



AFT Washington 2022 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 fighting 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, on March 25th to aftwashington@aftwa.org. If you have questions, please leave a message at 206-242-4777.

Candidate Biographical Information

Name: Jamila Taylor

Candidate for which office: State Representative, 30th LD, Position 1

Party affiliation: Democrat

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

I currently hold State Representative, Position 1. Prior to my service in the State House of Representatives, I was appointed to the Federal Way Human Services Commission.

Community or organizational memberships (past and present):

Community Involvement (current)

- Federal Way City Council Appointee to the Human Services Commission
- BlackPast.org, Founding Board Member & current volunteer
- Judicial Institute, Board Member
- 30th LD Caucus Logistics Chairperson

Community Involvement (past)

- Girl Scouts Girl Scouts of Western Washington, past Board Member & current Volunteer
- Loren Miller Bar Association, Judicial Evaluation Committee, Immediate Past Chairperson & current committee member
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Graduate Chapter – Vice President/Programs Chairperson
- Dynamic Urban Opportunities Board of Trustees
- Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Volunteer Attorney / Domestic Violence Family Law Fellow
- King County Bar Association Housing Justice Project, Volunteer Attorney
- Highline Community College Foundation Board, Vice President
- Communities-In-Action, Community Board Member
- Young Urban Authors, Board President
- Leadership Tomorrow, Screening and Selection Committee
- National Black Law Students Association, National Executive Board - Western Region Chair
- American Red Cross of Lane County, Oregon, Board Member

Current occupation: I am a public interest attorney and small business owner in addition to my work in the State Legislature

Current employer: WA State Legislature, Public Defender Association, and self-employed

Are you currently a member of a labor organization? No

If yes, which labor organization, and how long have you been a member?

If not currently a member of a labor organization, have you ever been? No. But when I worked at Northwest Justice Project, I voted to unionize. My union would have been OPEIU 8.

If yes, which labor organization, when, and for how long? n/a

General

1. Why are you running for this elective office?

I am running because we need voices and experienced leaders committed to addressing our shared concerns about homelessness and affordable housing, public safety, health care, and equity. I'm proud of the experience and perspective I have brought to the legislature in the past few years, reflecting my deep commitment to public service and positive change that works for all the people in our community, and I am motivated to continue that important work. In my first term in office, I served as the Vice Chair of the Housing, Human Services and Veterans committee. I also served on the Community & Economic Development committee as well as the

Transportation committee. I was elected to Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus and tapped for a key leadership role to respond to the Blake Decision which involved possession of controlled substances. I also led a bipartisan, bicameral effort to expand resources for the Developmental Disabilities community.

2. What qualities distinguish you from other candidates for this office?

I have dedicated my career and community involvement to serving youth and teens. My advocacy for our young people is directly in line with the mission and priorities of AFT and your members: ensuring our education system, from K-community and technical colleges, is fully funded; creating equitable opportunity for all our children including a career path to family wage jobs; and promoting worker protections, wages, and safety.

Revenue and Education

1. For decades Washington State has had the most regressive tax system in the country, contributing to underfunding of public education and many other investments in the public good. **The pandemic has highlighted the numerous gaps in education funding that persist, for example in the form of the digital divide, the need for wrap-around services, stagnant wages, etc. When new funding is allocated, it is often for specific populations of students or specific programs and in relatively small sums. How will you approach finding new sources of revenue to both invest in Washingtonians and create a more progressive revenue system?**

I support common-sense solutions to ensure that all are paying their fair share, including our wealthiest households and corporations, and ensuring we are generating the progressive revenue required to invest in our priorities. It is also a top priority for me that we are requiring equitable investments in our priorities so that every Washingtonian has access to opportunity.

Do you support...

