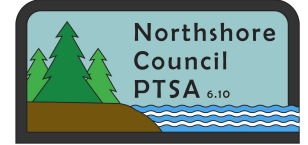


Northshore Council PTSA Presents:



Candidate Forum 2020



Election Day is just around the corner. You may have even received your ballot. At Northshore Council PTSA, we have been working to collect answers to your questions from Washington State Legislative candidates in our Northshore Area.



The Questions

We asked the candidates eleven questions surrounding four main topics.

- Online Schooling
- COVID
- School Funding
- School Safety

We collected the questions from the Northshore community.

- We solicited questions in Facebook groups such as the *NSD Community Discussion Group* and *Northshore Council PTSA Advocacy Community*.
- We posted in the Northshore Council PTSA newsletter.
- Many of the questions align with Northshore School District's legislative priorities.

[View the questions we asked](#)

[Jump to candidate responses](#)

Questions asked:

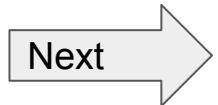
★ Online Schooling:

1. With online/virtual schooling happening, it has shown everyone how important it is for all families to have access to high speed internet service- How do you plan to advocate for all families to have access to the internet regardless of their location or income?

★ COVID:

1. Whereas some people have compromised immune systems or live with people who are at high risk. Is there any legislation under consideration to allow for workers that are currently able to work from home to continue to do so if their place of business opens as we move into higher phases? In other words – How can we prevent productive home workers from being required to return to a workplace or to send kids to in-person school if we are still vulnerable?

2. How will you ensure resources and funding are given to and utilized by schools to help with reopening safely (for example, PPE for staff, sneeze-guards, cleaning supplies, increased teaching staff, testing/tracing)?



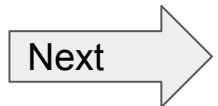
★ Funding:

1. Current education funding formulas no longer work during this pandemic. We will have large funding gaps due to current formulas in place. Specifically, the funding for transportation is based on ridership, and with most districts 100% online, there will be no riders. Yet drivers in many districts are still working. Without changes to the STARS transportation formula, districts will either need to dip into reserves which are already strained or have massive layoffs of transportation staff. How will you adjust current formulas or what will you use to determine funding for schools and transportation?
2. Northshore citizens see the possibility of substantial student growth in the near future. In addition to support of a Simple Majority bond passage threshold, do you support a change to simple majority for school construction bonds? Why or why not?
3. Many states require developers to fund or even build the critical infrastructure of their developments, such as schools. Do you support this policy? Why or why not?
4. The state is facing a large budget shortfall. What are your priorities for closing that budget gap? Please be specific about which programs you would cut, or what revenue-generating mechanisms you would support.



★ School Safety:

1. The Prototypical School Model (from 2009) does not include adequate counseling supports. Will you consider creating a system to update the 2009 model to support counseling and overall safety in our schools?
2. When it created regional school safety centers, the legislature recognized that safety in schools includes both physical and mental health components and requires comprehensive planning by school districts. However, it failed to fund the staff positions for safe school planning and behavioral health navigators at all 9 Educational Service Districts. Will you make this a funding priority in the next biennium?
3. Many school districts have employed School Resource Officers in secondary schools but are now reevaluating that arrangement considering disproportionate discipline rates of students of color. What are your thoughts on school discipline in general and the presence of armed SROs in schools?
4. Do you support School Resource Officers being required to take training about unconscious bias and systemic racism?



Please select the candidate name to jump to the replies to our Northshore questions.

District 1

- **House** - We heard from State House Representative [Shelley Kloba \(D\)](#) and her challenger, [Jeb Brewer \(R\)](#).
- **Senate** - State Senator Derek Stanford (D) did reply that he was working on his responses. We will make those available when we receive them. We did not hear from his opponent, Art Coday (R).

District 45

- **House** - All candidates chose not to respond to our questions. Please [click here](#) to see a list of those candidates.
- **Senate** - State Senators in district 45 are not up for re-election.

District 46

- **House** - We have heard from State House Candidates: [Beth Daranciang \(R\)](#), but not her challenger, Javier Valdez (D). For the second District 46 seat, we heard from [Gerry Pollet \(D\)](#) and from [Eric J. Brown \(R\)](#).
- **Senate** - State Senators in district 46 are not up for re-election.

Reply from Rep. Shelley Kloba (D), 1st District, Pos. 2

Online Schooling:

1. With online/virtual schooling happening, it has shown everyone how important it is for all families to have access to high speed internet service- How do you plan to advocate for all families to have access to the internet regardless of their location or income?

