

Spokane Candidate Questionnaire

The member organizations of Smart Justice Spokane and Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) Platform for Change coalitions asked candidates running for Sheriff, County Commissioner, Prosecutor, Judge, Washington State Representative, and Washington State Senator to respond to 20 questions about racial justice, policing, housing, incarceration, services, and community.

See them all at spokanecandidates.org



Smart Justice Spokane is a broad coalition of over 30 organizations working together to end mass incarceration and eliminate racial disparities in our local criminal justice system. We organize and mobilize together for effective, restorative solutions that are driven by the experiences and needs of those impacted by the criminal justice system. The recovery and integration of those caught up in the criminal justice process is essential for a strong, healthy, and just community.



Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) Platform for Change is a coalition advancing a vision of systemic change for the Spokane community that embraces a holistic vision of public safety. This vision reexamines what is considered crime, accounts for its root causes, and recognizes that shared prosperity and community care are at the heart of a healthy society.

Lonny Ray Williams

Candidate for State Representative Pos 1 in Legislative District 7

1. What racial equity problems exist in Spokane and how will you use this position to fix them?

Critical Race Theory is the single greatest promotion of race hatred in the country right now. It goes against everything that that Dr. Martin Luther King stood for and is erasing decades of progress. We need to celebrate and promote those of us who are color blind and see the human race as an equal creation of God. All people in this great nation are afforded the opportunity to become the best that they can be based on their ambition, work, and dedication. There is a far better way than indoctrinating our population into how to think. Instead we must give every child the gift of colorblind attitudes from the beginning. I grew up in the public school system in the 70's and 80's that had a truly color blind mentality. The hard work of the civil rights movement paid huge dividends for me and I look at every human with dignity, respect, and without thought of color. I will promote the love of all people and the acceptance of all people while working to bring people together to see that we all are not that much different at all, other than normal individualities. We must stop the preaching of hate and racial disparities that Critical Race Theory reintroduces to the population.

2. You have an opportunity to re-envision law enforcement and the criminal legal system in Spokane County - what should it look like?

We need to remember that our State and Federal constitutions clearly outline that all political power lies in the people. That means that if you or I don't have the power to kick in someones door in the middle of the night and raid their home without a knock or identification of what they are there for then it is impossible to give that power to law enforcement. If we don't have the power to seize our neighbors assets then it is impossible to give that power to law enforcement. Law enforcement is a symptom of a greater power in the halls of governance. We have legislators and lawmakers who do not know or care to know the constitution that they are sworn to uphold . The corruption exists in both of the major parties to such a degree that we the people have had our rights eviscerated by corrupt politicians that are owned by corporations and special interest groups. We must return the power to the people by electing constitutional candidates that actually want to represent the real people and not special interest groups.

3. How can the community hold you accountable day-to-day in-between elections?

When I am elected I will have a MONTHLY town hall meeting in each of the seven counties in the 7th District. All of the people in that county are invited to come. I will lay out the bills that are to be considered and seek from the people how I should vote or what amendments that should be offered up. Anyone who wants to lobby me must do so at one of the public forums and I will turn to the people and seek their guidance on how to respond to the lobbyist. I will return

accountability to the people by setting a high bar on what representation means and I will continue to encourage every citizen in this nation to do the same thing. If you don't have a representative in government that is willing to take it to the people, you don't have a representative.

Policing

1. What is your role in ending racial disparities in law enforcement stops and arrests, and in advancing meaningful oversight and investigation of law enforcement?

Crime is crime. When we throw in weighted statistics we can create the narrative we want. If I said that there are religious disparities in law enforcement because most people that are stopped are not religious we could easily paint a picture to people. The truth of the matter is that we need to look at factors contributing to crime. The largest contributor to crime besides a broken family unit is the Public Education system. We need options for education in all communities that give people hope, teach them life skills, teach them to believe in themselves, and wipe the entitled mentality from anyone's mind. None of us are entitled to anything except the God given rights that our Founding Fathers outlined and enshrined. If we don't stand for those rights and teach our children their rights and their RESPONSIBILITIES then we are teaching them nothing about the system of government that they live in and it does not matter what else you teach them they will fall short of being the best person that they can be. Law enforcement and government has seized far too many powers beyond our constitution and we need to reign it in.

