



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: Julia Reed

Candidate for which office: State Representative, 36th LD

Party affiliation: Democrat

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

This is my first run for office, but I have been involved in public policy my whole life. I served as the Chair and Policy Director of the 36th LD Democrats, and as Vice Chair for Communications in the King

County Democrats. Prior to my time in local politics, I served in the Obama administration, with the State Department and the Office of Management and Budget. Following my return to Seattle, I served as the City of Seattle's Regional Affairs director, after which I worked as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Seattle, with a focus on workforce issues and youth employment issues.

Community or organizational memberships (*past and present*):

I organized Let Uptown Vote, a successful effort to engage King County Elections on bringing a ballot box to Lower Queen Anne. I currently serve as a volunteer board member and advocacy chair for the YMCA Social Impact Center, Fuse Washington, the Global Leadership Forum and Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Truman National Security Project.

Current occupation:

I am a social impact consultant working with nonprofits, businesses, philanthropies, government partners, and community partners to create equitable change in Washington and nationwide. The firm, Kinetic West, is best known for the work it does on helping states build career connected learning, work-based learning, and youth apprenticeship programs to help young people access training and careers after high school. In this work, I am committed to developing the skilled workforce our region needs, always with a focus on lifting underrepresented communities, and providing pathways for youth.

Current employer: Kinetic West

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

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

I have not had the honor to be a part of a union but I have strong union ties. Both of my parents were proud and active members of their unions as public school educators, making the benefits of organizing, speaking with a collective voice, and union membership a large part of my childhood.

General

1. Why are you running for this elective office?

I am a workforce policy expert, an advocate for youth and racial justice, and a life-long Seattleite. The 36th district is home to some of Seattle's most iconic waterways, vibrant small businesses, and important industries. But it has become increasingly unaffordable, it's vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis and workforce challenges exacerbated by the pandemic – including a shortage of childcare, high stressors on our education system and educators, and lack of basic protections for workers like healthcare, sick leave, and paid time off. I am running for the State House of Representatives to invest in affordable housing, environmental resilience, and to invest in education and workers. I want to help create a vibrant, empowering, equitable economy where everyone can participate and thrive.

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

I believe that I am the candidate best prepared to represent my neighbors in the 36th LD. I bring unique professional experience working in government at every level. I understand not just how to pass legislation but what it takes to effectively, efficiently, and equitably implement it. My lived experience also prepares me to serve in this office. I grew up in Seattle as the daughter of two public school teachers who struggled to get the resources they needed to support their students and who couldn't afford to live in Seattle if they were moving here today. I want to help turn our state around and make our city and region a place of shared prosperity and possibility. I have lived in Seattle as a woman of color. I have been a renter here and I recently became a condo owner. I have built connections to every community up and down the I5 corridor, and I've seen how they change over time. I will utilize my experience to ensure that we can build just, prosperous, and equitable communities in Seattle, and that they can afford to stay here.

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?**

Do you support...

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

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 am committed to addressing the racial wealth gap in our community. Here in King County the median income for Black households is about half of that of white households. And, more broadly, in Washington wealth inequality is increasing. The need to address economic inequality which overwhelmingly impacts communities of color is clear. Everyone deserves access to food, healthcare, and safe shelter. In the wake of a pandemic that has inflicted widespread trauma, we have seen new levels of hardship in our community as wealth inequality and poverty have increased. We have an imperative to help. We know that a universal basic income will help address the racial wealth gap. We also know that it will help pay for the basic needs of every family in our community. I believe that it is a good policy and I am in favor of it.

However, I believe that the goal should remain to relieve the suffering caused by scarcity both in the short and long term. While a Universal Basic Income is one way to do that, I also support providing immediate relief via direct investments and long term relief by reorganizing our regressive tax system.