I have been working with a group led by Representative Mia Gregerson that is focused on broadband access across the state. We have a State Broadband Office that is currently gathering the data in order to map out the areas of no service and low service so that we can focus our efforts in those areas first. We have an intermediate goal of every home and business having access to service that provides at least 25 mbs download and 3 mbs upload speeds by 2024. This crisis has emphasized the importance of closing the digital gap, not only by connecting households to the internet, but also by providing the equipment that students need in order to connect as well as the technological know-how to successfully do so. I will continue to work with this group to pool the efforts and expertise present in our communities so that everyone can get access.

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Next

Regarding COVID:

1. Whereas some people have compromised immune systems or live with people who are at high risk. Is there any legislation under consideration to allow for workers that are currently able to work from home to continue to do so if their place of business opens as we move into higher phases? In other words – How can we prevent productive home workers from being required to return to a workplace or to send kids to in-person school if we are still vulnerable?

I am not aware of any pending legislation to prevent workers being forced to return to work if they or their household members are vulnerable. But it is worth noting that our state is one of the leaders in the country for providing paid family leave (PFL), which allows employees to take paid time off to care for their family members. If a family member needs care due to a mental or physical illness, injury, or health condition, or needs a medical diagnosis or preventative medical care, you can use your PFL benefits to take time off work. Additionally, if your workplace or your child's school or place of care has been closed for any health-related reason by order of a public official, you can use your PFL benefits. I will be interested to see how employers evaluate the extent to which workers will come back into buildings given the potential savings that can be had when workers can successfully and effectively work from home. This alone may be all the incentive that they need to allow for the flexibility that workers need when they themselves or a family member are vulnerable to COVID-19.

Reply from Rep. Shelley Kloba (D), 1st District, Pos. 2

Regarding COVID continued:

2. How will you ensure resources and funding are given to and utilized by schools to help with reopening safely (for example, PPE for staff, sneeze-guards, cleaning supplies, increased teaching staff, testing/tracing)?

We can ensure that resources and funding for the materials, procedures, and staff needed for re-opening schools safely are funded in the budget. If we wanted to ensure that the funding is utilized for specifically those needs, we could require the school district to expend the money first, then reimburse only those expenses. But this could be problematic for school districts and I think that they would prefer to get the money as a grant ahead of the proposed purchase of supplies or hiring of teachers. The grant reporting would require an accounting of how all the funds were spent so that we could make sure that the funds were spent appropriately..

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Next

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It would seem only logical to change the ridership variable and instead of using the October 2020 figures, either use a new metric or perhaps use the 2019 numbers to determine how much funding is needed. Once students are back in buildings there is a rational basis for using ridership to allocate the funding, but until then, we must face the reality that the buses are serving a very important function and these costs need to be compensated.

2. Northshore citizens see the possibility of substantial student growth in the near future. In addition to support of a Simple Majority bond passage threshold, do you support a change to simple majority for school construction bonds? Why or why not?

I do support Simple Majority for Bonds. Very early in my legislative advocacy work as a PTA member, one of the issues on our Wa State PTA legislative platform was Simple Majority for Bonds and Levies. I feel like this is unfinished business for me to get the other half of this issue priority accomplished. We need to say no to the tyranny of the minority.

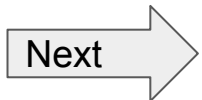
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Reply from Rep. Shelley Kloba (D), 1st District, Pos. 2

Regarding Funding continued:

3. Many states require developers to fund or even build the critical infrastructure of their developments, such as schools. Do you support this policy? Why or why not?

It is a solid concept with a lot of support that growth needs to pay for growth. Requiring impact fees to be charged to developers for transportation, parks, and schools is the policy in many cities. I support this smart strategy that makes sure that the increased needs of an area due to new people and businesses moving in are provided for. We have seen the results in congestion and lack of adequate parks and schools in the newly developed areas of Snohomish County that happen because the County has not been requiring impact fees.



Reply from Rep. Shelley Kloba (D), 1st District, Pos. 2

Regarding Funding continued:

4. The state is facing a large budget shortfall. What are your priorities for closing that budget gap? Please be specific about which programs you would cut, or what revenue-generating mechanisms you would support.

