

Lisa Parshley: Olympia Indivisible Candidate Questionnaire

LD22 State Representative

Please note that the responses to the questionnaire will be available for the public to view on the Olympia Indivisible web site.

- 1. Please describe the qualifications, including education, elected offices, and life experiences and accomplishments that make you the best candidate for the office of LD22 Representative. And, for the incumbent: What have been your greatest accomplishments since taking office as our LD22 representative?**

Below I have pasted in my brief resume as it best lists my specific qualifications. But what this list does not give is my "why".

From a young age, I was taught not to leave anyone behind and that healthy community's lifts everyone. I was also taught that you had to give back to your community to make these goals a reality. My motivation to run for the Olympia City Council in 2017 and for state house in 2024 were tied to these ideals. Today, giving back to my community and state allows me to work to lift everyone. If anything, my drive is even stronger today than during all my other elections as we are facing an existential crisis in our federal government. A crisis that threatens not only our democracy but our environment, the health of our communities, the ability of people to afford living (housing, childcare, and food etc.), and the heart of our country.

I have learned so much being both a city council member and a state representative, such as developing policies to address income inequality, our broken tax system, homelessness/housing, affordable childcare, AI guard rails for the workplace, climate mitigation, public safety, and social justice, and equity.

It is my true belief that those of us elected to the state legislature must also make sure our state continues to perform its duty to our schools, healthcare, safe food, clean air & water, parks, and a functional infrastructure. Lastly, but certainly not least, our house and senate members must ensure that our state is the best employer possible through policy to protect workers rights, ensure safe workplaces, and honor collective bargaining agreements. I am running for re-election because I love Washington and Washingtonians.

Accomplishments 2025-2026

There are many policies that I am particularly proud of from the last two sessions, including those policies we passed into law and those we are continuing to work towards. A sample of such policies I either sponsored, co-sponsored, or voted for is below the resume. I will call out some of those I am very proud of in the following paragraphs.

We worked on increasing affordability for Washingtonians, providing for workers' rights, responding to the threat of ICE action against community members, adequately funding schools and healthcare, and worked on protecting people's right to privacy of personal information.

In response to threats from the federal government weakening voter protections, we passed 5 separate bills designed to strengthen voter rights and the Washington Voting Rights Act (passed in 2018). We in Washington are not waiting for the federal government to weaken or restrict voting rights we are passing policy into law that will strengthen our voting rights. Protecting voters rights will continue to be a focus for me and I will continue to support all legislation that seeks to support and protect WRVA and voters rights.

In the face of AI technology, surveillance, and data protection we have begun the heavy work of protecting people's data and workers from the use of these technologies. These bills will be several year projects, and I am committed to working with other legislators to pass these policies and to work on my personal bills aimed at protecting people's data and workers' rights.

Lastly but certainly not least, I am also very proud of our legislature for passing the Millionaires tax and the Governor for signing it into law. It is the first step toward making our tax system more just and ensuring everyone pays their fair share. I have asked to be put on the Millionaire Tax work group, designed to navigate the next steps for this tax and integrate the work already done by the Tax Structure Work group into a plan for next steps. To bring Washington closer to tax fairness includes further work on sales, property, and B&O taxes.

Resume:

Elected experience:

- Olympia City Council, position #5, 2 terms, 2018-2024
- Washington LD 22 State Representative, position #2, term 2025-2027.

House Committee Assignments:

- House Committees: Finance Committee, Local Government, Healthcare & Welfare, capital Budget (Vice Chair)

Leadership Programs:

- 2025 NCSL Emerging Leadership Program and 2025 CSG Western Leadership Academy

Legislative Appointments:

- Universal Health Care Commission, CSG Energy and the Grid, and CSG Legislative Council River Governance (LCRG)

Caucus memberships –

- Maritime (Vice Chair), Science and technology, Housing for All, Working Family, Disabled Adults caucus, and Nuclear Caucus

Committee assignments as Olympia City Council Member:

