

### **The 2018 Snohomish County Democratic Party Platform (draft 3/1/18)**

*Draft committee members present: Jason Call (chair), Tate Sturgeon, Elisa Cooper, Kristen Bendixsen, Shaun Olsen, Rose Andrews, Tim Maharry, Richard McManus, P. Bret Chiafalo*

### **Second meeting (draft 3/15/18)**

*Members present: Jason Call (chair), Tate Sturgeon, Elisa Cooper, Kristen Bendixsen, Shaun Olsen, Rose Andrews, Tim Maharry, P. Bret Chiafalo, Chase Endreson*

### **Third meeting (draft 3/29/18)**

*Members present: Jason Call (chair), Tate Sturgeon, Shaun Olsen, Rose Andrews, Tim Maharry, P. Bret Chiafalo, Jesse Williams*

### **Fourth meeting (draft 4/11/18)**

*Members present: Jason Call (chair), Rose Andrews, Tim Maharry, Shaun Olsen, Trinity Ledesma*

### **Fifth meeting (draft 4/12/18)**

*Members present: Jason Call (chair), Rose Andrews, Tim Maharry, Elisa Cooper, Kristen Bendixsen, Shaun Olsen*

## **PREAMBLE**

We are the Snohomish County Democratic Party, the county organization of a major political party recognized by the Washington State Constitution and the laws of Washington State with all rights granted state law. We are the party of the people. We believe in the values of community, dignity, equity, opportunity, fairness, tolerance, respect, and the common good of the world we share. These values provide the basis for our ideals, supported by Federal and State Constitutions. It is the sovereign duty of our party and public officials to ensure the law is faithfully executed so that no person in the United States is above the law.

## **AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE, FISHERIES and FORESTRY**

Sound agriculture practices which include the protection of air, water and land are essential to the economic health sustainability of our region. We recognize the role of landowners and fishermen as stewards of the environment. Production of food is critical to the welfare of the people.

### **We support:**

- Programs that ensure the availability of high quality, safe, and affordable food and fiber that strengthen our communities.
- The protection of farmers who do not use genetically modified food products from liability and economic losses resulting from the drift of genetically modified materials.
- Policies consistent with the most recent verifiable science in growth management which preserve the sustainability of natural resources critical to farming, fishing, and forest productivity.
- Continued funding of the Washington State Extensions.
- Minimizing the impact of that our hazardous materials and infrastructure have on the environment and natural resources.
- Adequately funding and improving the effectiveness of food inspections to improve safety for consumers and humane treatment of livestock.
- Outlaw any exportation of pesticides that are banned in the US.
- Reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides, both commercial and residential, and the rapid phase out of pesticides and herbicides responsible for the collapse of

pollinator species and increased safeguards for workers who may be exposed to them.

- Clear food labeling, including date packaged, full and complete disclosure of nation of origin, genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic certification.
- Supporting and encouraging vibrant and sustainable small farms, family farms, and urban farms.
- Programs that support the establishment of permaculture and organic farms.
- Encouraging the use of locally grown food in our schools.
- Rapid phase out of federal farm subsidies for all large-scale industrial farms.
- Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness.
- Support of energy production and efficiencies on farms such as manure digesters, wind turbines, etc.
- Legalizing, regulating and recognizing industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity.

**We oppose:**

- Over-prescription of drugs and the routine use of antibiotics in animal feed.
- Importing food and fiber from countries that ignore established food safety and animal husbandry practices and the sustainability of the rainforest and other world environments.
- The privatization of any and all public land and water holdings.
- Importing of commodities below their production and transportation costs.

