing, so that after the demonstrators fade away, we know this will continue to be a priority for our state so that all citizens can trust and feel safe with their law enforcement?

2. Governor, as we acknowledge racism in our systems and call out police brutality, trying to engage in dialogue to demonstrate that black lives have historically been given less value, the conversation is intentionally turned into a discussion on whether we all police are hated through statements such as Black Lives Matter. As you know, the message is that ALL lives can't matter until black lives matter.
 - a. How do we move past this binary thinking and move this conversation forward in an authentic way? How will you encourage these conversations in your role as Governor?

Health and Overall Disparities

3. We know that disparity exists in every measurable outcome we have, not just policing and incarceration. It's even reflected in who contracts and is killed by COVID. Disparity is a direct result of systemic racism and oppression in all sectors.
 - a. Specific to COVID-19, it has shed a light on the huge disparities that exist in access to quality, equitable healthcare for people of color. What policies have been implemented to ensure that Black and Brown people receive quality health care?
 - b. What is your commitment to ensuring Washington State never goes back to the way it was, where we took minimal, safe actions towards eliminating disparities in health outcomes, wealth, and overall opportunities in the Black Community? What concrete steps will you commit to as Governor of Washington State to eradicate disparities from our workplaces and our communities?

Education

4. Much of what we learn about ourselves, our cultures and our level of respect for other cultures starts at home and continues in school. Understandably, the ongoing focus of our schools has been on planning different aspects for healthy, effective and accessible education for our students in and around a pandemic environment. But what we also know to be true is that our

education system has failed our students on educating them on all aspects of American history, especially black history.

- a. What do you feel OSPI can do to better support and encourage youth awareness around racial history, racial equity, social justice and effectively gauge whether current curriculum standards and requirements in these areas are adequate?
 - b. And what can you do to encourage and support this in your capacity as Governor?
5. Thank you Governor for your recent ceremonial proclamation for dedicating June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth in Washington State as an acknowledgment of the importance of this day to the black community. We know it's not a state holiday but we are appreciative of the acknowledgment. But speaking of holidays, a bill was previously introduced to make Juneteenth a state holiday in Washington. It did not pass the Washington State Legislature.
- a. What can you do to champion and support its passage as a state, paid holiday in Washington State?

State Workforce

6. One of the purposes of BUILD is to support the black community in promoting into positions of leadership. One of things we know from statewide data is that leadership becomes more homogenous racially as you look further and further up on agency's organization charts. As my friend Thanh Tran said, "If I don't have a voice at the table, I don't have representation".
- a. What commitment to Washington's value of diversity and representation can you make to your administration, including your own Executive cabinet, and how will you model its importance in the short and long term so that leadership becomes reflective of Washington's communities and of its workforce?