- City Committees: Finance (2018-2024, Chair 2021-24), Land Use and Environment (2018-2019), Public Safety Ad Hoc (chair 2021), Lodging Tax Committee (LTAC), LEOFF committee (2024), Subcommittee on Tribal Relations (2019-2022)
- Regional committees and commissions: Capital Lake EIS Funding and Governance Committee (2021-2023), Sea Level Rise committee (2018-2020), LOTT Clean Water Alliance (2018-2023, Chair 2021-24), T-Comm -911 (2018 and 2023), Olympia and Beyond (2018), Joint Animal Shelter Commission (2018-2024, Chair 2019-24), and Thurston County Regional Climate Mitigation Steering Committee (2018-2024, Chair 2020-24), Thurston County Solid Waste Committee (SWAC),

Education:

- Bachelor of Arts – University of Montana
- PhD (Biochemistry) – Oregon Health Sciences University
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship – University of Washington

- *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine – Colorado State University*
- *Small Animal Internship – Cornell University*
- *Animal Oncology Residency - Michigan State University*
- *Board Certified Animal Oncologist – American College of Internal Medicine*
- *“Path to Power” 2021 (spring) –Washington State Labor Council campaign training*

Community Service:

- *Paws 4 Cause non-profit board member – Animal cancer Foundation and American Cancer Society dog walk (2021-2026)*
- *Expanding Your Horizons (science education for young women) – Olympia, Washington*
- *Point-in time count - animal health tent (2018-2024)*
- *Free vaccine and health clinics for animals in tiny home villages and other homelessness stabilization sites (2018-2023)*
- *Volunteer at Covenant Creatures, veterinary care for low or no income community members*

A short but not inclusive list of bills that support priority policies signed into law and those ongoing priority policies I support:

- *SB 6346 or the millionaires tax, I was part of the floor speaking team for the 82 amendments and gave one of the 5 final passage speeches during the 25 + hour debate, a policy that will generate stable funding for things such as schools, healthcare, school breakfast and lunches for all children while exempting sales tax for hygiene, over the counter medications, and food.*
- *HB 1903, which established a statewide low income energy assistance program*
- *HB 2657 (companion SB 6182), which provides for sustainable funding of abortion healthcare in Washington,*
- *HB 1445 (companion SB 5233), which would have developed a Washington Health Trust fund to give all Washingtonians access to healthcare,*
- *HB 1090 (companion SB 5498), which allows prescriptions of 12 months for contraceptive medications,*
- *SB 5917 (companion HB 2182) which allows Department of Corrections to give away or obtain payment for the stockpiled abortion medications (misoprostol & mifepristone)*
- *HB 2355, which established labor protections for domestic workers,*
- *HB 2165, which makes it illegal to impersonate a law enforcement officer,*
- *SB 5855, which makes it illegal for law enforcement wearing face masks,*
- *SB 6002, which regulates use of Flock cameras, the generated data, and who can access this data*
- *HB 1710, which strengthens Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA) by making sure that jurisdictions with a record of voter suppression have to work with the US Attorney General for any changes in election processes (Preclearance)*
- *HB 1750, which also strengthens WVRA by establishing standards for when a jurisdiction election policy or practice would violate the WVRA and allows for immediate action if an election is pending*

- Hb 1916, which helps standardize process and penalties for challenging voter registration, thereby preventing frivolous mass challenges to the voter rolls and protecting against mass purging of voters
- SB 5892, helps reduce county auditors being asked to provide statewide voter records (they must go through Secretary of State) and it keeps personal information from being disclosed
- SB 6035, which helps increase native American voter turnout by reducing barriers to voting from voter registration, transportation to polls, culturally grounded get-out-the-vote efforts, and allowing tribal IDs for voter registration.
- HB 1622, which would allow state employees to bargain on AI prior to implementation
- HB 2144, which would require employers in Washington to notify all employees how they are being monitored at work if this monitoring is being used to perform personal evaluations.

2. What are your positions on the two initiatives, IL26-001 Parental Rights and IL26-638 Trans Athletes, on the ballot in November and explain?

I am against both initiatives; I approved of the legislature refusing to pass these into law.

