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| **Candidate Name** | Sarah Smith | |
| **Position Sought** | House of Representatives, District 9 | |
| Home Legislative District | 31st LD | |
| **Are you a Democrat?** | Yes | |
| **Campaign Contact Information** | Mailing address: PO Box 6646  Kent, WA 98030 | Phone: 206-452-5037  Fax: N/A |
| Website: http://www/votesarahsmith.com  Email: sarah-smith@votesarahsmith.com  Twitter: @SarahSmith2018  Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SarahSmithWA09 | |
| Campaign manager or point of contact | Jay Smith | |
| Consultant(s) |  | |

**Part I – Candidate Background**

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| Please briefly describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience. Attach a resume with more complete history. |
| I attended high school in southern California, then enrolled at the University of Arizona after a few years in the workforce. I graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Classical Studies.   During the height of the recession, I worked as a mortgage foreclosure specialist with Citigroup where my focus was on aiding people facing foreclosure in finding prevention programs best suited for them. I was promoted to a Team Leader where I oversaw a small team of fifteen associates on a special project to expedite short sale opportunities for customers. I worked as a bankruptcy paralegal once my project team was dissolved with a small law firm in Tucson Arizona.   I spent five years with GEICO working as a bodily injury and liability negotiation specialist where I gained a wide range of experience from negotiation to fraud detection. I worked with the Special Investigation Unit to detect, track, and build cases against individuals suspected of committing fraud. I also served as a training assistant, helping introduce new adjusters to best negotiation practices, among other positions within the company.  Currently, I help manage a medium sized mechanic garage in Renton.   I was an anti-war activist in high school and participated in walkouts and sit-ins in protest of the Iraq War. With every employer, I have been an active participant or board member for the volunteer outreach committees. I have worked at food banks in Arizona, with newly relocated refugees and their families, the Humane Society, and local Washington food banks. I have helped organize and facilitate local city council forums, been a Precinct Committee Officer in my former Legislative District, volunteered to help with State Party events, and have been active in organizing town halls surrounding the local homelessness crisis. |

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| Describe your history of involvement in Washington state politics. What campaigns, if any, have you run or worked on? |
| I was a Precinct Committee Officer for the 37th Legislative District prior to moving out of the district. I assisted with Rory O’Sullivan’s campaign for State Senate. I am also a member of the Progressive Caucus. |

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| What prompted you to run for this office? What priorities are you seeking to address with your campaign? |
| I was prompted to run for office when an organization, Brand New Congress, contacted me and advised me a member of my community nominated me to run. After months of back-and-forth, I made the decision to work with Brand New Congress and their sister organization, Justice Democrats, and run for office in the 9th District.  I want to change the face of our nation for the generations that come after mine. I want to make a positive impact in the lives of working people across the country and be a voice for the people who are not being heard. We have gridlock in Congress for a multitude of reasons, one of which is our lack of representation for younger generations who bear the brunt of bad policy. Another is the ownership of corporations over too many representatives. I am committed to people and creating a better world for the poor, the working class, and the middle class because those are the Americans who need it the most. It’s important to have fresh voices, new eyes, and representation for all groups on all these old problems, we need that in order to accomplish a progressive future for the United States. I am running for this office to be those fresh eyes and new approaches to issues we still haven’t overcome and are tired of suffering over.  I am a progressive Democrat, I strongly support a progressive whole picture vision for our country. That means I prioritize proactive politics, not reactive responses. I am a strong supporter of student debt relief and debt-free higher education, single-payer healthcare, a massive infrastructure overhaul, and a rapid transition away from fossil fuels into a green energy economy. In short, I support a 21st Century New Deal. I approach politics and policy in a holistic way and see how all of these progressive policies are interconnected. We can’t just have representatives who push pieces of a puzzle, we need representatives who recognize how connected each piece is and are willing to take a stand for all of them. We have to inspire trust in the people again by filling the House and Senate with representatives who won’t capitulate on our values and who will have a backbone in the face of adversity. We need tough Democrats in Congress and I want to be that tough Democrat. Congress needs a big picture vision with fire and dedication behind it and that is what I intend to bring. |

