



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: Kristine Reeves

Candidate for which office: 30th LD State Representative

Party affiliation: Democrat

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

Former Spokane County Democratic Party Chair (2007-2008)

Former LD-30 State Representative (2017-2019)

Former WA-10 Congressional Candidate (2020)

Current Washington State Gambling Commissioner (2020-present)

Current LD-30 State Committeeperson (2020-present)

Current WA State Democrats Executive Committee Member (2020-present)

Current Chair of WA State Democrats Black Members Caucus (2022)

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

Current Board Memberships:

- Moms In Office
- Ascend Fund
- Panorama Global
- Jobs for South Sound
- Minority Veterans of America
- Center for Women and Democracy

Past Board Memberships:

- WA State Parks Foundation

Current occupation: Economic & Community Development Consultant

Current employer: STRUO Strategies, LLC

Are you currently a member of a labor organization? No

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

If not currently a member of a labor organization, have you ever been? Yes

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

General

1. Why are you running for this elective office?

I am running because, as a working mom of two young kids, we need a representative democracy that will fight for a future that includes us all. Having a front row seat to the challenges that our kids and our educators dealt with these past two years, I am even more committed to the fight for an equitable public education system, an economy that works best for working and middle-class families, and fighting for a future that includes us all.

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

I believe that my background as a former congressional staffer, state agency employee, gubernatorial appointee, economic developer, small business owner, and organizational development consultant afford me a diverse professional experience and background that bring perspective to the policy being advocated in the legislature. My experience in foster care, as the daughter of a single mom who struggled with substance abuse, someone who has experienced homelessness and housing insecurity, as well as a first generation college graduate and now the working mom of two school-age kids, all afford me a personal background that enables a high level of empathy for what families are dealing with as they navigate our government systems.

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?	Yes	
Wealth Tax?	Yes	
Estate Tax?	Yes	
Elimination of cap on Workforce Education Investment Account tax?	Need more information.	

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 in favor of building an economy that works best for working and middle class families. Addressing the systemic barriers that have been baked into our economic policies and social service safety net are key to ensuring that economy actually works best for all families. I do believe that a UBI or GBI can address these systemic barriers.

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?**

As someone who worked for several years in the community and technical college system in Spokane and then utilized the system (Highline) to acquire some pre-requisite course work to apply to graduate school, I have seen firsthand the passion our CTC professionals and faculty bring to investing in our communities and we should be investing in them. I would welcome the chance to advocate for

pay equity for part-time faculty and have publicly done so in my previous role as a state representative.

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?**

As the mom of two young kids, and someone who has championed accessible, affordable, high-quality childcare and universal pre-k, my first approach is to listen to the workers and educators in the system who understand best how to offer solutions that would work for them and for the kids they serve. My job as the state representative would be to advocate for common-sense solutions that meet the workers and educators needs in service of our kids.

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 agree with the privatization of public education. I am not opposed to private education existing, but we need to focus on investing in the support of our public education system that most of our children, particularly our children from low-income and communities of color, come from.

Do you support...

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

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.**

Yes. As a former union member, the wife of a union member and beneficiary of union advocacy, we strongly believe that membership and access to membership in a union is the best insurance policy a worker can have against their employer's bad intentions.

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?**

As a legislator, I was proud to carry a 100% labor voting record, including support of paid family leave, pay equity, long-term health insurance, and more. I will continue to look to labor unions, representing workers, to highlight policies that work best for workers and their families.

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 a mom, a woman of color (Afro-Latina), an economic developer, and Harvard & Cornell certified diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant, I strongly believe that it is incumbent upon each of us in systems not built by us, for us, or with our inclusion in mind, to "seek understanding of the other" with empathy and curiosity to ensure that we are fighting for an educational system that includes us all. That starts with outreach to our educators, parents, administrators, and kids

to understand what parts of the system are working and which are not, with an interest and intentionality in promoting transformational systems change. Whether in working to address racial, social, or economic disparities it starts with a recognition that these inequities are deeply embedded in our institutions and working to do the and/both work of not just building on the current policies with “good intent” but recognizing that “impact” matters and continuing to perpetuate systems that enable and uphold inequities make us enablers. We must move from being political enablers to personal equity advocates.

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 led on social justice issues around environmental justice, veterans equity in benefit acquisition and military transition, fought for procurement reform in defense contracting to enable more women, minority owned business gains in acquisition, and championed accessible, affordable childcare access for an industry led by women and people of color. I supported policies like pay equity, paid family leave, and long-term health insurance while in the legislature. I advocated for health equity in the wildfire work that Commissioner Hilary Franz led when I worked for her at the Department of Natural Resources, and will continue to lead on equity and inclusion efforts in politics, policy, and people supports in the institution.

However, in the last year, I have launched the Political Equity Project, because we spend millions of dollars recruiting and training women and people of color to run for office but spend nearly no resources to support them once elected to institutions not built for them, by them, or with their inclusion in mind. This work over the past year has been building these support systems and tools with a goal of promoting better institutional support post-election. I look forward to continuing to do this work in other states and in parallel to the work in the legislature.

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?**

I strongly believe that police reforms are necessary while also being the sister of a military police officer and recognize that we have a need to hold police accountable and work to building better trust in our communities to ensure strong public safety.

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?**

I would like to believe that the increase in hate crimes is due to the work of organizations that have enabled hate crimes to be taken seriously and thus reported more often, however, as a woman of color, I am hyper-conscience of the fact that our prior administration contributed to targeting specific underrepresented populations (Muslim, LGBTQ, Asians) and worked to dismantle systems of accountability. My focus in this effort is to start with ensuring the systems of accountability have the resources necessary to deal with the increase, to promote timely responses so community feels heard and responded to, then it becomes the work of dismantling systems of exclusion, oppression, and hate to ensure the incidents decrease over intentionally and with effort.

Campaign Information

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

I am currently the only filed Democrat in the race who has won an election, let alone an election against a Republican and having won this seat twice before (2016 by 51% flipping the seat and 2018 by 64%), I am committed to working hard to ensure we hold this seat.

What is your overall campaign budget?

Primary = \$200,000

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

I currently have 5 core volunteers. I am working to grow our volunteer base and personally reaching out to my contact list of 65,000 emails from previous campaigns.

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

Raised: \$45,000

Pledged: \$8,000

Please provide any endorsements you have received:

Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz

Seattle Port Commissioner Sam Cho

State Reps. Sharon Tomiko Santos

Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell

Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus

+ other local electeds, state reps, and labor leaders.

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City: Federal Way, WA

Zip: 98023

Campaign phone: 360-359-1910

Home phone: 253-347-9257

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