- IL26-001 Parental Rights - We want parents to be active participants in their child's education; current law encourages that and reiterates all the rights that parents have without putting our most vulnerable students at risk. Ultimately, we all want parents to be involved in their child's education, and in cases where students are unsafe at home we want them to have trusted adults they can go to for help. But this initiative is poorly written and weakens existing safeguards. It also creates ambiguity about what protection there is for students when a parent is under investigation for abuse or neglect.*
- IL26-638 – We do not need this initiative as WIAA already successfully handles oversight of safe and fair competition. Sports in schools should be open and inclusive regardless of skill level and certainly should not be discriminating against anyone. Sports teach more than about winning and can be an important part of growth in school. Initiative 638 would cause a discriminatory blanket ban and will force unnecessary and invasive medical examinations for girls as young as middle school. These exams are unnecessary, expensive, and potentially subject girls to increased harassment or assault and terrifying for young girls and women. Lastly, it is directed only at girls, as all boys would be exempt.*

2. What is your position on the current activities by ICE and CBP in Washington?

I am categorically against what is happening with ICE and CBP are doing and conducting business in our country. I either have co-sponsored or voted for the Face Mask ban, requiring notice of inspecting employees for I-9, and impersonating a police officer. I dropped a bill that would have responded to the ICE action during the Bear Gulch fire and will be dropping this bill again in 2027 if I am re-elected. Lastly, I am working with two other representatives to add more protections against ICE as I am interested in providing a 500-foot prohibition of ICE around Washington Voting Centers. If re-elected I will continue to support and work with my fellow representatives to protect Washingtonians from ICE and CBP.

3. What programs do you support to help people experiencing homelessness and to address root causes of homelessness?

As an Olympia City Council member, I worked extensively on homelessness and supported a study called Olympia Strong. We need to provide living wages, affordable childcare, affordable food, and stable housing to slow the growth of homelessness. These experiences and the information from this study have without a doubt informed my policy priorities as a state representative.

- a. Housing first with wrap-round services is still the best practice for those experiencing homelessness. We do need to increase state spending on behavioral health and addiction services, as these are the large gaps in local and regional programs due to cost.*
- b. We as a state should consider a rental/mortgage assistance program that would keep people housed. It is far better to keep people housed, and ultimately it is less expensive for the state and local governments.*
- c. We need to support all housing efforts to increase all levels of housing, and the state should continue to support low income and workforce housing programs using land banks, direct grants, and growing our housing trust (perhaps with review of some of the requirements for housing under the housing trust).*
- d. We need to reduce childcare costs.*
- e. We need to improve food sovereignty and reduce the cost of hygiene and over the counter medications (as outlined in the Millionaires tax).*
- f. We need to continue our work on Universal Healthcare and insurance subsidies until that time.*
- g. We need to support fair scheduling (reducing the part-time/independent contractor economy) to help improve and provide stable income.*

4. Washington has one of the most regressive state and local tax systems in the country.

How should this be addressed? What is your position on the recently enacted

“Millionaires Tax?” What is your response to criticism that this is just the beginning, that the income threshold will be reduced in the future?

We must address the regressive nature of our tax code. As chair of the finance committee for Olympia, I learned up close and personal how this system is not only helping make Washington unaffordable, but it is harming local jurisdiction’s ability to provide services and care for their communities. It is also increasing the wealth gap. It was a priority when I ran in 2024 for state representative and the main reason was that I asked to be put on a state budget committee. In the last two years I have served on the House Finance and Capital Budget Committees.

We must first ensure that the top 1% pay their fair share through exploring wealth taxes such as the intangible tax last year and high earning tax. We must look at our B&O and property taxes. There are multiple good ideas that are arising across the country, that is why I joined an interstate group working on tax justice. If re-elected I will continue this work and my commitment to reviewing all tax considerations and exemptions that do not fit a progressive tax system. I already have ideas for the B&O tax and as mentioned above I have asked to be put on the “Millionaires tax work group”.

I am very proud to have been part of the team selected to speak to the amendments and the bill’s final passage and finally pass this bill. It is a bill that is 93 years in the making and is the first step towards getting our tax system back to being progressive.

There are 42 states with income taxes, we are the only one with a one-million-dollar deduction and that allows businesses to deduct dollar for dollar B&O taxes and 80% of expenses from the previous year. It will provide breakfast and lunch for all school children, increase Working Family Tax Credit, Small Business B&O exemptions, and sales tax exemptions for over-the-counter medications and hygiene products.

Will the deduction be lowered in the coming years? I would like to guarantee that the deduction of a million dollars will be lowered, but what I can say as long as I am in office I will fight to institute all the other actions to balance our tax code before we make any changes in the Millionaires tax law.