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| List the notable endorsements you have received to date. Who are you planning to ask for an endorsement? |
| Justice Democrats, Brand New Congress, Washington State Berniecrats, Our Revolution King County, Our Revolution Washington, The Progressive Party, Demand Universal Healthcare, and Project 100.  I have submitted endorsement applications to Democratic Socialists of America – Olympia and intend to also see endorsement from the Seattle chapter. I have applied to the Washington State Progressive Caucus for their endorsement and the Washington State Green Party to become a preferred candidate. I intend to ask the 33rd, 37th, 30th, 2nd, and 47th Legislative Districts, Veterans for Peace, Emily’s List, the League of Women Voters, the League of Conservation Voters, and Millennials for Progress for their endorsements. I have met with several unions and applied for endorsement from them as well. I am happy to expand on my decisions to seek these particular endorsements at any time. |

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| Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. For instance, what earned media has your campaign received? How much money have you raised, and from how many donors? How many doors have you knocked on? |
| We have been covered extensively by Uphill Media, media partner with Our Revolution, and The Young Turks. I have also had a strong grassroots media presence with JoAnn Chateau, Environmental Coffee House, Millennial Politics Podcast, Walter Yeates, Progressive Army, and Truth Out.   We have raised over $40,000 and rising from only small-dollar donations from over 2,000 donors. My campaign does not accept corporate funds and I have sworn off special interest group donations permanently. We have knocked on over 3,000 doors so far and have been successfully knocking over 500 doors every week since implementing our field plan. We have also been hosting regular phone banking events and have made over 4,000 phone calls and climbing. |

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| **Please answer the following questions.** | | **Yes\*** | **No** |
| 1 | Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments? |  | X |
| 2 | Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation? |  | X |

\* If you answered “Yes” to either of the above, please explain your answer:

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**Part II – Federal Issues**

