



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: John Lovick

Candidate for which office: State Senate, 44th LD

Party affiliation: Democrat

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

- Mill Creek City Council (1994-1998)

- State Representative, 44th District, Position 2 (1999-2007)
 - Speaker Pro Tempore
- Snohomish County Sheriff (2007-2013)
- Snohomish County Executive (2013-2015)
- State Representative, 44th District, Position 1 (2016-2021)
 - Speaker Pro Tempore
- State Senator, 44th District (2021-Present)

I am a lifelong democrat.

Community or organizational memberships *past member of Mill Creek Lions Club, State Patrol Troopers Association, and my local church.*

Current occupation: State Senator

Current employer: Washington State Legislature

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?

Yes

If yes, which labor organization, when, and for how long? I was a former member of Washington State Patrol Troopers Association (WSPTA) for 26 years Once a member, always a member.

General

1. Why are you running for this elective office?

I am running for State Senate because I have spent most of my adult life in public service. I love serving the public. Prior to being elected, I was a State Trooper for 31 years and was named Trooper of the Year in 1992. I also served a total of 13 years in the United States Coast Guard. These experiences motivated me to pursue public office so I could continue to protect our communities and ensure the safety of residents.

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

My background in public service and community safety distinguishes me from other candidates running for this position. I believe the decades of experience I have serving and representing the people of Washington make me a clear choice to voters who continue to support my leadership.

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?**

You are right. Washington has one of the most regressive tax systems in our country and needs to be rebalanced. I believe any revenue sources we seek out need to be target so the fiscal impact is not placed on low-income communities and working families. My approach to finding new revenue sources is the same approach I have for any policy, by the wants and needs of the people I represent and the open conversations I welcome. The year 2020 gave us perfect vision. It clearly showed us some of the inequities that exist in our society.

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?

I fully support any legislation that addresses the financial disparities underserved communities face. A Universal Basic Income or Guaranteed Basic Income would help close the racial wealth gap by providing an essential step out of poverty. I would gladly support these measures because our country's growing wealth gap is too wide and must be closed to ensure the economic wellbeing of people and families everywhere.

3. 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 fully support and will continue to support legislation that directly invests in our education and workforce programs. As someone who attended a community college, I recognize the importance of promoting workforce development.

Absolutely. Pay equity for part-time faculty is common-sense to me. We should never cheat faculty members who are part-time because they still contribute to the education system like full-time faculty. Those same faculty members assisted me in getting my AA degree when I was struggling with a young family and a new job as a trooper.

4. 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

harmful 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?**

This issue has many factors and requires significant collaboration across the state as well as with various stakeholder groups. We must prioritize the safety of students and equally as important, the safety of faculty who support these students. I would approach solving this problem by first listening to the recommendations from the workers seeking my support. I believe my role as an elected official is to serve the people, and that means listening to what people are asking and what they need. With that in mind, I vote my conscience, my district, and my state.

5. 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 do not and will not support the privatization of public schools. As you mentioned, diverting public funds results in many consequences. These consequences are disproportionately placed on underrepresented communities and do not promote the best interests of students or faculty. I am committed to supporting legislation that does not harm the quality of education and services our schools and students need to succeed.

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 Capital 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.**

Of course. When I first started as a state trooper, the chief of the State Patrol pledged that he would never, ever allow troopers to form a union. At the time working conditions were horrible. You could get called at any time of the day and get told to come into work. Contacted at any time at the day to end your shift early. We formed a union in 1977 and everything changed. The then-state patrol chief passed away several years ago, but before he passes, he shared that it was the greatest mistake of his life to oppose unions. It is a huge mistake for businesses to oppose union representation.

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?**

Two policies to that come to mind are 1) allowing workers not covered under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to unionize and collectively bargain, and 2) strengthening our state's anti-retaliation protections to ensure workers can speak up about violations. These policies support unions and workers' rights, so I would work with colleagues to enact these measures.

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.**

Racial Equity:

My role in addressing racial equity means supporting legislation that is inclusive, equitable, and ensures our diverse population is protected from discrimination. We must all urge others to be increasingly mindful of the atmosphere we create and how we treat one another. Most importantly, I believe representation is the first step. Which is why I will always listen to the needs and concerns of our diverse communities and will continue offering them a seat at the table for discussions.

Social equity:

Social equity and economic equity share some of the same basic needs. If we cannot provide the resources necessary to give people an equal opportunity, we cannot reasonably expect to see their success. I am committed to prioritizing and supporting access to affordable healthcare, quality public education, and housing availability to make sure our society focuses on providing resources to our most vulnerable populations.

Economic equity:

Our state's regressive tax structure is the most significant contributor to economic inequity in Washington. Our lowest income families and residents pay far more in taxes than the wealthiest Washingtonians, which is simply unfair since we all use the same public services. I will continue to support progressive tax reforms that work for people of all colors and backgrounds.

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?**

I do not have all the answers other than to say I understand what justice and injustice looks like. I also believe in what Dr. King said when he said injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We need to speak up and call people in instead of calling them out.

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 minimize the role of de-escalation. **What is your position on these issues?**

It is said that a police officer can do something in a second or a minute that will sour a community for a decade. I believe that 99% of our officers go to work and do their best to protect and serve the community. After 2020 it was clear that some reform was needed. I am proud of the legislation we passed in 2021 to reduce police violence and ensure they are held accountable. As a former State Trooper who served for over 30 years, I understand the concerns surrounding excessive force and the role of de-escalation. I am committed to prioritizing these issues to ensure our law enforcement has the upmost integrity and continues to keep our communities safe. I am also proud that the policies we put in place and the funding for more police officers will allow agencies to hire police officers who will change the culture of policing.

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?

Hate crimes have no place in our society. I will continue to address the increases by working to strengthen our education on racism and other topics which do not promote diversity, equity, and inclusion of all people.

Campaign Information

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

As your State Senator, I will always welcome discussions with AFT Washington. I value the work your organization does and am grateful for all your advocacy. Your endorsement is very important to me and my campaign, which is why I hope to have your support this election cycle.

What is your overall campaign budget?

\$300K

How many volunteers are currently working on your campaign? What is your goal for volunteers working on your campaign?

We have about 5 volunteers at the moment, but I expect to have several hundred later. Our campaign is a welcome place for volunteers, especially students who need community service hours.

To date, how much money have you raised and obtained pledges for?

I have raised about \$120K with several thousand in pledges. I spend almost 3 hours each day dialing for dollars.

Please provide any endorsements you have received:

To date I have been endorsed by the Pilchuck Uniserv Council and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). We are in the beginning phases of the campaign but expect over 150 endorsements this election cycle. In the past two elections I had an average of over 150 different endorsements.

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Campaign phone: (425) 750-0306 **Home phone:** N/A

Email address: ElectJohnLovick@gmail.com

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