**CIVIL and HUMAN RIGHTS**

**We support:**

- That our government derives its legitimacy solely from The People.
- The protection of individual citizens' rights and liberties.
- The right to sovereignty of each person over their bodies.
- That we must identify, challenge, and eradicate the underlying conditions that give rise to the glaring inequalities around us.
- Black Lives Matter.
- A person's right to choose, as protected by Roe v Wade and the Washington State Reproductive Freedom Act.
- The legal requirement that health insurance must include coverage for women's reproductive choices.
- The right of all persons to have safe, legal, protected, affordable, and accessible health care that enables them to make informed choices, free from government, corporate, or religious interference.
- The Death With Dignity Act.
- That privacy is fundamental; our private lives and personal information must be protected from intrusion by government, corporations, and others.
- That Human Rights include safe food, air, water, and shelter, as well as personal safety, health care, education, employment, legal aid, and due process.
- The right to marry, as a legal union of consenting adults, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.
- The ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.
- Unfettered voter participation.
- Respecting the rights of all adult persons, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, to direct their own lives in housing, education, and all other life choices to the

extent of their abilities.

- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and its enforcement.
- Ending discrimination against LGBTQ+ people.
- Equal, impartial, and transparent application and enforcement of the law, unbiased with regard to race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.
- The right of working people to unionize.
- That the right of an individual to practice their religion does not extend to the denial of the constitutional rights of others.
- The Separation of Church and State, and that no entity has the right to impose its religious doctrine on others.
- Policies that will strengthen our country by affirming the value of all individuals, and by eliminating the systemic conditions that perpetuate inequality, oppression, and lack of equal access to opportunities.
- Equal pay for equal work.
- Strong legislation, treatment programs, and education to reduce harassment, intimidation, domestic or sexual violence, gun violence, and bullying.
- Banning imported products that are manufactured using child or slave labor.

**We oppose:**

- Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, foster care and adoption proceedings, healthcare, military service, insurance, credit, licensing, or education by any entity based upon race, religion, age, sex, size, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, disability, or national origin.
- The abuse of our civil rights, by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies.
- Pervasive and unconstitutional surveillance by the NSA and other government agencies.
- Provisions of the USA Patriot Act and Protect America Act that have infringed on our constitutional rights.
- Human trafficking for the sex trade and all other forms of involuntary servitude.
- Civil forfeiture laws.
- Police brutality.
- Discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on parenting rights.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Some corporations and wealthy individuals exercise undue influence on public policy and the economy, to the detriment of everyone else. Economic justice is essential to our representative democracy and a strong economy. A keystone of economic justice is fair and equitable tax law.

**We support:**

- Providing quality childcare, education, workforce training, and substance abuse treatment to help working parents leave welfare and escape poverty.
- That government places the needs of the people of the US above those of corporations.
- Regulations on corporations to protect labor rights, human rights, and the environment.
- Transparency in corporate accounting.
- Development of sustainable jobs that include clean energy vocations, education for those areas, and that increase renewable energies in those areas, and subsidies for companies that invest in such job creation.
- A progressive tax system at the federal, state, and local levels, sufficient to meet

constitutional requirements and promote the general welfare, including a state income tax and a balanced reduction of sales tax, and an increase of corporate taxation.

- A major increase in funding for high quality, affordable low or no income housing that is energy efficient.
- Paying for growth with impact fees charge to developers.
- Only those multilateral trade agreements that are conditional on environmental, health, and safety standards, human rights and workers' rights, and which support democratic processes and do not infringe on the sovereignty of nations to create and enforce their own laws.
- Re-establishing and maintaining usury laws capping all interest rates at the level allowed to credit unions.
- Eliminating the payroll tax cap on Social Security, and eliminating all Social Security taxes.
- The reinstatement of the Federal Estate tax with protections for small, family-owned farms and businesses.
- Taxing Capital Gains as regular income.
- Taxing carried interest from private equity and hedge funds as regular income.
- Laws declaring that corporations are not natural persons with the right to spend shareholder profits on political campaigns.
- Breaking up banks that are too big to fail.
- Laws separating investment banks and commercial banks, with increased regulation and oversight, and a new Glass-Steagall Act that would reduce risks to the financial system and the US people by limiting banks' ability to engage in risky activities and limiting conflicts of interest in investments.
- A Financial Transaction tax that applies a sales tax on Wall Street transactions and serves as a brake on high frequency computer trading that increases market volatility.
- Ending tax breaks and subsidies on big oil and gas companies.
- Ending payroll taxes for those in the lowest income quintile.
- Improved funding for DSHS.
- Adjusting social security payments to match inflation to ensure that no recipient lives in poverty.
- An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, with a living wage as a goal.
- Funding and modernizing our infrastructure as a proven method of job creation, including adoption of the Federal Rebuild America Act.
- Economic justice on women's issues, such as social security reform, pension reform, living wages, pay equity, job discrimination, childcare, paid sick, safe, and family leave, and reproductive rights.
- Economic justice on parental issues such as pension reform, living wages, job discrimination, childcare, and paid sick, safe, and family leave.
- Updating the federal poverty level to reflect reality, and thereafter adjusting it according to the cost of living.
- Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that do not provide verifiable net benefits to the state and requiring them to make restitution; subjecting tax exemptions to renewal every 4 years.
- Greater transparency on the part of federal financial institutions.
- Settling student debt with a program that bases repayment on a percentage of earnings and forgives the balance after 20 years.