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 for part-time faculty?**

As a senior policy advisor at the City of Seattle, it was my honor to lead a redesign of the City's youth employment system and work on the reform of the Workforce Development Council. I also helped create a community college internship pipeline for Seattle Promise scholars, connecting them to job opportunities with some of the City's leading employers, and removing barriers within the City's own hiring practices that were preventing community college students from being competitive for City government internships. I am committed to using my time in the legislature to advocate for investments in education at all levels. Community and technical colleges in particular present an opportunity to develop the next generation of highly skilled laborers, bring family wage jobs and strong careers, and create new opportunities for traditionally underserved communities, women, people of color, veterans and youth.

I absolutely support paying part-time faculty. Denying part-time workers equal pay and access to benefits has facilitated discrimination against people of color and of marginalized genders. All labor should be fairly compensated.

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 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?**

My first job when problem solving with stakeholders is to listen. Educators know what's best for students, but they may not have taken the time to consider when their safety and wellbeing are jeopardized by their job. I am committed to protecting the mental, physical, and spiritual health of workers, promoting their sense of belonging, and supporting a community where they are respected. I would work with them to find innovative solutions that we can reliably implement to protect their health. As the daughter of an occupational therapist who worked in schools with children with special needs and as a special education administrator, I also support greater investments in supporting students with disabilities, students on IEPs, and the educators who serve them. Everyone is safer when students' full needs are being met.

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.**

Private education systematically diverts funding away from poor kids to provide better opportunities only to those who can afford them – exacerbating inequality in our state. I am committed to investing in public education to provide high quality services to all our kids, to pay our public school teachers like the professionals we need them to be.

Do you support...

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

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.**

When workers form unions, they use their collective strength to bargain with their employers for better conditions like higher pay, better health care and retirement benefits, stronger health and safety protections on the job. In a capitalist society, we need collective bargaining to incentivize protecting workers. I believe that all workers should have the right to collectively bargain.

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?**

I think the pandemic shone a light on the financial instability too many Americans face, including living paycheck to paycheck, not having enough savings to pay medical bills, and facing homelessness with one missed paycheck. As we know, unions are the most effective and powerful way workers can demand greater stability, opportunity, and protections.

I believe we need to stand up against every attempt to weaken or undermine public sector unions. We have made important progress towards that end in Washington State, but there is always more to be done. We must increase union membership across our state by making it easier for workers to join unions. And we must continue to organize new industries who work without protections including the rising number of gig workers.

As a workforce policy champion, I will prioritize career paths for all Washington's workers into union jobs including funding, access, and increased apprenticeship requirements. I also believe I can be an effective voice in Olympia advocating for priority policies and reforms of the labor community.

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 I have mentioned, I am the daughter of Seattle Public Schools educators and a product of SPS myself. Growing up there was no question that the resources and opportunities that I benefited from in a North Seattle School, weren't available to all and that is within just one School District. I believe one of the most important roles I can play in Olympia is ensuring our schools are fully and equitably funded, including wrap around and support services that help every kid reach their full potential.

I also believe that representation matters. My dad was one of very few Black educators at his school and one of very few role models kids of color like me had. We have to do a better job recruiting and retaining educators of color.

Finally, we need to listen to our educators who understand the challenges of their students and classrooms better than anyone else. I commit to be a partner to AFT and your members so that together we can address inequities across our educational system.

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 have committed my personal and professional life to building the more just, prosperous, and equitable world that every community deserves. My current work at Kinetic West is focused on bringing together stakeholders across the nonprofit, private, and public sectors to build just, equitable, and prosperous communities. In my personal life, I serve as a volunteer board member and advocacy chair for the YMCA Social Impact Center, a branch of the Y that supports youth and young adults with wraparound services including shelter, counseling, employment training, and educational support, as well as counseling services and suicide prevention for all ages. The Social Impact Center is the largest provider of housing to young adults in King County and is especially known for its work with young adults in foster care and exiting foster care.

I believe that a healthy state begins with people who are mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy; who experience a sense of belonging, because they know they live in a place that respects and welcomes them whatever their background; who can think about having a family because they have access to affordable, high quality childcare and good quality schools; who can look forward to a long life expectancy because they can afford to seek preventative health care, including mental healthcare, and have access to healthy, locally grown food; and who can thrive in one of the most beautiful states in our nation, because they can access our renowned parks and green spaces.