Original projections were dire, with a budget shortfall of \$8.8 billion. However, the recent revenue forecast from September predicts a gap of \$4.3 billion for the fiscal year ending in June of 2021. We have been putting money away in the rainy day fund, which is adequate to cover that difference for the current biennium, as long as we are careful about spending. For the 2021-2023 biennium, we will have spent down the rainy day fund and will be left with a \$1.4 billion gap, which represents about 2% of the budget. My priorities include getting businesses back on their feet so that employees can get back to work and get more money flowing through the economy again. Long term, it will be crucial to re-balance the tax code so that workers in the lowest income levels aren't paying a larger share of their incomes in state and local taxes than the folks at the top. It is important to know that we currently forego more money in tax breaks than we collect in taxes. We need to close the tax exemptions that no longer serve the public good. In a state where wages have stagnated yet personal income growth is one of the highest in the country, joining the other 43 states that have a capital gains tax is a solid idea whose time has come for Washington.

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Reply from Rep. Shelley Kloba (D), 1st District, Pos. 2

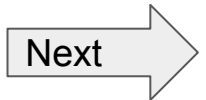
Regarding School Safety:

1. The Prototypical School Model (from 2009) does not include adequate counseling supports. Will you consider creating a system to update the 2009 model to support counseling and overall safety in our schools?

Yes.

2. When it created regional school safety centers, the legislature recognized that safety in schools includes both physical and mental health components and requires comprehensive planning by school districts. However, it failed to fund the staff positions for safe school planning and behavioral health navigators at all 9 Educational Service Districts. Will you make this a funding priority in the next biennium?

Yes.



Regarding School Safety continued:

3. Many school districts have employed School Resource Officers in secondary schools but are now reevaluating that arrangement considering disproportionate discipline rates of students of color. What are your thoughts on school discipline in general and the presence of armed SROs in schools?

School discipline is important, but research shows that restorative justice models and in-school, rather than out of school, suspensions are more effective in the long run. Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, schools that employ SROs are required to make sure that the SROs have taken the specified training and that there is a memorandum of understanding between the school district and the local law enforcement agency. But we did not fund the state school safety center and there is no reporting required by the OPSI until we fund it, so legislators will be in the dark about SROs and their level of training unless we specifically seek out that information from our school districts, which I intend to do. I support school communities re-evaluating their discipling policies for effectiveness and disproportionality as well as the relative value of the SRO. Some are asking if this money might be better spent on a counselor instead of an SRO. These are conversations and assessments that each district needs to undertake with their community.

4. Do you support School Resource Officers being required to take training about unconscious bias and systemic racism?

Yes.

[This is the end of Rep. Kloba's responses.]

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Reply from Jeb Brewer (R), Candidate for 1st District, Pos. 2

Mr. Brewer responded to our questions with the following statement. Although he did not respond in line directly to each question, he did submit bullet point answers to the questions which are on the next slide.

I appreciate your candidate questions and believe that it is important for voters to know where each candidate stands. As a candidate I receive many surveys and consider yours to be of higher importance as education is just about the highest priority. I consider education at all levels to be critical in funding and supporting as it is a well-educated people who are best able to continue to improve our society. While I don't reside in the Northshore School District I have currently 3 children enrolled in the Snohomish district and a fourth who is now graduated. As a parent I've shared the struggles that many families in WA go through.*

This said I've read through your questionnaire and you have many concerns that no doubt needs to be addressed. However, and this may sound odd coming from a candidate, but I don't have all the answers to your questions. I have several ideas but much of what you are asking about requires complex solutions which involves much more in-depth conversations and research than what can be reasonably responded to here. I'd like to hear your ideas and then work with you to solve them as the teachers and administrators living the problem are likely going to have a much better idea how to solve them. This said I'll share a few of my thoughts regarding education in attempt to address at least some of your questions.

* Please note that although Mr. Brewer says he does not have children attending Northshore schools, a portion of the Northshore School District does lie within the 1st Legislative District that he would be representing if elected.

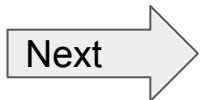
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Mr. Brewer responded with bulleted points rather than in-line responses to the questions. His responses have been copied in the next two slides.