- Reversing the 2006 federal bankruptcy law to include discharges of mortgages and student debt in bankruptcy court.
- Opportunity for young people by encouraging the utilization of state approved apprenticeship programs and fully funding AmeriCorps and Job Corps.
- Creating a new civilian conservation corps to address natural resources needs.
- Increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to help the working poor.
- Improving and implementing property tax breaks on primary residences of low income homeowners and small businesses.
- Support for small business, including tax credits, low-interest loans, tax abatement development zones, zones for start-ups, and non-profit micro-lending.
- Local, state, and federal governments developing BUY LOCAL, BUILD LOCAL priority policies that support diverse and resilient local economies.
- Establishment of a Washington State Investment Trust (State Bank).
- Using post offices to provide bank services for low income people.
- Publicly subsidized and affordable housing to be available to artists to encourage them to create and share their crafts locally.
- Small businesses in promoting the arts.
- Predatory private-public partnerships created by the Global Impact Investment Network (and similar organizations), which exploits the bottom of the economic pyramid with social impact bonds thus creating a future where wealthy investors profit from an unstable venture capital platform on the backs of vulnerable communities and degrading public infrastructure.

#### **We oppose:**

- Any influence by corporations over the government.
- The offshoring of corporate headquarters in order to evade US laws and taxes.
- Privatization of Social Security or reduction of benefits.
- Exploitation of labor, including migrant, temporary, or contract workers.
- Corporate welfare.
- Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to appropriate workers' pensions.
- The extension of tax advantages to companies that outsource American jobs.
- The outsourcing of government jobs and the privatization of public government services.
- Equating money with free speech.
- The extreme income gap between the rich and poor.
- Increasing the age at which a person can receive benefits from Social Security.
- Excessive corporate profits and executive compensation.
- Excessive fees and interest charged to consumers by short-term lending corporations.
- The use of credit scores for hiring and insurance rating.
- Taxing unemployment and workers' compensation.
- Any constitutional amendment in the State Legislature that requires an undemocratic two-thirds vote to raise revenue.
- Forced arbitration clauses in all consumer contracts, warranties, guarantees, etc.

#### **EDUCATION**

The paramount duty of our state government is to ensure excellence in the delivery and content of public education. An excellent, equitable, quality education, preschool through post-secondary, is fundamental to maintaining a healthy democracy.