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| **#** | **Question** | **Yes** | **No** | **Qualify your response** |
| 1 | Will you fight to prevent cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, even if such cuts are proposed by the White House? | X |  | I have very publicly endorsed and pushed for H.R. 676, Medicare for All, which will be a critical piece of legislation for eliminating the constant fight to preserve Medicare and Medicaid. I also support an increase to Social Security and removing the caps on lifetime contributions and income limits. |
| 2 | Do you support the right of public workers, excluding military, to bargain and strike? | X |  | All public workers should have the ability to bargain for a better standard of living. I support H.R. 4548, AI JOBS Act of 2018, that moves to strengthen the ability of workers to bargain by amending the National Labor Relations Act. |
| 3 | Do you support the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan? | X |  | Firmly and absolutely. I have been an anti-war activist since I was 16 years old and continue to be one at 29. I support not only a withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan, but a repeal of the Authorized Use of Military Force, closure of Guantanamo Bay, and implementation of operations aimed at rebuilding areas in the Middle East destroyed by American bombing efforts. I also support a federal cap on military spending towards private companies. |
| 4 | Do you support tuition-free college? | X |  | I support tuition free college, vocational school, technical school, and job training for all Americans. I also strongly support a debt relief package for current student debt holders and the Robin Hood Tax plan on Wall Street in order to fund these efforts. |
| 5 | Do you support restoring the Glass-Steagall Act (requiring the separation of commercial and investment banking)? | X |  | Without the Glass-Steagall Act, we have allowed banks to gamble with our futures unchecked. My family were victims of the recession in 2008, we know what unchecked big banks are capable of taking from people. In order to prevent this kind of fiscal atrocity again, we must ensure we are protecting Americans from risky banking practices. I actually don’t think Glass-Steagall goes far enough. We should be focusing on developing a public bank just like every other first world nation has done. A public option can keep the private market in check and can stop the same kind of financial disaster by serving as a check and balance on the private banking industry. Glass-Steagall is a good jumping off point, but we can and should do more. |
| 6 | Do you support passage of a strong Net Neutrality law protecting Internet freedom? | X |  | I grew up with the internet. I understand the importance of a free, open webspace. Net neutrality is more than an issue of companies being allowed to throttle internet and squeeze out move money from consumers, it’s an issue of Free Speech in the Digital Age. While we need to be cognizant of Net Neutrality as an issue of telecoms giants attempting to make money, this is also a Constitutional issue about what platforms we are allowed to use to exercise our right to Free Speech. I also believe we can do better than simply protecting Net Neutrality. We need to move towards a public internet option, namely a municipal internet option. Net Neutrality is important, but so is taking action to prevent this issue from simply arising again in the near future under another FCC Chairman. |
| 7 | Do you support allowing oil companies like Shell to drill in the Arctic Ocean? |  | X | Absolutely not. Fossil fuels are a dying industry, the rest of the first world is moving towards renewable energy, and it is long past time that we do the same. I also support removing government subsidies for oil companies and shifting those subsidies to companies pioneering alternative energy. I support a major overhaul of our energy system via investment in renewables. We cannot keep throwing money at a failing industry. |
| 8 | Do you support revising our federal tax code to restoring the 2017 tax rates to previous levels? | X |  | I also support closing corporate pass-through tax loopholes and increasing the tax rates for the top 5% of income earners in the country. I support increased taxation on all monies moved to and from offshore accounts, lowering the tax rates on middle earners, eliminating taxes for workers earning $33,000 or less per year, and restoring the tax rate on unearned income to upwards of 90%. |
| 9 | Do you support public financing of campaigns? | X |  | Absolutely. I support public financing of campaigns so much that my campaign refuses to accept corporate donations or special interest funding. My campaign is financed entirely by small dollar donations from individual donors all across the country. Government is obligated to serve the people first, not big businesses. |
| 10 | Would you be willing to lift the requirement on the Postal Service to be self-supporting or relax the requirements Congress has imposed regarding USPS’ pension obligations? | X |  | Currently, the prefunding model is making it harder on postal workers. Congress should listen to the workers who are actually employed by this entity and enact policy based on what they advise their needs are, not what Congress determines their needs to be. It is important that postal unions and the USPS work in tandem with Congress to come up with a viable plan to solve a lot of the financial woes they are currently experiencing. The current prefunding requirement appears arbitrary and intended only to cause harm to the postal service. We must take pragmatic action and presently, relaxing the Congressional pension requirements appears to be the best possible way forward for the postal service. |
| 11 | Do you support the Employee Free Choice Act, as introduced in previous Congresses? | X |  | Actions taken to strengthen the National Labor Relations Act in favor of the workers are always worth supporting. Workers who provide signatures and are able to demonstrate they want union representation should be allowed access to that union representation without interference from their employer. We have seen and heard enough unfair labor practice cases to recognize we are in a position that demands we build up workers’ abilities to fight these practices without repercussion from their employer. Plainly, the people have a right to unionize if they so choose and access the benefits they receive from unionization. |
| 12 | Do you support comprehensive immigration reform and the federal DREAM Act? | X |  | Comprehensive immigration reform is essential if we are to continue being involved in the global market. I support an overhaul of the H-1B visa system to provide workers more opportunity for bargaining and negotiation. I also support providing positive incentives to businesses who provide citizenship pathways for employees via sponsorship. I have been a strong advocate for a clean DREAM Act for a long time. I am the daughter of an immigrant and proof that the system can be done a better way. We need to build up recruitment centers, alleviate or eliminate country-based quotas, and provide realistic, humane pathways for those seeking to reunite with family already in our country. I also strongly support the elimination of ICE altogether and am the sixth candidate nationwide to announce my support for this abolition. |
| 13 | Do you support NSA reform and repeal of the widely-abused “Patriot” Act? | X |  | I have been strongly against the PATRIOT Act since its inception and every renewal through the FREEDOM Act that extended sunset provisions of the PATRIOT Act in its language. A government should not be spying on its people without a warrant. I fully understand the benefits to this program, but the benefits do not eliminate our 4th Amendment right to privacy. If the NSA or other government officials suspect and kind of illegal activity, they are Constitutionally obligated to obtain a warrant from a judge to allow them to surveille that person, regardless of the circumstance. We are a nation of laws and all persons, government included, must be bound to those laws. |
| 14 | Do you support Medicare For All as a follow-up to the Patient Protection Act? | X |  | Absolutely. To avoid reiterating myself too much, I am a strong advocate for H.R. 676, Medicare for All. I have been endorsed by Demand Universal Healthcare due to the strength of my support for Medicare for All. |
| 15 | Do you support allowing mining companies to export coal (or other fossil fuels) from Washington’s ports? |  | X | Similar to my position on Shell’s drilling, it’s time we moved away from fossil fuels as a country and as a state. From an environmental perspective, coal is dirty, damaging, and toxic. From an economic perspective, we are losing out on opportunities to create more jobs in the alternative energy sector the longer we cling to a dying fuel industry. We must be proactive in the transition away from fossil fuels now while we can, both for the health of our environment and our economy. |
| 16 | Do you support robust funding of Amtrak? | X |  | Not just Amtrak, but a massive investment in America’s infrastructure altogether. Our road system is comparable to a third world country. We have little to no effective public transportation, especially in outlying areas around major a metropolis like Seattle. The National Society of Civil Engineers estimates we need $4.6 trillion in investment just to catch up with the rest of the first world, delaying this any longer will only make that number bigger. |
| 17 | Do you support boosting public funding for scientific research and space exploration? | X |  | Public funding for scientific research ensures we have lower inclination of bias from major companies and prevents cherry picking of results, it would allow us to pool efforts towards cancer research, environmental research, and others. As for space exploration, absolutely I support funding for this. Not only because it is important that we continue to explore and understand our universe, but because so much has come to us from building on space exploration that we would not have had without it. On a personal note, I am also a science fiction fan and space exploration is something I am always enthusiastic about. |
| 18 | Will you allow your campaign staff, and/or independent contractors assigned by your consultant to work your campaign, to elect to join a labor union such as Campaign Workers Guild. | X |  | I would not only allow it, but I would encourage it if it is what they want. I want any employees on my staff to feel represented and heard. If I fail to make them feel as though they are heard, I would hope they join a union to help give them a voice while in my employment. I appreciate the work unions do for employees and, while my hope is that I am always able to treat my employees fairly and respectfully, I recognize that a union is another means to providing a voice where more people may feel comfortable. |

