Hi Ebony,

I'm Chukundi Salisbury's campaign manager. The form closed before we finished spell checking the responses so I've included them below:

If elected, give examples of how your priorities will support the liberation and protection of Black Lives locally and across the state?

My life's work has been dedicated to the liberation and protection of Black Lives. I have tried to live a life center around action making sure the impact of actions meet the intent. Too often our community bears the brunt of the unintended consequences from "well-meaning" politicians and policy wonks.

Environmental Justice has been a huge priority of mine. Due to redlining and other forms of racism communities of color are often the most polluted. In my 23 years at the parks department, I have put a huge emphasis on understanding the intersectionality of Racial justice and environmental justice. I was talking about this issue in 2005 (https://www.seattletimes.com/life/outdoors/wanted-african-american-campers/) and 1996 (https://www.djc.com/special/enviro96/10014154.htm). To resolve this, I founded the Youth Green Corp. This program helped youth, who are often from communities the furthest from economic justice, get experience and job pathways in the environmental sector while also improving the environment in communities of color. I believe we need to take that approach statewide and center the coronavirus recovery plan around a green new deal and green infrastructure with a strong social and racial equity focus.

Likewise, youth development generally has been a focus of mine. We need to assure kids from communities of color have equal opportunities. The numbers clearly show a grotesque racial wealth gap. In the Seattle Metro, the average wealth of a white family is $456,000 while a black family is just $23,000. I founded 100 Black Parents to assure our kids have the support they need to succeed despite systematic racism. In Olympia, I want to use state resources to address this equity gap. However, I also want to see this mindset carried forward to higher education as well. I believe we need to repeal I-200, which bans affirmative action, and implement steps to further hire more black faculty at our public universities. I believe that we should also increase the diversity course requirements, create grants for BIPOC student organizations and ethnic studies departments, and support universities in disarming and divesting from police forces.

In 1990, my mother founded Mothers for Police Accountability after my brothers were brutalized by the police. Since then I have worked with her and grown into a leader in police accountability over the last 30 years. I elaborate further on this below, but I am absolutely committed to assuring that Washington state finally recognizes that Black Lives Matter. Likewise, the incarceration rate in Washington is unacceptable! Since 1980 the number of prisoners has increased by 337% in Washington. This has largely been built on the back of the BIPOC community, African Americans are just 3.5% of the state's population but 28% of those serving life without parole. This is why I have made major divestments from our racist prison system a central tenet of our campaign.

Do you believe racism is a public health crisis? Explain your answer.
Racism is a public health crisis that permeates many levels of our society. I have centered this campaign around addressing what I call our two pandemics: COVID and Racism.

Police killings are unacceptable. Of the individuals killed by the police in 2020, 28% were black which is over twice our percentage of the population. It is evident that this a health crisis that is affecting Black and Brown individuals. This is why we need to hold police accountable and defund our racist prison industrial complex. Likewise, one of the most insidious demonstrations of this public health crisis is medical racism. The improper treatment of people of color, and especially women of color, in our healthcare system is one of the most alarming and intersectional issues we face. Environmental racism, the racial wealth gap, or stress due to systematic racism can cause all sorts of adverse health outcomes. African Americans are two times as likely to be uninsured as white Washingtonians and more likely to be misdiagnosed with healthcare professionals. I want to take a lead in pursuing and sponsoring further bills that protect people of color experiencing pain or other symptoms from being ignored by our healthcare system and expand coverage with the hopes of beginning to undo decades of systematic racism along with homophobia and sexism.

Do you support defunding the police? Explain your answer.

I support divestments from the police and our racist prison. At the state level, representatives can primarily defund the prison system. While I am opposed to an austerity response to the COVID crisis. I believe that budget cuts, if necessary, should come from the corrections section of the budget. Likewise, I believe that we need to pursue a strategy of police obsoletion, replacing many police functions with unarmed professional community-based alternatives specifically trained in de-escalation. We have enjoyed success with community policing officers within the 37th district. I want to be able to use the resources of the state to fund and expand these community-based alternatives. I believe that these community alternatives should be filled with trained social service professionals and will be better equipped to respond to emergencies and provide health and social services.

What is your position on charging officers with bodily harm-related crimes when excessive force is used? Explain your answer.

In 1990, my mother founded Mothers for Police Accountability after my brothers were brutalized by the police. For over 30 years now I’ve been working with her on fighting to stop police brutality and keep our communities safe. I have grown into a leader on police accountability and I think officers should absolutely be charged with bodily harm-related crimes. This needs to be coupled with strengthening the decertification process of officers as a way to address serious misconduct. In that same vein, I’ve been calling for the removal of police accountability from the collective bargaining process.

How does your racial identity shape your perspective of public policy? Explain your answer.

Coming from a community that lacks privilege has shaped my perception of policy. I have seen many well-intentioned politicians and self-proclaimed policy wonks who have never been in our community come in the best of intentions and implement policies with the unintended consequences that my community has to bear the impact of. I really have tried to focus this campaign on making the impact meet the intent. While almost every candidate who has run for this seat is a progressive democrat, including myself, my racial identity and growing up in our community have given me a critical eye and really drilled the need to analyze the consequences and actual impacts of these decisions.

Do you support the restoration of voting rights for Washingtonians who are incarcerated or have been previously incarcerated or owe fees and fines? Explain your answer.
I believe our work is not complete by simply addressing mass incarceration and over-policing in the present. We need to work to undo decades of harm wrought by over-policing and mass incarceration on my community, such as felony disenfranchisement. I want to see SB 6228, which automatically restores voting rights to felons, reintroduced, and passed next session. I think we need to go beyond this and enfranchise those currently incarcerated for felony convictions. The right to vote should be inseparable from the individual. Electoral issues still affect incarcerated folks and their families, and they should be able to weigh in on them.

Thanks!
Sean Moore