**We support:**

- The recognition and valuation of diverse cultures in our institutions of learning.
- The availability of high quality continuing education and career training, including school-to-work partnerships and apprenticeship programs, in addition to traditional higher education, for adult workers.
- Tuition free and cost free (textbooks, labs, fees, etc) education should extend through public vocational/technical schools, and public colleges and universities.
- Financial investment in and full commitment to early childhood education, including full funding for Head Start.
- The inclusion of civics and law in the high school curriculum, including a volunteerism component, as a requirement for graduation.
- The inclusion of visual arts and music studies in the K-12 curriculum.
- A safe environment in our public schools where weapons, violence, and bullying are not tolerated.
- Age appropriate instruction and counseling regarding human growth and development, sexuality, communicable diseases, and the real dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.
- Providing age appropriate instruction on how to be safe from child abuse
- A wage scale for teachers and school personnel that recognizes the critical role they fill in preparing our children to meet a challenging future.
- Teachers' rights to organize, collectively bargain, and strike.
- Keeping public schools under full public control.
- Establishing a dedicated, stable funding source of education for preschool through higher education as mandated by the Constitution of the State of Washington.
- The assertion that school breakfasts and lunches should meet or exceed state nutritional standards.
- The inclusion of recess and physical education and instruction in visual arts, fine arts, music, environmental education, and foreign language in the K-12 curriculum.
- Funding for smaller class sizes based on effective class size studies.
- Full inclusion of all students into the school environment.
- School academic and behavioral health counselors, librarians, and nurses sufficient to serve the needs of every student.
- A curriculum that is student-centered, rigorous, comprehensive, and historically and scientifically accurate at all levels and that recognizes the cultural perspectives of children from diverse and indigenous communities.
- Parental participation that supports student learning.
- Programs to teach awareness on ways to reduce individual and local environmental impacts.
- Full funding for the repair and maintenance of public schools for the health and safety of our children.
- Full funding for school transportation, including before and after programs and extracurricular activities, athletics, and clubs.
- Purchase of equipment and technology in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Encouraging that high schools offer courses in personal finance.
- Local and state control of policies concerning public education while complying with federal oversight and receiving federal funding to preserve quality, fairness, and civil

rights.

- Education funding equity regardless of district tax base, with a new non-regressive funding formula for public schools and capital projects.
- Salary and benefits for adjunct and part-time college instructors to be based on compensation levels for full-time professional staff, according to percentage of full-time equivalency.
- Congress to reform policies that deny federal tuition aid to college students convicted of drug possession.
- School food programs that ensure all students have access to nutritious meals and local foods that support healthy habits and classroom learning.
- Full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Easy access and frequent exposure to public art events, performances, and exhibits for all communities in Washington.
- Arts and cultural education to be considered a core subject in our K-12 public schools.
- Arts and cultural education opportunities to be available beyond our K-12 public schools, and accessible to all ages.
- A substantial commitment to public funding for the arts and arts education.
- Libraries, performing arts centers, and museums to be well-funded, accessible, and diverse in their offerings.
- Public/private partnerships to be developed further to help promote and create art and cultural experiences.

**We oppose:**

- Charter schools and any trigger mechanism allowing charter school takeover of the public school spaces. All public schools should be subject to full public accountability for student progress and fiscal responsibility.
- Vouchers.
- The commercialization of school environments, including food sales.
- Linking military recruitment to educational funding.
- Organized prayer in public schools.
- National standardized performance testing.
- Basing teacher pay in whole or in part on student test scores.
- All so-called “reforms” that are not based on sound and objective information or that are disguised attempts to blame teachers for the problems in public education, in order to weaken unions or to privatize our public school system for profit.
- The use of textbooks in public education that erroneously rewrite history, omit/deny scientifically verifiable facts of widely accepted theories, and propose religiously based answers to scientific questions.

**ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We must establish and enforce policies and regulations to protect and preserve the earth and its resources while utilizing ecologically-friendly and sustainable energy production.

**We support:**

- Substantial funding of research and development of renewable energy sources and investment in research and development of renewable energy that can lead to sustainable jobs.

- Sustainable growth by strengthening existing urban hubs, providing appropriate infrastructure, and preserving and supporting existing rural areas and natural resources.
- Waste management that requires reducing, reusing, and recycling all residential, community, and business waste.
- Creating viable markets for reusable and recycled materials.
- Limiting use of plastics and other non-biodegradables.
- Reinstating the Superfund Tax.
- Applying stringent environmental safeguards on the process, or disposal or export of toxic waste.
- The health and sustainability of our oceans, shorelines, rivers, streams, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Protecting our critical environmental areas through vigilant monitoring and planned growth management.
- The Endangered Species Act.
- Restoration of the EPA by formulating stronger policies and regulations.
- The preservation of rural communities.
- The vetting of chemicals for toxicity prior to their manufacture and release.
- Keeping all National Parks intact to prevent situations like the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Monuments infringement.
- Sound policy decisions that promote economic stability and the health of our environment, incorporating the best scientific evidence.
- Policies that promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed protection, and restoration of wild salmon and endangered species.
- Managing public lands as a public trust for the benefit of all.
- Washington State leading national and international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change, as global climate change is the foremost threat to the survival of Earth as we know it.
- Requiring the environmental impact assessments consider the full scope of every proposal, avoiding the segmentation of projects to reduce identified impacts.
- Prohibiting oil, gas, and mineral exploration, extraction, including offshore.
- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting waste disposal, storage, or treatment in such areas.
- Promoting development of residential solar energy programs to supply energy to the power grid.
- Carbon taxes to promote transition from fossil fuels.
- Enacting new laws and enforcing current regulations to eliminate pollution to Washington waters at the source.
- Enhancing preservation of marine ecosystems from all vessel collisions, unlawful discharges and spills of petroleum based products, and bilge water pumping operations containing invasive aquatic species from foreign ports.
- Acceptance of the framework known as “just transition” to ensure ongoing employment for workers as the world shifts from fossil fuels to non-carbon based economies.
- Efforts to eliminate non-native species, and restore native species.