**Part III – Free Response Questions**

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| Have you read the most current [King County Democratic Platform](https://www.kcdems.org/d/platform/platform-2014.xml), approved by the delegates to the King County Convention and available from KCDCC’s website. List which planks, if any, you disagree with, and why. |
| I have read through the King County Democratic Platform thoroughly and, honestly, I am very proud to say I agree with it completely. We have a strong progressive platform that’s people-focused and encourages proactive action while working towards prevention and solutions, this is the kind of platform I have been running on since my campaign began. I am glad that Washington State has adopted a similar platform. |

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| Describe your vision for tax reform and tax fairness. What federal corporate tax breaks and tax giveaways would you like to see rescinded or repealed? |
| I would like to see a total lift of all federal taxes on persons making $33,000 or under annually with a minor reduction in the tax rate of persons making $200,000 or under annually. I would push to increase the tax rates on persons making over $200,000 annually with the biggest increase on the top 5% of income earners in the nation. I want to see the corporate pass through tax shut completely and an increase in taxation on unearned income to 90% or higher. We must close offshore loopholes for corporations to de-incentivize the usage of foreign tax havens for corporations. If a corporation shifts jobs overseas, we should end their ability to receive tax breaks at a federal level in any way. The 35% corporate tax rate barely affects major corporations who are dodging that tax rate by shifting profits overseas and failing to invest in America, which means families and small businesses are the ones who are being put out by corporate tax dodging. |