Reply from Jeb Brewer (R), Candidate for 1st District, Pos. 2

- *Education in all forms from k-12, higher education, and trade school alternatives needs to be a priority and fully supported.*
- *Covid 19 sucks and the impact on education is horrible. My children are straight A students and they all are struggling with on-line education. I've personally set up and online learning system for a retail company as well as developed much of the content, and then I changed it, and then I changed it again. On-line education tools are not quick nor easy to develop, certainly not with the limited time our educators had. And to make things worse, I can't imagine how difficult it must be to engage with K-6 and students and those with learning disabilities. While this is the new normal, we need to find alternatives to support at least some in person education as learning is not a one style fits all.*
- *Costs have changed in what schools need to provide, whether it is internet access from home or PPE in the classrooms, either way we need to pay for it.*



Reply from Jeb Brewer (R), Candidate for 1st District, Pos. 2 (continued)

- *Funding will be the challenge, the first step is our government and all programs supported by it need to be accountable for every cent that is spent and there needs to be a expectation of cost reduction through efficacy improvements just like every business and household goes through when money is tight. The harder challenge is how do we support increased costs due to Covid when we will eventually get back to regular learning? Unfortunately, we can just sell schools and busses as the will be needed as well as the people that support them. We have a lot of difficult problems to solve for when we will have such a huge budget short fall.*
- *Regarding student population growth, I would side with having developers pay at least part of the costs for new schools, that's just a basic infrastructure need that would support new homes that would need to be part of any development plan. However I also see how we don't manage the money have well, as an example I would use Glacier Peak High School, while I don't know the costs, I can tell you that the land it sits on was pricey and not really needed for a high school. It seems that we could have gone with a site with not as much a view and had a lot of money to put into building or repairing others.*

[This is the end of Mr. Brewer's responses.]

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Other District 1 Candidates:

Responses were not received from the following candidates in District 1.

House of Representatives, Position 1:

[Davina Duerr \(D\)](#)

[Adam Bartholomew \(R\)](#)

State Senate:

[Derek Stanford \(D\)](#)

[Art Coday \(R\)](#)

The links above take you to their ballotpedia.org biography. Ballotpedia is not affiliated with Northshore Council PTSA. Incumbent is listed first.

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District 45 Candidates:

Responses were not received from the candidates for District 45.

House of Representatives, Position 1:

[Larry Springer \(D\)](#)

[Amber Krabach \(R\)](#)

House of Representatives, Position 2:

[Roger Goodman\(D\)](#)

[John P Gibbons\(R\)](#)

State Senators in District 45 are not up for re-election.

The links above take you to their ballotpedia.org biography. Ballotpedia is not affiliated with Northshore Council PTSA. Incumbent is listed first.

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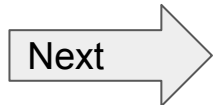
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Reply from Beth Daranciang (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 2

Regarding Online Schooling:

1. With online/virtual schooling happening, it has shown everyone how important it is for all families to have access to high speed internet service- How do you plan to advocate for all families to have access to the internet regardless of their location or income?

Our area is rich with computer and tech companies who value education and the schools' budgets are stretched due to the current crisis. I would seek to partner with those companies and ask for their assistance in providing the internet access needed for students that do not have it already.

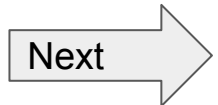


Reply from Beth Daranciang (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 2

Regarding COVID:

1. Whereas some people have compromised immune systems or live with people who are at high risk. Is there any legislation under consideration to allow for workers that are currently able to work from home to continue to do so if their place of business opens as we move into higher phases? In other words – How can we prevent productive home workers from being required to return to a workplace or to send kids to in-person school if we are still vulnerable?

Most companies and workplaces value their employees and the legislature should work to remove any regulatory obstacles that would prevent companies from implementing innovative solutions to these problems. School districts likewise have an admirable focus on caring for their students and staff and should be enabled to continue remote learning for those students and staff who are especially vulnerable.

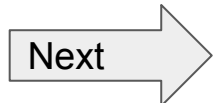


Reply from Beth Daranciang (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 2

Regarding COVID continued:

2. How will you ensure resources and funding are given to and utilized by schools to help with reopening safely (for example, PPE for staff, sneeze-guards, cleaning supplies, increased teaching staff, testing/tracing)?

The state has undergone a severe drop in revenue, which means that funds will need to be carefully spent. Schools should be able to provide many of those resources in the short run with the funds they have saved in going to remote learning and not operating buildings and transportation. Federal funding such as the CARES Act should be well-allocated with the view toward these extra expenses.



Reply from Beth Daranciang (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 2

Regarding Funding:

1. Current education funding formulas no longer work during this pandemic. We will have large funding gaps due to current formulas in place. Specifically, the funding for transportation is based on ridership, and with most districts 100% online, there will be no riders. Yet drivers in many districts are still working. Without changes to the STARS transportation formula, districts will either need to dip into reserves which are already strained or have massive layoffs of transportation staff. How will you adjust current formulas or what will you use to determine funding for schools and transportation?
2. Northshore citizens see the possibility of substantial student growth in the near future. In addition to support of a Simple Majority bond passage threshold, do you support a change to simple majority for school construction bonds? Why or why not?
3. Many states require developers to fund or even build the critical infrastructure of their developments, such as schools. Do you support this policy? Why or why not?