**We oppose:**

- Increased production of fossil fuels and natural minerals through destructive techniques such as, but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing, mountaintop removal, and offshore drilling for petroleum.



- Increased use of nuclear power.
- Construction of new pipelines for fossil fuel transportation.
- The transportation of coal through Snohomish County and Washington State.
- The privatization of the Bonneville Power Administration.
- The continued subsidy of fossil fuels.
- Using public money to fund electricity generation by coal burning plants.

## **FOREIGN POLICY**

The foreign policy goals of the United States should focus on diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution as its primary organizing principle.. America can lead in a cooperative manner, rather than a directive manner, by upholding international standards on human rights worldwide, by supporting the rights of all people to self-governance and self-determination. We must not conduct pre-emptive war.

### **We support:**

- Providing proportionate assistance and work cooperatively with other nations to build a more peaceful, sustainable, and stable world by addressing root causes of conflict, including poverty, inequitable access to natural resources, economic justice, and environmental degradation.
- Protecting our nation from external threats without suppressing basic human rights at home and abroad.
- Working closely and persistently with other countries to prevent or stop genocide anywhere it occurs.
- Honoring and upholding the rights, welfare, and healthy environment of all indigenous people.
- Freezing the assets of leaders of repressive regimes and banning military exports to such countries.
- Participation in, and funding of, multilateral peacekeeping missions.
- Revision of the War Powers Act to ensure that Congress can declare an end to war or other military action.
- Cooperative and fully funded participation in international organizations, including the United Nations and international courts of justice.
- Honoring ratification of international treaties protecting civilian populations, human rights, and addressing climate change.
- An effective, comprehensive plan to ensure our security while protecting our constitutional rights and the human rights of all.
- Working with other nations to pursue law enforcement action against terrorist networks, rather than military intervention.
- Effective foreign aid to reduce poverty, and improve access to the necessities of life.
- Promoting programs that support all voluntary forms of evidence-based, safe, and effective family planning worldwide.
- Fair trade among nations based on sound environmental principles, sustainable agriculture and manufacturing, and democratic and economic rights of the workforce.
- Renegotiating international free trade agreements to deal adequately and transparently with human rights, the rights of indigenous people, labor rights, and environmental rights and laws to make them fair trade agreements.
- Rebuilding Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen's civilian infrastructure and economy

using international agencies and local labor, while preventing graft and profiteering.

- Leading global efforts to prevent the radicalization of religions, both abroad and at home.
- Serious, full, constructive, and persistent United States engagement to promote negotiations and other actions that will lead to a peaceful, sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, based on mutual recognition, and ensuring security, economic growth, and quality of life for the the peoples of the sovereign state of Palestine and the sovereign state of Israel.
- The individual's right to Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) against any nation that violates the International Declaration of Human Rights.
- Demanding Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and South Sudan sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- The cessation of hostilities in the Middle East.
- The US Senate's ratification of the International Criminal Court Treaty.
- The Nobel Peace Prize winning campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.
- Reduction of nuclear arsenals, strengthening international control of fissile material to include "depleted" uranium (dU), and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons by limiting use of fissile material to peaceful purposes.
- Continued support of the Iran Nuclear deal.
- Ending the use of United States tax money to fund, train, or sponsor military or police forces that suppress human and civil rights in foreign countries.
- Political and economic self-determination for the Cuban people and continued normalizations of relations with Cuba, including an end to the United States-imposed embargo and travel ban.
- Using foreign aid to offset or forgive the onerous debt of countries forced to choose between debt repayment and essential services.
- A foreign policy that encourages struggling economies worldwide to engage in economic growth policies, such as infrastructure investment, without compelling privatization of government services or natural resources as a way to refinance nations' debt.
- The restoration of our historic adherence to the Geneva and Vienna Conventions in their entirety, and the prosecution of leaders who have violated these conventions.
- Giving developing countries more influence in the running of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.
- Joining, ratifying, and enacting the International Mine Ban treaty of 1997, including on the Korean Peninsula.
- Removing veto power from the five nations who currently have it.