	Yes	No
Capital Gains Tax?	X	
Wealth Tax?	X	
Estate Tax?	X	
Elimination of cap on Workforce Education Investment Account tax?	X	

2. During the pandemic, many Washingtonians have lost their jobs and been evicted from their homes. The poverty rate has increased during the pandemic, particularly for BIPOC Americans. In the 2022 legislative session, a bill was introduced that would have given cash assistance to those below the poverty line with a stipend, also known as Universal Basic Income or Guaranteed Basic Income. **What is your position on this policy? Do you believe it can help address the racial wealth gap?**

That policy item was presented to my committee. Generally speaking, I am supportive of Universal Basic Income / Guaranteed Basic Income. However, I think there is much more that needs to be done to address the racial wealth gap. For example, Black American lost an incredible amount of wealth in the 2008 Great Recession and through predatory mortgage practices that targeted Black homeowners. Many of these homeowners my not qualify to

receive UBI resources, or the amount needed simply does not address all of the issues leading to Black American experiencing the impacts of the racial wealth gaps. There are a number of systemic barriers in addition to income that need to be incorporated solutions addressing the racial wealth gap.

- Public education, from K-12 through Post-High School has seen state disinvestment for several decades. **What will you do to increase the funding of community and technical colleges in order to invest in the workforce? Do you support pay equity for part-time faculty?**

I will continue to support expansion of funding for CTCs. I have sponsored HB 1425 that expanded scholarships for students attend CTCs and I will continue to support budget provisos for CTCs. The CTCs have been a critical access point for residents to make professional pivots in their careers, especially during the pandemic.

I absolutely support pay equity for part-time faculty.

- Pre-K 12 employees work with students dealing with a wide range of issues outside of school, e.g. trauma, behavioral challenges, developmental disabilities, health issues and more. This can pose safety issues, for example for paraeducators who are often hit, bitten, shoved or in other ways harmed because of student behavior. Many factors contribute to this phenomenon, which translates to a range of potential solutions. **How would you approach problem solving if a group of workers sought your support in addressing this issue?**

First I would listen. I believe we can't achieve lasting solutions without listening to those most impacted. I have spent a great deal of my career and my time in the Legislature working to reduce trauma for our kids, advocating for wrap-around support and resources to help kids address behavioral, developmental, and health issues. But we must also ensure that when kids are getting the support they need, the providers are safe too. My door is always open to AFT and your members on any subject - but personal safety and wellness is always my top priority.

- In recent years public officials have attempted to solve budget problems through privatization of public services. This diversion of public funds has led to a poor quality of services, reduced accountability, and a loss of good jobs, while failing to realize the promise of saving money. **What is your position on privatization in the education arena? Please explain.**

I oppose any effort to privatize education. That only undermines resources available to our public schools, undermines fair wages and benefits for our hardworking educators, and undermines the well-being of our communities.

Do you support...

	Yes	No
Public tax dollars funding private charter schools?		X
Privatization of school and college resources (i.e. counseling, childcare, student services)?		X
Public Capitol Funds for projects at private colleges and universities?		X

Collective Bargaining

1. Many Washingtonians recognize the value of union representation and are organizing at their workplace, such as legislative aides in Olympia, workers at Starbucks, etc. **Do you support every worker's right to collectively bargain for better working conditions, and their right to join a union? Please explain.**

Absolutely. I have been a staunch labor ally in the State House and will continue to support worker protections, organizing, and the right to collectively bargain when re-elected. I support efforts to make it easier for workers to form and join unions and will do whatever I can from my position to further increase union membership in our state.

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?**

National and in-state efforts to undermine unions, whether they are public or private sector unions, must be stopped. Our state has taken some important steps to prevent right to work and other threats here in Washington, but there is always more that can be done. I will continue to support legislation to make it easier to form a union, for workers to join a union, and for workers to speak collectively for stronger protections.

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.**

As an elected official it is my duty to have my votes represent the will of my district. That said, it is also my duty to vote in accordance with my values. I review policies for impact on marginalized groups and do my best to promote amendments or changes to avoid unintended consequences that could negatively impact members of marginalized groups, such as women and people of color.

