

# Safety – Defunding the police is not the answer

I am running for office because I am concerned about how bad conditions have become in Seattle and I do not want the State of Washington to become more like Seattle.

I realized how relatively bad Seattle had become after returning from a week in Manhattan, NY in July 2019. I walked around Central Park for 1½ hours and there were no homeless in the park, no people that look like they would be a threat to security, and there were young women sunbathing in their swimsuits. In many cases they were alone. This proved to me how safe it was. Shortly after traveling back to Washington State I traveled to the King County Courthouse in Seattle. When leaving the courthouse, I took the stairs from the Yesler Way sidewalk to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Halfway down the stairs I saw a hypodermic needle and human feces. I realized that Seattle had become the unsafe place that New York City was in the 1970s but it's actually much worse. Imagine what Seattle would look like with *fewer* police. That is the reverse of what New York City did in the early 1990s to improve New York City.

With complicity from elected officials and the media, the call to reduce funding of the police, while ignoring the impact and damage that it would cause to Seattle and the State of Washington, makes me highly motivated to do something about the problem. What I am seeing now with the claim that “all the police” are racists and with elected officials continuing to beat that same drum, it shows the major disconnect between elected officials and their citizens. We all fundamentally know that 99% of police are very good people who risk their lives daily, who are not racists, and who use proper force on persons who are resisting arrest. We can improve policing by eliminating the few police officers who should not be serving as an officer; however, reducing police funding will result in cataclysmic safety risks for the public. People will have to fend for themselves, and we simply cannot live peacefully this way.