2. What is your assessment and position regarding the militarized culture of law enforcement, lack of appropriate norms and requirements for de-escalation, and continued use and purchase of military equipment by law enforcement?

As an infantry soldier I am shocked when I see police officers dressed like they are going into combat. The fear and dominance that is projected against the people has driven the people and law enforcement apart. I know many law enforcement officers who are striving to be constitutional but find themselves succumbing to the easy road of falling in line. Government is never to be weaponized against the people. We need to get rid of the patriot act, restore the rights of the people, and stop outfitting our police with military gear. It is never a war on drugs or war on crime. These are horrible terms. There are community problems that need to be worked through and police are peace officers and nothing more. I support the police in their difficult role but they must go back to limits of power and respectful service to the people if the people are going to respect them.

3. What are your thoughts about police presence in our schools and how juveniles are impacted by the legal system?

I believe that service officers are fantastic opportunities for police to work with communities and develop relationships. They should never be dressed like they are ready to storm Fallujah in full battle rattle but should instead serve as ambassadors to the community to understand the true needs of people in the

area they serve. All government power must be reigned in and restored to it's proper order. Developing relationships of trust and understanding is the right thing to do as long as law enforcement understands that their presence sends messaging to the populace and that messaging must be one of cooperation and understanding not dominance and power.

4. With the fall of Roe v. Wade and the resulting projected increase of nearly 400% in people coming to Spokane County for abortion care, what will you do to protect pregnant people's right to abortion care without being criminalized, especially if they are traveling to Spokane County for that purpose? How will you protect medical personnel and clinics in the same context?

We spend billions sending spacecraft to Mars and beyond looking for a single cell to call it life. I think the NASA scientists have it figured out. Single cell life is still life. My personal belief is that life begins at conception and I will do every thing in my power to protect every single life from conception to death. We all have the right to develop from that single cell into prosperous human beings that enjoy the greatest amount of liberty possible. There are hundreds of thousands of would be parents who medically cannot bring forth children. They make wonderful parents. People must understand that there are consequences to our actions, sometimes these actions result in the creation of life. Raising children educates us about our own selfishness and encourages us to get over ourselves and do the right thing for that someone who loves us just because we are their parent. There is no greater and trying time on earth than raising a child. But is the single greatest teacher of what we are capable of becoming as individuals. The destruction of that gift and the possibilities of that individual life is something I will fight against. The only cause for abortion that I see is where the mothers life is in danger and it is impossible for both or either to survive.

Incarceration

1. What is your position on Spokane County building a new jail?

Most of the jails in the area are overcrowded, too old, and do nothing to rehabilitate those incarcerated. If a person commits a crime justice stipulates that they must do the time, mercy stipulates that each person must be looked at as an individual and steps taken to return that person to the society as a fully functioning citizen. The first thing we need to do is redefine what is a crime. People have a right to do stupid things so long as they don't impact the liberty of others. Only when they don't play nice with others do they need an education on their rights and responsibilities. Any new jail should have a primary focus on rehabilitation and the instruction of rights and responsibilities.

2. Which of the recommendations of the Spokane County Justice Task Force to reduce the jail population, as outlined in the below documents, do you support or oppose and why?

The supported release falls in line with what we should have been doing all the time. The goal of any incarceration should be to support the individual in realigning their mental priorities to be a good citizen. Too often people say "They Must Pay". That mentality is not conducive to the Christian mentality of

repentance and rehabilitation which I fully support. I believe that good people make mistakes and we owe it to them to educate them about their decisions and rehabilitate them before we lock them up with other hardened criminals who teach people how to be better criminals. Faith based organizations must play a compassionate role in helping people be the best person that they can be.

3. What experience do you have with the criminal justice system and what have you done to engage the voices of the justice- involved or formerly incarcerated in your work?

Many officers I have met while getting a speeding ticket are angry and they project that which may in turn create a bad traffic stop that could go wrong. I have met some probably about a third had a great demeanor, issue a warning, and simply are doing their job to keep people safe. Those great men and woman are the true peace officers that we should exemplify. We need to stop generalizing that things are bad or good. The reality is that there are good and bad apples on every tree and responsible people focus on harvesting the good and getting rid of the rot.

4. Our courts continue to lack trauma-informed training and responses, culturally appropriate responses, and interpreter services and training around the immigrant community. People describe being shamed, ignored, and frustrated by our current system. How can you, in your role, help change this (including funding, training, increased staffing etc.)?