Answer to all 3 questions:

Charging housing developers a fee to support the construction of new schools is a common-sense method of funding new schools needed due to the new residences being built.



Reply from Beth Daranciang (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 2

Regarding Funding continued:

4. The state is facing a large budget shortfall. What are your priorities for closing that budget gap? Please be specific about which programs you would cut, or what revenue-generating mechanisms you would support.

Washington state revenue has increased at a projected rate of 8.6% for the current biennium, but the budget increased by 20%. The legislature should first look at the new spending, other than that required by the McCleary decision, for budget cuts.

Unlike other states, the Washington State legislature did not hold a special session to address the revenue downturn from the projections used to pass the budget. Continuing to spend at the higher rates will result in much more drastic cuts and/or tax increases when it is finally addressed.



Reply from Beth Daranciang (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 2

Regarding School Safety:

1. The Prototypical School Model (from 2009) does not include adequate counseling supports. Will you consider creating a system to update the 2009 model to support counseling and overall safety in our schools?
2. When it created regional school safety centers, the legislature recognized that safety in schools includes both physical and mental health components and requires comprehensive planning by school districts. However, it failed to fund the staff positions for safe school planning and behavioral health navigators at all 9 Educational Service Districts. Will you make this a funding priority in the next biennium?
3. Many school districts have employed School Resource Officers in secondary schools but are now reevaluating that arrangement considering disproportionate discipline rates of students of color. What are your thoughts on school discipline in general and the presence of armed SROs in schools?

School discipline is important to create a safe environment conducive to learning and growth. Students are sensitive to injustice and mistreatment, which is an additional reason to be equitable in the enforcement of rules.

Armed SROs have been used in many schools as a way to have an immediate response to dangerous situations that may arise. The best SROs are the ones who have the ability to connect with students and be an extra caring staff member available as they move throughout the whole school.

[This is the end of Ms. Daranciang's responses.]

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Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Online Schooling:

1. With online/virtual schooling happening, it has shown everyone how important it is for all families to have access to high speed internet service. How do you plan to advocate for all families to have access to the internet regardless of their location or income?

I engaged early with Northshore School District, the other districts in the 46th and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor Inslee to advocate that a significant portion of the federal COVID relief funds received by Washington State should be spent quickly on internet access, with a focus on the tens of thousands of our students and their families who are on the wrong side of the digital divide. This is not just about distribution of tablets, and not just during the Pandemic, but how to ensure families have year around quality broadband. I also am continuing to advocate to provide funding so our paraeducators and instructional aides – who are often struggling financially and have their own children who need to be online for school – will have reliable access and laptops. I will continue to work to have Washington State invest in equitable access. It's fundamental to educational equity regardless of whether we are back to in-person schools. As many of you know, I am a longtime advocate as a parent and legislator for supporting our children with special needs, including those with special education plans (IEPs) (KING 5 called me “the Legislature’s leading advocate for special education”). Too many of our school districts have failed our students with special needs during the Pandemic. I was pleased to be able to share the plans that Northshore School District made with other districts and OSPI, particularly in regard to being able to safely provide in-person one on one therapy in recent months instead of letting students regress in regard to speech, behavior, physical therapy needs.

Next 

Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding COVID:

1. Whereas some people have compromised immune systems or live with people who are at high risk. Is there any legislation under consideration to allow for workers that are currently able to work from home to continue to do so if their place of business opens as we move into higher phases? In other words – How can we prevent productive home workers from being required to return to a workplace or to send kids to in-person school if we are still vulnerable?

We most certainly have protections for accommodating people whose health (or that of a close family member they care for) would be compromised if they return to work. I have urged our state agencies to educate employers that they are legally required to offer such accommodation, and to enforce the standards if business owners or managers ignore these rights. Representative Gerry Pollet 46th District Page 2 What is more difficult is to provide assistance to those whose jobs cannot accommodate them working from home, but for whom working in contact with the public is likely to place them at significant risk. Examples include home healthcare providers, certain types of retail, etc. These workers are disproportionately People of Color, single mothers and our lowest income residents. Extending federal support for unemployment compensation for these people who are in great need should be a top priority in a new federal package, as the US House Democrats propose. Sadly, this is stalled. So, I have advocated we seek to use state unemployment funds to assist this group with extended coverage. Frankly, the State can only extend this aid for so long without federal help.