I believe my in addressing racial, social, and economic inequities in our educational system is best answered by highlighting the work I have done in my first session (included in the next answer), and will continue to do on behalf of all Washingtonians.

2. We are faced with numerous threats to social justice, including ongoing threats to our immigrant communities, the housing affordability and student debt crises, police accountability, and more. **Where have you shown leadership and acted on issues of social justice in the past? What will your social justice priorities be if you win your election?**

As the daughter of Dr. Quintard Taylor, retired professor of African American history at the University of Washington, social justice is in my DNA. One of the most important actions I have taken is to found, BlackPast.org, the largest online reference center for black history. I have also worked locally and regionally on youth violence intervention programs and other crime and violence reduction efforts.

Since my election to the State House of Representatives, my social justice work has continued. Some of my most significant legislative efforts include:

- Leading the [Legislative Black Caucus](#) and serving as an active member of the Members of Color Caucus working to pass priority bills from these affinity caucuses. Racial equity is at the core of the work done by these caucuses.
- Leading the Legislature's response to the Blake decision to move away from criminalizing substance use disorder.
- Leading a bicameral / bipartisan effort to increase support and the resources needed by the Developmental Disability community.
- Serving on the Women's Commission and working to pass bills that support women and girls.
- Prime sponsoring the bill to increase access to scholarships for technical and community colleges for kids who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity.
- Helping close equity gaps in schools by creating a language access program for culturally responsive family engagement in our education system.
- Annually adjusting the Working Family Tax Credit so families don't face a steep drop-off in benefits.
- Expanding access to free and reduced health care to more than two million Washingtonians
- Co-sponsoring the just cause/tenant protections bill
- Providing more services and resources to help ensure young people have access to safe, stable housing when leaving a publicly funded system of care, such as foster care, behavioral health treatment and juvenile rehabilitation.

When re-elected, my priorities will remain dismantling racist policies, prioritizing equitable investments in our priorities, and ensuring that all Washingtonians have access to safety, health, and opportunity.

3. Several bills were passed in the 2021 legislative session designed to reduce police violence and hold police accountable; in the 2022 session attempts were made to dilute the definition of excessive force and minimizing the role of de-escalation. **What is your position on these issues?**

As part of my role as the chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, I ensured that the caucus prioritized the package of police accountability bills in its efforts. While many would characterize the follow up bills as a dilution of the incredible reforms being made, I would see that the bills passed provided specificity not described. This certainty gives less room for on-the-ground interpretation by law enforcement and reduces potential for litigation. I am proud of the work that was in fact accomplished and that Washington State remains a leader in this space.

4. Hate crimes have risen 25 percent nationally since 2015. But the number of hate crimes in Washington state increased by 97 percent. There were 542 hate-crime incidents reported statewide.

How do you plan on addressing the increase in hate crimes in Washington state?

Most importantly, we must ensure that law enforcement takes these crimes as seriously as other crimes. Victims should feel safe to report. There is a rise in Anti-Asian hate and the sheer scale of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women cannot be ignored.

Campaign Information

Are there any additional comments you would like to provide that you believe are necessary in understanding your candidacy? Thank you for your consideration!

What is your overall campaign budget? \$250,000

How many volunteers are currently working on your campaign? What is your goal for volunteers working on your campaign? I have a great group of family, friends and supporters who will be volunteering on my campaign. I also know there will be a great interest in protecting all the seats in the 30th LD and I will work closely with other campaigns to have over 40 volunteers on our campaign at any given moment.

To date, how much money have you raised and obtained pledges for? To date, I have raise over \$40,000 and am well on my way to reaching my goal, but it is going to take financial support from organizations like AFT that share my values and priorities to get me there.

Please provide any endorsements you have received:

I am still early in my endorsement process, I can update AFT in a few weeks. You can find a list of my 2020 endorsements here: <https://www.electjamilataylor.com/endorsements2020/>

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