Our court system and legal system is broken. If you can afford a good attorney you have a better chance of beating the rap. People that have language or mental barriers are not served that well by the legal system. We have far too many unconstitutional laws that make common everyday people criminals. That being said, I met a man who waited twenty years to immigrate to this country. His opinion is the same as mine. If a person cannot follow the laws of entry into the country in order to get into the country, they have already demonstrated that they don't feel the need to follow the laws and they should be expelled back to their home country where they will have to wait in line like everyone else. People need to recruit and support better judges that are compassionate yet uphold the law.

5. The Washington State Supreme Court issued a letter acknowledging that our court system is racist and asked every member of the legal community to work on this. What are your thoughts on this statement and what are you doing about it?

I believe the Washington Supreme Court is out of touch with We the People, like most courts in this state. Labeling something racist is a childish way of trying to legislate from the bench. We will be far better off if the whole bench were replaced by men and women who support and defend the constitution and apply it equally to all people. People call everything racist now days. We could easily call many things anti-Christian in the same breath. Ending Critical Race Theory and the Sexualized Grooming in our public schools will take time to get rid of the label-lynching that happens in society. We are better than simply calling names and slapping labels on things in a hapless attempt to feel good about ourselves. The hard part involves looking at ourselves and finding the blame in each of us.

We all have fault in our society, and if we can't admit that we all have fault then we are the problem.

Services and community

1. What experience do you have with persons experiencing mental illness and how will you use your position to ensure there is an effective rollout of the recently authorized 988 crisis response system?

I had a stroke, I lost most of my cognitive abilities for about four years, I had tremendous bouts with depression, anxiety, and other mental challenges. The worst thing that happened to me was the seventeen medications that the VA put me on to try to "Fix" me. It wasn't until I quit the medications, moved out to the country, started raising my own animals, gardening, chopping my own wood for heat, and dealing with the raw struggles of life that I recovered. Our mental health system is completely broken and staffed by many who are enablers instead of healers. There are solutions but big pharma and the sickcare system does not want to lose their job security.

2. With the goal of addressing the root causes of substance use disorder, what is your position on legislation to partially redirect state cannabis revenues to local prevention, outreach, and recovery support services and end arrests and prosecutions of people for possessing drugs for their personal use?

People are addicted to substance use, porn, gambling, and all manners of behavior that create a high or escape from reality. Some people are genetically more susceptible to addiction. Some people are situationally more susceptible to addiction. More serious research is needed into the causes and affects of addiction. That being said I take the approach of our Founding Fathers. Taxation is theft from the people. Whatever you use it for and however you package it with a shiny bow it is theft. I don't believe that government has a right to tax, let alone a plant as it is grown in its natural form other than import or export tariffs. George Washington was a cannabis farmer. His plant was for fiber and making clothes but it showcases our hypocrisy. Liberty and freedom mean that people are allowed to do stupid things in the hopes that they will learn from them. Faith based organizations are supposed to be the social support fabric in our country and that has been minimized and disallowed. I am not for open man made synthesized drugs that are more addictive and more sinister in their destruction of the human mind and body but we need to get out of the business of labeling all drugs the same for sake of convenience or ignorance.

3. Domestic violence continues to be a great concern in our community, with too few shelter beds. How do you plan to address this issue?

Again, more faith based organizations from all faiths need to be allowed and encouraged to participate in the healing of our nation. I grew up in a domestic violence household. If it was not for my grandfather there would have been no rescuing my mother and my sisters from our situation. Family ties must be restored first as that is the first line of defense during crisis, faith based should be there to take up the slack, Non Governmental Charities should be there next and government needs to be the last thing we turn to. Any policy that wants to truly

tackle the issue needs to implement the most effective means of taking care of the problem and not try to reinvent the wheel. We need to stop demonizing men and understand that domestic violence comes from both biological genders.

4. How would you address the early learning gap in our community?

In Washington State there is more than \$18,000 per student spent on education. Each time the dollar amount has gone up our children's test scores have diminished. My plan calls for parents being given stewardship over their taxpayer dollars. That means the money follows the student. If the student goes to charter, home-school, private school, co-operative learning, or public school the money follows them. How many families could provide a world class education at home or send their children to private school if they had the option to choose the most effective education program available. In our case what has been the most effective is spending more time with our children actively teaching them instead of placing it on the heads of others. The goal in our family is to be better parents than we had. I think that should be the goal of everyone.