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| What do the words *Black Lives Matters* mean to you? What actions should a progressive-led Congress take to combat systemic racism, particularly in the criminal justice system? |
| Black Lives Matter is a movement dedicated to making people of color visible and important in our social justice system. The approach we have to communities of color pushes for their marginalization and allows people in positions of power murder or harm people of color with little to no repercussion. We have prioritized white folks in media, in acts of crime, and social constructs, which has caused so much hard to communities of color both literally and figuratively. Black Lives Matter means we in the white community consciously refuse to let people of color be marginalized anymore. We no longer let unarmed black men get shot by officers and stay silent when they go free. We no longer let workplace discrimination affect the pay of black women without speaking up. To me, it means it’s my time to step up and risk my own comfort and security to elevate people of color so they can have equitable access to that same comfort and security. It is a social contract I sign as a progressive Democrat to fight systemic racism even if it means getting uncomfortable to do it.  To fight systemic racism, we have to take a twofold approach. We have to reform the criminal justice system and we must reform the social disadvantages faced by communities of color. One of the most significant approaches to reforming criminal justice is to legalize recreational marijuana. A disproportionate amount of young black men are in jail for minor marijuana offenses, yet marijuana legalization is favored by a majority of Americans all across the political spectrum. We must eliminate for-profit and private prisons in our criminal justice system. These kinds of facilities incentivize people to imprison Americans, especially young black men, in order to drive profits. The fact of this issue is that if a person has committed a crime against the people, it is the duty of the people to handle that punishment, not a private business’. We need to remove mandatory minimum sentencing, since young black men are disproportionately punished more harshly than young white men because of these mandatory minimums. We must address the school-to-prison pipeline early and effectively by eliminating zero-tolerance policies, since these kinds of policies demonstrably cause more harm than good for young students and are used against children of color exponentially more often than white children. We must improve and increase police training on handling suspects with mental illness as well as de-escalation training. Washington State has I-940, which was endorsed by our police unions and was pushed to be even stronger by some, and we must have representation from Washington bringing similar solutions to the table in Congress. One of the most powerful ways we can combat criminal injustice, however, is through our handling of police shootings. While I respect the work of police officers and understand the stress of the position they are in, there is no excuse for shooting an unarmed person. In cases of unarmed persons, we must hold officers as accountable as we would civilians. There is no excuse for the shooting of a person who is fleeing or poses no credible threat. We must focus on community building between officers and communities of color. There is no one program that will fit every single community, so I would push for funding to subsidize the implementation of these programs to states that participate in community building efforts.  There is also the social justice component, which spans a broad range of issues that communities of color - especially black communities – are disproportionately affected by. Schools, for one, are worse in areas with a higher population of color because we base funding off of property values and not necessity. Black women make 64 cents to every dollar a white man makes and Hispanic women make 54 cents, which broadens the income inequality gap in these communities so much more than in white communities. This lessens opportunities for children of color, increases stress and pressure on families of color, and pushes communities of color onto social and welfare programs at an alarmingly larger percentage than white communities. Another area that must be improved is access to food. Many communities of color are in areas where access to fresh food is limited at best, which results in a high number of health issues and leads to greater medical spending and further reduces the income of these communities. We must work with farming communities to alleviate the strain of food deserts on these communities and bring available produce to these families. Remodeling how we fund schools, firmly and strongly closing the income in equality gap particularly with respect to people of color, and building pathways to eliminate food deserts are just some of the many ways we can combat racial injustice in our nation. |

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| In recent years, the right wing has mounted an aggressive attack on reproductive rights at the federal and state levels. How will you respond when Republicans bring up a bill to defund Planned Parenthood? |
| I am a strong supporter of reproductive rights and a woman’s right to choose. I have been a longtime Planned Parenthood Defender and protestor to keep Planned Parenthood protected. I wrote a small piece for a newsletter regarding Planned Parenthood services two years ago as well. That said, any Republican attempt to defund Planned Parenthood is an attempt I will vigorously and passionately combat.   We cannot just focus on what we will do to stop Republicans, we must also focus on what we can do to prevent future attacks on women’s reproductive freedom as well. Republicans are very adept at instilling fear in communities regarding what Planned Parenthood does, so I believe we need to take a new approach to the Planned Parenthood issue. We can’t just focus on one basket, we need to diversify our efforts to protect women’s rights in a creative, dynamic way. We must look at other avenues like providing federal dollars to women’s health clinics including independent or small, local facilities to provide services similar to Planned Parenthood at low to no cost. We must work with local hospitals and obstetricians to create satellite outlets for women in areas with limited access to care facilities through grants and contracts to provide care where Planned Parenthood is being hamstrung.  It is easy for the right wing to demonize Planned Parenthood, it is a lot less easy for them to demonize patients’ own OBGYN providers. The best way to protect Planned Parenthood is to change the conversation that surrounds it and we cannot wait for that conversation to change on its own. We, both as elected officials and as Democratic constituents, must turn the rhetoric used against Planned Parenthood against the conservative right wing and force their narrative towards the absurd. This is a battle of more than pragmatic dollar spending, this is a battle of morality for many Republicans. We have to speak the language of our opponents on this issue in order to change their perspective on it. In addition to this approach, we also need to focus on turning as many districts as possible blue and as many blue districts as possible progressive so we can legislate protections for Planned Parenthood funding that cannot be removed. Without turning Congress blue and turning light blue Districts into dark, progressive blue, we will continue to face the gridlock we have now over women’s reproductive rights. |