5. Should there be any modifications to the current vote by mail system, including citizenship verification? What is your position on using AI and facial recognition to ensure the safety of election workers and volunteers?

There should be no modifications in our state voting laws. We have one of the best election systems in the country. Too many people do not have their own birth certificates or passports. We should not require these to vote as it would restrict voters and be a form of voter suppression.

I am for protecting election workers and volunteers, including preventing their home addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers from becoming public. I would be okay with electronic monitoring as long it is vetted through programs that ensure accountability, transparency for accuracy, and human monitoring. We need to have the County Auditors work with the Secretary of State to develop appropriate monitoring and protection of election workers.

6. What are your top 3 priorities for the 2027 legislative session?

- a. Continued Tax system balancing work with policies, including considering both higher earners payroll tax and B&O tax policy and reviewing our tax considerations and exemptions.*
- b. Continue my AI and transparency policy bills, to ensure safe workplaces and wages.*
- c. Work on Protecting First Responders and the ICE exclusion bill*

7. Do you believe that women have a right to control their personal healthcare needs, including contraception and abortion?

I believe in the right to choose and the right to control personal healthcare for all people. I was sponsor of the companion bill that provided sustainable funding for abortion in our state. I was proud to co-sponsor the use of our mifepristone stockpile, including donating it to Planned Parenthood.

- 8. Do you believe that laws should be passed to further regulate sales or ownership of firearms? Please explain your response.**

Yes, we should regulate firearms. I supported the bills which would require training and require secure firearms in cars/vehicles. Firearms are the second leading cause of death in children (1-17 years old), 71% of gun deaths are suicides, and over 900 people were killed in 2024 in Washington. Other states have shown that the higher the number of guns the more likely there will be mass shootings and violent deaths will be from guns. So, yes, I for gun regulation.

- 9. What actions, including changes to funding, do you believe Washington State should take to improve public education?**

We need to make sure we not only fund adequately K through 12 but pre-K and higher education. We need to stabilize the revenue in our state, so that our general fund and capital budgets can adequately and reliably fund our schools. We need to consider the highly unpopular consolidation of our school districts. We have over 200 school districts and only 39 counties. This many districts means we have the potential for unequal funding within a county based on property tax base being unequal throughout the county. We also have over 200 school administrations, maintenance facilities, and capital facilities. Next, I recommend that we consider policy that would allow school districts to be able to sell excess property and use this for general funds and other non-capital projects.

- 10. How will you balance environmental protection with economic growth and affordability? What can Washington do, besides litigation, to address the Trump administration's environmental and public health policies?**

- a. We need to look for circular economies in everything we do as a community, from how we view our infrastructure (such as wastewater treatment plants to landfills) to how we view energy production. Circular economy makes everything useable and a resource for energy, building supplies, and even water. By investing in circular economies, we reduce extraction economy and improve the environment by reducing waste. We also need to view every policy and budget expenditure in terms of how we can make sure we improve the environment, mitigate impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will it grow the green economy.*
- b. We must continue to consider multistate cooperatives, like the vaccine compact with California, Oregon, and Hawaii, to ensure we use best science to make public health decisions. We must continue the work on our Universal Health Care Commission, including pushing for federal waiver to fully institute the program. We must also continue to hold the line on our climate and environmental policy and laws and extend them further. If we need to consider the idea of tax decoupling. Other states have begun this process or are preparing for such a process if the federal government continues to defund programs, departments, and obligations like Medicare/Medicaid and wildland*

fire and FEMA support (like the minimal support of our Flood recovery). Decoupling is a state deciding to reject specific federal tax changes or provisions. Doing this can prevent these changes from automatically becoming part of the state's tax code. Tax decoupling can protect state revenue, address local fiscal needs, or maintain tax equity among residents. By considering this approach, a state may opt out of federal tax provisions believed to negatively impact the state's budgets or if it disproportionately benefits certain groups, like high-income earners or corporations.

11. What role should Washington play in regulating artificial intelligence versus leaving it to federal legislation?

Ideally the federal government should be developing and enacting the guardrails for AI. These should ensure accountability, transparency, and adequate testing of the AI. Until we can get these regulations the states will have to step up and work through these guardrails.

