

Governor's Race: Crime and Public Safety Take Center Stage, but Ferguson Skips Key Interview



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Leading Candidate's Refusal to Address Public Safety Concerns Sparks Concern Among Voters

In the race for governor, crime and public safety are top issues, with the current attorney general and a former King County sheriff have advancing to the general election. Understanding the broader context of crime is crucial: In 2022, Washington faced a significant public safety crisis, with more deaths from alcohol (3,402) than drugs (2,971), alongside 1,227 suicides and 420 homicides. The state also reported the highest property crime rate among 13 Western states and ranked 8th in violent crime, according to the Council of State Governments Center for Justice.

Last year, the Washington State Patrol reported over 3,100 cases of drivers fleeing traffic stops. This underscores a serious issue within our public safety system. As the governor's race unfolds, voters have every right to focus on how each candidate plans to address these pressing public safety concerns.

Unfortunately, leading candidate Ferguson declined to participate in an interview with The Seattle Times, while the other top primary candidates each sat down to discuss their views on the impact of crime on Washington. This refusal by Bob Ferguson to address such a crucial issue is unacceptable. In politics, the most revealing insights often come from persistent follow-up questions. Make sure to stay engaged and hold all candidates accountable.

A few highlights from the interview with Reichert:

- “I think he (Ferguson) has tested the political winds, and he has discovered that people want to have safe communities, and so now because he wants to be governor so bad, he has decided it’s a good thing for him to say cops are needed,” said Dave Reichert, a Republican candidate and a former congressman and King County sheriff.
- We recently learned that one billion in COVID funds is missing. 100 million of funds was misappropriated, so good leadership is badly needed.
- We are last of all states as far as police per capita.
- Reichert also says he’d work to hire more police officers, in part by ensuring police are shielded from lawsuits and prosecutions over “reasonable” use of force needed to do their jobs.
- He argues reversing the staffing shortages in police departments will depend less on grant proposals and pay incentives and more on showing police the community – and top politicians – have their backs.

A few highlights from the interview with Ferguson:

- Candidate Bob Ferguson declined to participate.

[Click the link to here the Seattle Times interview with Dave Reichert](#)