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| Do you support requiring employers to provide paid vacation, sick, and safe leave like other countries do? |
| Yes, absolutely. In addition to this, I also support requirements that all employers provide a minimum of six months paid parental leave to apply to either fathers, mothers, or adoptive parents. We are experiencing a decline in birth rates, especially among millennials, because it is simply too expensive and nobody can afford to take time off of work. We do not live in an era anymore where one parent works and the other raises the children, we must adapt and change our policies accordingly to suit the new cultural change. Many working-class women return to work within 14 days of giving birth because they cannot afford to take more unpaid time away from their jobs if they want to keep a roof over their heads. To illustrate this more clearly, it is illegal to sell puppies less than 8 weeks old, but women are forced to return to work less than two after giving birth. We regulate the buying and selling of pets more strictly than we regulate maternity leave.  Many people do not take sick days because they are unpaid. For example, I recently came down with a case of strep throat. My employer does not provide paid sick leave and I have a mortgage I am responsible for. I was unable to take the time I needed to recover and as a result not only did my illness get worse, but I also spread my illness to several coworkers. This story is so common among working class people and there isn’t any reason for it to be. If I was working, I would have been paid. There would be no financial struggle for my company to have paid me if I was present that day, therefore it is safe to assume there would have been no financial struggle to pay me for the days I was ill.  With regard to vacation, all persons should be able to take at minimum 14 days’ paid leave from work. That is on the lower end of that other first world countries provide. Many have upwards of six weeks’ paid vacation time. People are more productive when they have time to take with their families, it improves a person’s quality of life, and creates a better work environment for employees. Companies with the most generous vacation and sick benefits see the highest productivity, employee happiness, and lowest turnover rates. I am comfortable assuming businesses would fare better with these policies in place. |

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| A set of Supreme Court decisions allow corporations to be treated as persons, and money as speech. Do you support an amendment to end corporate personhood and corporate electioneering? |
| Absolutely I do. So strongly, in fact, that I reject corporate dollars and influence in my campaign. Corporations have bought and paid politicians for so many years since Citizens United. It has been to the detriment to the people and to our system of government. We have lost our seat at the table to business after business and industry after industry. The gun lobby keeps progressive gun control from going into effect. The prison lobby keeps private and for-profit prisons legal. The war industry keeps us embroiled in over half a dozen wars around the world. All of this is because of the corrupting influence of money in our political system. We must remove the influence of corporations in our elections and return the power of government to our people. |

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| Here in Washington, the consequences of the climate crisis may result in reduced snowpack and a worsening of the pine beetle infestation. As a member of Congress, what public policy will you work for, to reduce emissions and penalize pollution? |
| I am very strongly in favor of a New Green Deal for America, since a majority of our environmental crisis stems from over reliance on fossil fuel. Emissions taxes and pollution penalties are not enough for the long-term, though they are effective in the short-term. In addition to penalties for pollution, I would push for corporations to be fiscally responsible for the clean-up of pollutants and provide a timeframe in which these cleanups must occur, with further penalties for companies that fail to meet their obligations timely. In addition, I would also partner with members of Congress who have put forth bold, progressive environmental legislation like Pramila Jayapal’s 100 by 50 bill and Tulsi Gabbard’s Off Fossil Fuels bill to work on ending subsidies for the fossil fuel industry and distribute them to companies working on renewables. I plan to work with strong environmental voices to craft legislation that bans or severely limits fracking, eliminates offshore drilling, and penalizes companies that cause environmental damage through spills or faulty equipment. |

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| Media concentration and consolidation in the United States is a problem that just keeps getting worse. Most of the movie studios, publishing houses, TV stations, newspapers, and major Internet properties in the U.S. are owned by a handful of firms. The FCC and DOJ keep signing off on mergers that make big media bigger. What should Congress do to reverse this harmful trend? |
| Large-scale media mergers and relaxing of media standards have created a culture of biased networks and sensationalist, irresponsible journalism. Congress should implement limitations on how large companies absorb smaller media outlets and strive to return journalistic integrity through regulating what can and cannot be categorized as “news” versus “media”. Congress must implement barriers to prevent media monopolies through clear definitions and requirements for how much news media one company can own. For example, if Time Warner wants to absorb 50% of the media outlets in the field, it must jettison or sell 50% of the outlets they already own. To keep the playing field balanced, we have to make sure we are mandating limits on these major companies to prevent a hostile takeover of our media.  One of the issues we also have to contend with is the use of propaganda in media, which is a broad term that should be narrowed to include material designed to incite fear through racial or religious discrimination. We also must combat sources of questionable news material by working with large social media companies to find ways to identify and handle fabricated news stories so we can stop them from spreading. When news outlets irresponsibly report on false or unverified news stories, there must be penalties for these outlets to ensure they are taking proper steps to verify any information prior to releasing sensationalist stories. The issue is not just large companies merging over and over, it is also the content produced by these mammoth companies. |