Washington, like other states, is beginning to develop these policies, including allowing bargaining over AI implementation for public employees if there are impacts to wages and evaluations. We have passed use of AI must be listed and chat GDP for children. Regulation. Policy that is being developed also includes accountability and transparency or my other bill that would require employers to notify if they are being monitored at work and how this monitoring occurs. There is price surveillance policy that was dropped this year, but it needs to come back as this could increase the price of groceries or other purchases if we do not put into law into policy.

Our AI task force has just released a report about possible future actions. It is my recommendation that we reconvene this task force with a new mandate to monitor other state actions and work with experts in AI (university and tech companies), community advocacy, labor, and government policy. Using this new AI Task Force, we can better determine need policy and actions we should take for our state. Also, this Task Force will be best able to determine if the situation is changing in terms of the federal government producing the appropriate guardrails.

12. Do you have personal guidelines or limits on the sources of your campaign revenue?

I do have guidelines that include no fossil fuel companies, no large corporations, no gun companies or pro-gun lobbyists, no tobacco or nicotine companies, no hospitals, and no banks.

13. The Timberland Regional Library (TRL) System was recently much in the news because of a large funding shortfall. There also are ongoing problems with funding related to state restrictions, as well as structural problems related to shifting demographics of the 5 counties in the system. All of these threaten the existence and quality of the TRL in its current form. What is your perspective on the role the state can or should play with respect to these issues?

First since a lot of this came to head while I was in session this year, I have begun the work to achieve a full understanding of this issue.

So far what I have been able to determine is that library district budgets and revenue can be difficult and complicated. It is very likely the budgetary deficit was bound to happen over time, but the exact origin is still a bit uncertain. There is also an urban versus rural cost differential causing urban counties to pay more than their partner counties. That means that urban counties like Thurston County end up paying more than they get from the district or that they are supporting rural libraries. I also learned that the last levy was well over 10 years ago and that it is very difficult with a vote of the people to dissolve a library district.

Additionally, library districts have similar issues to almost every other local and regional jurisdiction, not enough revenue and too many obligations (from growing populations and inflation increases on services and capital). Our unbalanced tax structure and the 1% property tax cap have made things worse for local jurisdictions including library districts.

What may need to happen besides a full audit is consider another levy, as dissolving the district could be much harder, and once again the state should consider a lift to the 1% property tax cap. Additionally, I support DNR using the sell of carbon offset from forests instead of board feet, as this would be a more reliable source of revenue for junior tax districts and other timber obligated jurisdictions.

14. SB 5974 is intended to modernize laws regarding law enforcement agencies. Parts of it have received strong criticism, especially the removal of a sheriff, and are the subject of current litigation. If you support the bill, what is your response to the complaints? If you do not support the bill, explain your reasoning. If parts of it are overturned by the courts, should the legislature reconsider the matter in a subsequent session?

I support this bill and I voted for this bill. I sincerely believe that law enforcement leadership should be held to the same requirements and regulations as the line officers. I believe that police chiefs, Marshalls, and sheriffs should not only follow Washington State law and constitution but have the same standards as those they lead. I believe in the rest of the bill and support the intent of all sections of this bill including that if a sheriff loses certification, it is an immediate vacancy. This would not be unique for an elected official in our state. If a judge, which are elected officials, loses their law license it means immediate vacancy of position. If a county prosecutor, which is elected, loses their license or is disbarred it means an immediate vacancy. If an elected medical examiner loses their medical license, it creates an immediate vacancy. These are elected officials that are required to maintain licenses to maintain their elected positions.

The oversight board (CJTC) established standards and process to certify peace officers and other law enforcement personnel. It is this commission that will evaluate and consider complaints registered against a sheriff, Marshall, or police chief. This is no different than a bar association evaluating a lawyer or judge after a complaint or the DOH board of governors reviewing a medical examiner's medical license during a complaint.

An Emerson School survey of likely voters in Washington indicated 75% support this legislation that would strengthen qualifications and accountability standards for all sheriffs, police chiefs, and town marshals. As a state representative, it is our job to also listen to our people when we vote on policy. A survey from an out of state, unbiased, university has unambiguously indicated how Washingtonians feel about this bill.

[75% of likely Washington voters back bill to strengthen qualifications and accountability for all sheriffs and police chiefs - NPI's Cascadia Advocate](#)

Please return your completed questionnaire to endorsements.olympia.indivisible@gmail.com