For some Washingtonians, this is a reality. But for too many, especially Washingtonians of color, this type of health is out of reach, because of gaps in our public policy and investments. As a State Representative, I will fight for investments that lift up every community in Washington including investments in affordable housing, physical and mental healthcare, childcare, high-quality public schools, and access to healthy food and green spaces — as essential infrastructure for combatting unevenness in our state.

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?**

Even as crime has gone up, the commitment to police reform hasn't changed in Seattle. We have the intelligence and the resources to keep people safe from crime AND police misconduct.

As a Black woman, this is a personal issue for me. I have a Black brother, a Black father, and a Black boyfriend. I know what it feels like to have them go out the door and know what might happen to them. I know what might happen to me. I also have police officers in my family, and as contributors to this campaign. We need police departments and unions to do their part and partner with the state to implement systemic reforms and accountability so that our communities can be safe.

I am committed to listening to communities about their safety needs, and to standing by them even when it's politically inconvenient. It takes time to thoughtfully implement reform on all levels and that police are taking responsibility for their part of training and implementation. I will work to ensure that communities are seeing the effects of legislation to protect their safety.

As a board member and advocacy chair for the YMCA Social Impact Center, I do work to create community based safety solutions. I have the experience to listen to community about what they need to feel safe. That is the most important part of addressing police reform and public safety. We've been doing a lot of reacting instead of being deliberate. It's going to take people coming together to create solutions in service of public safety. I am excited to work in the legislature to hone policy that keeps all our communities safe.

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?

I believe that hate crimes should be prosecuted, and that significant penalties are appropriate. However, I do not believe that focusing on a stronger deterrent will effectively prevent these heinous crimes. They are a symptom of our culture, not a calculated risk.

I do think that elected officials should play an important role in decreasing the number of violent hate crimes. Unfortunately, some of our leaders have exploited fear through a rhetoric of hate and prejudice to assume power. Modeling this kind of prejudice has riled up the festering underbelly of American culture and led to violence. In Washington State, we must do better. If elected, it will be important for me to signal that people who commit violent bias crimes do not stand with the state. This can be done directly from the mouths of leaders by adopting a rhetoric of inclusion and also less directly by supporting an inclusive educational curriculum in schools.

Campaign Information

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

After more than a decade of public service at the federal and local level, I know what it takes to lead – not just on the stump but after the campaign is over. I am excited to serve the 36th with integrity, dedication, and pride and I would be honored to earn your support so that we can give every kid the chance to reach their full potential.

What is your overall campaign budget?

I am hoping to raise \$250,000 over the course of the campaign.

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

As an organizer at heart who has shown up to doorbell, phonebank, signature gather, and more, I know how valuable volunteers are. To date I have over 20 volunteers signed up and ready help spread the message about our campaign for State Rep.

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

In less than two months, I have raised over \$75,000 and am well on my way to reaching my ambitious fundraising goal.

Please provide any endorsements you have received:

I am proud to have received the early endorsements of elected officials and leaders in my community including:

- State Rep Jamila Taylor
- State Rep Brandy Donaghy
- State Rep April Berg
- King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay
- King County Councilmember Sarah Perry
- Seattle City Council President Debora Juarez
- Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss
- Port Commissioner Hamdi Mohamed
- Port Commissioner Ryan Calkins
- Port Commissioner Sam Cho
- John Burbank, Former Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Institute
- Former State Rep Jesse Johnson
- Former State Rep Jessyn Farrell
- Former State Rep Kristine Reeves
- Colleen Echohawk, CEO, 8th Generation
- Krystal Marx, Executive Director of Seattle Pride and Former Burien City Councilmember
- Mary Kylie Cranford, 36th LD Community Leader
- Stephen Paolini, 36th LD Community Leader
- Patricia Hayden, Community Leader
- Melissa Taylor, Community Leader

Campaign address: 401 2nd Ave S Ste 303

City: Seattle

Zip: 98104

Campaign phone: 202-445-8252

Home phone:

Email address: julia@votejuliareed.com

Website address: votejuliareed.com