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| What ideas can you offer to make the U.S. government more open, transparent, and responsive to the American people? Are you committed to disclosing your meetings with lobbyists, if elected? |
| I believe that if business is done with public dollars, the public has a right to know about the actions government officials take with those dollars. Transparency in government is critical not just for the education and understanding of our people, but because now is an essential moment in our history to rebuild trust with the people. The only way we build that trust is by giving people a reason to give it to us through honesty and integrity.  I would absolutely disclose my meetings with lobbyists if elected. I also would provide quarterly reports of accomplishments my office has made, regular financial disclosures that clearly illustrate where funding is coming from, and regular reports of my stances of key legislation pieces during session. I do not believe in closed-door meetings unless it is absolutely critical. Being honest and forthright is how we win people to our Party and how we rebuild the trust in our government. |

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| What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected? What are your priorities? |
| My priorities are simple: set the foundation for a better life for my children, my neighbor’s children, and the people I clock in and out with every day here at my garage. My focus will be on fighting for single payer Medicare for All, debt free college, student debt relief, and a Green New Deal to build up our energy infrastructure and eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels.  I am not a career politician and I have no intention of being one, I want to represent the people of the 9th District for as long as their goals and priorities align with mine. I want to prepare this country for the next generation and ensure we are setting ourselves up for long-term success so when the next representative is elected, we are prepared to pass the baton and keep moving forwards in a proactive way. |

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| Mass shootings have become a national epidemic. What do you see as being the root causes of this problem, and if elected, what concrete steps would you take to battle this problem? |
| The issue of mass shootings is very close to my heart. My close friend was at Columbine when the shooting happened and a friend of my family buried her daughter because of Sandy Hook. Gun violence has become so commonplace in our nation because we have become so flippant with the second amendment that it is usurping our Constitutional right to life. I am extremely proud and hopeful watching this next generation of teens stepping up and putting themselves at risk to demand change from our government.  That said, this problem has many causes. Our access to firearms is far too easy and too relaxed. Assault style weapons have no purpose for home defense, hunting, or otherwise. They are weapons designed with a single purpose: to main and end life quickly and on a large scale. We must implement a federal ban on assault style weapons. We cannot let the conversation die surrounding bump stocks and high capacity magazines. There is no circumstance outlined in any argument from the NRA or ammunitions lobbyists that calls for a high capacity magazine or a bump stock and doesn’t involve mowing down mass amounts of people. These things are senseless and do not have a place in modern society outside a warzone.  We must shut gun show loopholes tightly and without exception. This is no longer a question of “should we”, this is now a matter of “we must”. In addition, we need to limit the amount of ammunition one individual can purchase at any time and we must monitor these purchases closely.  We must also increase the strength of our background checks, extend waiting periods to three days, and ensure when a weapon is sold that a member of the household to which it was sold does not suffer from mental illness. We should provide the chance for families of gun violence victims to hold irresponsible gun owners accountable in the event their weapons are taken from their home by a friend or family member to commit an act of violence. Holding irresponsible gun owners in check this way opens the opportunity for the culture surrounding responsibility to change and catch up to where we are as a society. The issue of firearms is complex and fused between culture and legislation, we need to make sure we take a multifaceted approach to deal with both.  We always hear this conversation shift towards mental illness, but treatment for mental illness continues to remain underfunded, underutilized, and prohibited to the people who need it most. We must increase availability of mental health services to low- and middle-income families. We also must work with schools to listen to our students when they come to counselors with or to report a problem. We must increase our understanding of how to deal with mental illness in teens and young adults.  It is time we get creative and proactive with gun control. If elected, I would change the some of the tactics we are taking to regulate firearms and focus on regulating ammunition. This includes taking steps to monitor ammunition purchasing, run background checks when ammunition is purchased in bulk, and require background checks on any person buying ammunition for assault-style weapons even in the event that ammunition will not be used for an assault-style weapon. I would also push for a massive federal tax increase specifically for ammunition; make purchasing bullets so expensive that it is difficult to obtain in large quantities. Our Constitution dictates we have a right to bear arms and as a future steward of the Constitution, I have an obligation to recognize that right. However, it does not dictate a right to fire those arms or possess ammunition in any way. Ammunition and arms are not the same, we need creative legislation that leans on that distinction and utilizes it in a way that helps protect the people. |

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| **I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.** | | |
| Signature |  | Date: 4/17/2018 |
| Printed Name | Sarah Smith |