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Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding COVID continued

2. How will you ensure resources and funding are given to and utilized by schools to help with reopening safely (for example, PPE for staff, sneeze-guards, cleaning supplies, increased teaching staff, testing/tracing)?

I advocated (successfully) for the State's federal CARES funding to get to schools quickly for these purposes. I am working with school districts on revising state law when the Legislature convenes to make it clear that expenditures for safety are part of basic guaranteed state funding. As a faculty member at the UW School of Public Health, working with other public health experts I've put together a plan to have extensive COVID testing and contact tracing capabilities to safely reopen schools (see my "WA CARE" plan at gerry-pollet.com). I remain frustrated that, although Washington does much better than most states for testing, we have not ensured that we have the testing needed to ensure teachers and other educators that they are not exposed and that it will be safe to return to schools in a hybrid model.

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Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Funding:

1. Current education funding formulas no longer work during this pandemic. We will have large funding gaps due to current formulas in place. Specifically, the funding for transportation is based on ridership, and with most districts 100% online, there will be no riders. Yet drivers in many districts are still working. Without changes to the STARS transportation formula, districts will either need to dip into reserves which are already strained or have massive layoffs of transportation staff. How will you adjust current formulas or what will you use to determine funding for schools and transportation?

Northshore School District will lose \$1 million a month due to the formula in the state's transportation funding law. I'm working with Northshore School District and Board members, and other districts to lead a statewide effort to educate legislators that we need to immediately change state law when the Legislature convenes in order to guarantee that school transportation dollars are not distributed based on spring 2020 and this year's ridership when schools were closed.

2. Northshore citizens see the possibility of substantial student growth in the near future. In addition to support of a Simple Majority bond passage threshold, do you support a change to simple majority for school construction bonds? Why or why not?

Yes, I support "simple majority." This is democracy. If a majority vote for a bond, it should not be defeated because a minority opposed it.

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Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Funding continued:

3. Many states require developers to fund or even build the critical infrastructure of their developments, such as schools. Do you support this policy? Why or why not?

I was coauthor of the state law allowing districts and cities to charge developers to help pay for the costs their development adds to the need for more school capacity. So, yes, I support it and encourage districts and cities to utilize it. It's been shown to be effective. I'm also prime sponsor of legislation to change the State's school construction formula which currently fails to provide funding to districts such as Northshore that are growing rapidly in some areas requiring new or expanded schools or have older schools. Simply put, the formula is outdated and biased heavily to provide funding to districts that don't want to fund their own schools. Comparisons of districts and cities with impact fees how that it does not increase final costs of affordable housing. Affordable housing investments are exemptible and in the past decade most housing being built is targeted to the highest market price developers can attain in any area.



Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Funding continued:

Question 4. The state is facing a large budget shortfall. What are your priorities for closing that budget gap? Please be specific about which programs you would cut, or what revenue generating mechanisms you would support.

Washington is still not “fully funding Basic Education,” which is our constitutional “Paramount Duty.” We weren’t doing so before the Pandemic. For example, district such as Northshore have to spend millions of our local levy funding to pay for special education, which children with disabilities are supposed to be guaranteed. As I discussed above, the Pandemic has increased our schools’ costs, including the cost to reduce each class size when we return. This is why I am an advocate to make our state’s tax system more fair and sustainable to pay for our children’s education. To do so, it is time to stop relying mostly on regressive sales and property taxes to fund education. It is time to tax wealth via a capital gains tax for investment earnings over \$250,000 a year (not charged on homes or IRAs) and close massive corporate loopholes, such as the loophole exempting all business revenue from investments on Wall Street from any state tax.

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Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding School Safety:

1. The Prototypical School Model (from 2009) does not include adequate counseling supports. Will you consider creating a system to update the 2009 model to support counseling and overall safety in our schools?

The State's support for school counselors, nurses, psychologists or social workers is ridiculously inadequate and far less than most states. Again, this drives districts to use local levies, even though levies are no longer supposed to support basic education. I've sponsored legislation to increase state support so that our children can see a guidance counselor or a nurse.

2. When it created regional school safety centers, the legislature recognized that safety in schools includes both physical and mental health components and requires comprehensive planning by school districts. However, it failed to fund the staff positions for safe school planning and behavioral health navigators at all 9 Educational Service Districts. Will you make this a funding priority in the next biennium?

Yes, this is part of my commitment to the first question above to support mental health as well as guidance counselors.



Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

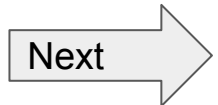
Regarding School Safety continued:

3. Many school districts have employed School Resource Officers in secondary schools but are now reevaluating that arrangement considering disproportionate discipline rates of students of color. What are your thoughts on school discipline in general and the presence of armed SROs in schools?

State law does not require School Resource Officers to be armed, and I think it is a mistake to have guns and armed officers in schools. They haven't increased safety. Their presence decreases student trust. We also have a serious problem of armed police officers serving as school resource officers thinking they are exempt from the state law barring use of restraints such as choke holds on special education students, particularly those on the autism spectrum.

4. Do you support School Resource Officers being required to take training about unconscious bias and systemic racism?

Absolutely yes.



Reply from Rep. Gerry Pollet (D), 46th District, Pos. 1

In addition to answering the questions, Representative Pollet submitted the following statement in his letter.

The questions are really great and go to the heart of immediate legislative needs such as fixing the transportation formula. I'd like to also draw your attention to two other important bills / issues that I am engaging with the State PTSA legislative advocates on that were supported by the State PTSA last year, and hope that you can help support locally:

a) Barring sale of flavored e-cigarette / vaping products. The flavors are what attract youth and fueled the epidemic of "Juuling" / vaping among high school students (about 30% last year in King County high school seniors);

b) Getting lead out of our children's school water. There is no safe level of lead and children absorb much more than adults. The research documents that current levels of lead in school water decrease IQ of children in our schools and cause behavioral health issues. Yet, Washington has no standard requiring action. Voluntary testing shows many schools with faucets that should be replaced or have filters added. School districts and the School Directors' Association (board members) quietly lobbied to kill this last year after it passed the House nearly unanimously, and even though funding is assured for the rather low cost to lower the lead level at faucets (averages just \$3,271 per school for those schools with a problem). OSPI is proposing to increase the funding to alleviate any fears that districts will have to pay anything. We really need PTSA support, including expressing this to school board members.

Thank you and feel free to email me about the legislation at gerry.pollet@leg.wa.gov.

[This is the end of Rep. Pollet's responses.]

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Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Online Schooling:

1. With online/virtual schooling happening, it has shown everyone how important it is for all families to have access to high speed internet service- How do you plan to advocate for all families to have access to the internet regardless of their location or income?

All families should have high-speed internet access that is accessible throughout the state regardless of income level. There is a bill in the House of Representatives that seeks to broaden internet access across the state. The bill seeks to make internet available in every residence and business in Washington. I am passionately in favor of helping this bill pass the House for the governor to sign into law.

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Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding COVID:

1. Whereas some people have compromised immune systems or live with people who are at high risk. Is there any legislation under consideration to allow for workers that are currently able to work from home to continue to do so if their place of business opens as we move into higher phases? In other words – How can we prevent productive home workers from being required to return to a workplace or to send kids to in-person school if we are still vulnerable?

I support immune compromised professionals having accommodations to work and promote health. I also support alternatives for in-person instruction for students with compromised immune systems and high-risk factors. There were 72 laboratory confirmed deaths in Washington due to flu in 2018-2019. I strongly support ways to reduce risk for anyone who is medically vulnerable. We need the mind, skills and service of all professionals who need to safely work from their home.



Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding COVID continued:

2. How will you ensure resources and funding are given to and utilized by schools to help with reopening safely (for example, PPE for staff, sneeze-guards, cleaning supplies, increased teaching staff, testing/tracing)?

The 72 deaths to flu prove PPE, sneeze guards, cleaning supplies and increased staff are needed. I believe funding is available as part of the registered school nurses serving schools. I propose a pay increase for substitute teachers in flu season to ensure adequate staffing. Tracing is a law enforcement tool. I do not support criminalizing the flu. I believe the Legislature should support strengthening the health of heroes who teach students.



Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Funding:

1. Current education funding formulas no longer work during this pandemic. We will have large funding gaps due to current formulas in place. Specifically, the funding for transportation is based on ridership, and with most districts 100% online, there will be no riders. Yet drivers in many districts are still working. Without changes to the STARS transportation formula, districts will either need to dip into reserves which are already strained or have massive layoffs of transportation staff. How will you adjust current formulas or what will you use to determine funding for schools and transportation?

I was a licensed school bus driver at a private school in Washington. Understanding the massive lay-offs that resulted and the potential for future lay-offs. I believe STARS is the most efficient and fiscally responsible way to fund transportation. I will propose a tax-credit for transportation professionals to subsidize lost income. I propose building in future tax-credits. I believe in helping drivers navigate uncertain times that may arise in the future.