Housing

1. Why do you think people become homeless in Spokane County and what will you do to address that? For example, what do you see as the County's responsibility to provide shelter and transitional housing as well as partnering with the City of Spokane?

Addiction, misguided social programs, lack of opportunity, lack of hope, lack of faith in a higher power, the causes are numerous. Government never makes effective operatives of social programs, bureaucracy and red tape divert critically precious funds to salaries of middle managers who care more about their own rent than those they serve. Years of borrowing more than we can ever pay back as a nation are coming home to roost. Homeless populations will increase dramatically as the greatest food crisis of our lifetimes comes home to roost this winter. Feeding people, keeping them warm, and keeping them safe will most likely take more resources than are available. County Government officials need to be talking about this with their constituents to get people to pack away a little more food for the winter and be prepared for some rough times. The current administration has put the final nail in the coffin of our national economy. It will be ugly and we need to face it head on. I will encourage the self-sufficiency of Counties to grow their own food, harvest their own resources, and work together with other counties to trade for things that they don't have. We need politicians who speak the truth about the problems we face.

2. What is your vision for dealing with the lack of housing in our community? What funding (such as using ARPA for rental assistance), tenant rights and protections, affordable housing and infill are needed to keep people housed?

There are vast tracks of rural land that are ripe for homesteading. The city model and concentration of people is unsustainable economically and environmentally. Rural populations have been dwindling as opportunities fall in small towns. We need to invest in rural business opportunities that encourage people to move out of the city. It would be far better to give a family a hand up where they transition

into a life where they produce and provide rather than pass new regulations and spend money on programs that have not and will not work. No person has the right to live on another persons property without paying agreed upon just compensation. There must be rural development programs that seek out those who desire to work for a better life and provide road maps for how to achieve it.

3. People who once had stable housing are often put at risk due to inadequate aging- and disability-related personal care and supports. How do public and private funded in-home services fit into your plan to address our housing crisis?

Disabled and those who can't care for themselves are one thing, but I have the opinion that just about everyone can provide a meaningful service to the community to earn their way even if it is proofreading or knitting. I am a disabled veteran, so they tell me. I could do nothing and live the rest of my life, but instead I am willing to put it all on the line to re-enter society as a fully productive member. I was in a homeless veteran program, I know what works and what does not. Cottage industries have been killed by bureaucracy and regulation. Our businesses in Washington State are suffering under the most regressive tax structure in the country. We must remove and simplify regulation to fall under constitutional principals. We must uplift our population by taking the shackles off to empower them to be the greatest versions of themselves. The current system is completely broken and we need true leadership and real representation to take back the power of we the people. We can do far better in government when we are properly at the helm holding them accountable and pushing back against overreach.

Spokane Community Against Racism Platform for Change Coalition Partners:

Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR)

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) -
Spokane Chapter

Eastern Washington Progressives

Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience

FUSE Washington

Greater Spokane Progress

Hispanic Business/Professional Association

Latinos en Spokane

MAC Movement

Muslims for Community Action And Support

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane
(PJALS)

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Greater
Washington and North Idaho

Progressives of Spokane County

RAIZ of Planned Parenthood

Red Skirt Society

SHAWL Society

Smart Justice Spokane

Spectrum Center Spokane

Spokane Alliance

Spokane Ministers' Fellowship

Tenants Union of Washington State

Smart Justice Spokane Coalition Partners:

ACLU of Washington

All Saints Lutheran Church

Carl Maxey Center

Chihak & Associates – Disability Attorneys

Disability Rights Washington

Community Building Foundation

Community-Minded Enterprises

Freedom Project East

Fuse Washington

Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic

Greater Spokane Progress

I Did The Time / Revive Center for Returning
Citizens

KYRS Thin Air Community Radio

League of Women Voters Spokane Area

Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center

NAMI Spokane – National Alliance on Mental
Illness

Neighborhood Alliance of Spokane

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

River Warrior Society

SEIU Healthcare 775 NW

Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund

Spokane Branch Unit 1137 NAACP

Spokane Community Against Racism

Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

University Legal Assistance, Gonzaga Law
School

Washington Community Action Network

Washington Education Association, Eastern
Washington

Washington State Council of City & County
Employees – Local 270 AFSCME