2. Northshore citizens see the possibility of substantial student growth in the near future. In addition to support of a Simple Majority bond passage threshold, do you support a change to simple majority for school construction bonds? Why or why not?

The Legislature required school districts to reduce class sizes. We need to equip school districts to abide by the law. I support an amendment that will allow for a simple majority vote to approve school construction. I support this measure because smaller class sizes require more classrooms and facilities. It is the Legislature's job to set students and school districts up for success.

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Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding Funding continued:

3. Many states require developers to fund or even build the critical infrastructure of their developments, such as schools. Do you support this policy? Why or why not?

I believe the federal government should fund grants for developers to conduct audits of school buildings in Washington. I believe federal grants will fund maintenance and renovations for the safety and health of students. Federal funds will give us the economic boost needed to renew commitments to student safety and success.

4. The state is facing a large budget shortfall. What are your priorities for closing that budget gap? Please be specific about which programs you would cut, or what revenue-generating mechanisms you would support.

The Legislature is by law supposed to fund 100% of public education in Washington. Revenue-generating mechanisms are how legislators refuse to do what they volunteered to do. I propose a COVID-19 educational tax-credit of \$12,565. This is 90% of the Northshore District \$13,962 per student expenditure. The credit allows families to obtain lost instruction due to closing schools. I know your budget is strained. I volunteer to balance your state budget without wasting your personal funds.

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Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding School Safety:

1. The Prototypical School Model (from 2009) does not include adequate counseling supports. Will you consider creating a system to update the 2009 model to support counseling and overall safety in our schools?

Yes, I will consider developing a system that supports counseling and whatever promotes safety of students, staff and visitors to our schools.

2. When it created regional school safety centers, the legislature recognized that safety in schools includes both physical and mental health components and requires comprehensive planning by school districts. However, it failed to fund the staff positions for safe school planning and behavioral health navigators at all 9 Educational Service Districts. Will you make this a funding priority in the next biennium?

Yes, it is one of my highest priorities to fund physical and mental health resources for student safety. I do however, think we should rethink Educational Service Districts. I would like each district to work with staff, families and school communities toward student safety and mental health. That way, each school community has representation and knowledge of its students' unique safety concerns and mental health needs.

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Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding School Safety continued:

3. Many school districts have employed School Resource Officers in secondary schools but are now reevaluating that arrangement considering disproportionate discipline rates of students of color. What are your thoughts on school discipline in general and the presence of armed SROs in schools?

I believe school discipline is a separate issue from armed SRO in schools. Great Northshore District teachers help nearly 80% of students master ELA standards. Learning is the antidote for disciplinary issues!

I believe the sad reality of mass shootings in our schools requires a proactive, compassionate SRO presence. SROs are not there to discipline. They are committed to help us communicate through action that we value relationships. We believe in our very core in defending relationships.



Reply from Eric J Brown (R), Candidate for 46th District, Pos. 1

Regarding School Safety continued:

4. Do you support School Resource Officers being required to take training about unconscious bias and systemic racism?

I do not support requiring anyone to take training about unconscious bias and systemic racism. My grandmother was prohibited from obtaining a public K-12 education. She made the most of the resources that were available to her. She obtained her bachelor's degree and then earned her master's degree. The idea of systemic racism communicates that society causes an individual's failures. My grandmother would not have completed elementary school, if she waited for Jim Crow laws to accept responsibility.

[This is the end of Mr. Brown's responses.]

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Other District 46 Candidates:

Responses were not received from the following candidates in District 46.

House of Representatives, Position 2:

[Javier Valdez \(D\)](#)

State Senators in District 46 are not up for re-election.

The links above take you to their ballotpedia.org biography. Ballotpedia is not affiliated with Northshore Council PTSA. Incumbent is listed first.

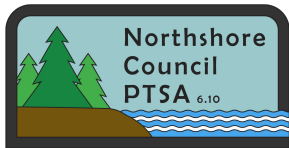
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Thank you to those who took time to submit questions for the candidates.
And many thanks to each of the candidates who took the time to respond and
provide answers.

We hope that the responses are useful to you as voters!

Northshore Council PTSA does not endorse candidates and these responses have been provided for information purposes only.



We welcome your feedback and questions! Please contact:

Diana Christiansen
VP of Advocacy Northshore PTSA Council.
advocacy@northshorecouncilptsa.org

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