**We oppose:**

- Exportation of offensive weapons systems, such as depleted uranium, chemical, nuclear, or biological weapons, that contribute to destabilization in international relations and the international arms race.
- Extraordinary rendition, the abduction of persons of any nationality, their detention in secret prisons, and torture.
- Trade agreements negotiated in secret without public interest representation.
- Foreign policies that put the profit-making interests of corporations above the rights, laws, and interests of governments or workers, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership

(TPP).

- Forced austerity measures, including privatization of government services, as a condition of US aid and US support for loans through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.
- The Washington [DC] Consensus existing through the neo-liberal agenda of outsourcing, deregulation, privatization, union-busting, and corporate globalization, embodied for example in the IMF and World Bank.
- Hostile or combative military action by US forces, outside of a Declaration of War by Congress.
- The "Israel Anti-Boycott Act" S.720, supported by Democratic US Senator Maria Cantwell and at least 14 other Democratic Senators and its House Companion HB.1697, supported by Democratic US Representatives Rick Larsen, Adam Smith, and Derek Kilmer, and at least 63 House Democrats, that would impose fines of up to \$250,000 on any US citizen "engaged in interstate or foreign commerce" who supports a boycott of Israeli goods and services, because it is direct violation of the First Amendment.
- Any foreign policy that includes pre-emptive or unilateral war.
- Fast Track Authority on trade agreements.
- Our government engaging in efforts to destabilize other nations' governments.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO)

## **GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL REFORM**

Government derives its legitimacy from the people, to whom it must be answerable; it serves as their instrument to achieve ends that the people could not achieve individually. Our representative democracy requires full participation by an informed citizenry, a voting process that is fair, transparent, and accountable, and public officials who are accountable to society.

### **We support:**

- That an informed citizenry and civil discourse are necessary to a functioning democracy.
- That elected officials are responsible and accountable to society as a whole.
- That government is not a business, and government actions should support the common good.
- That government has a responsibility to make voting as easy as possible by removing all obstacles to voting, and increasing access to voting for marginalized groups.
- That all US citizens should be automatically registered at their 18th birthday. We congratulate the Washington State legislature for participating in this effort.
- That nonviolent action is the preferred way to advocate for political change.
- Legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of public elections by establishing disclosure requirements for all contributions.
- Public financing of elections to promote a more even playing field where all Americans can participate, thus empowering the people in the political process.
- Eliminating all forms of voter suppression.
- The repeal of the portions of the US Constitution that establish the electoral college for the purpose of direct election of the US President.
- State funding of public and independent broadcasts of public debates for statewide offices and ballot measures.
- Preserving the integrity of electoral processes:

- All votes should be cast on carefully monitored, secure, human-readable ballots, and the machines used to produce, tabulate, store, and manage election data must use open-source software.
- Mandatory auditing conducted according to the protocols recommended by the American Statistical Association should be required for all jurisdictions, and should be open to the public to witness.
- Campaign and debate processes that include third party and so-called second-tier candidates.
- Full Congressional representation for residents of the District of Columbia and statehood for any US territory that votes for it.
- Eliminating the influence of corporate lobbyists on our political processes through campaign finance reform.
- A *lifetime* ban on former state and federal elected officials from lobbying.
- Taxpayer funded scientific research that becomes part of the public domain and informs policy and regulatory decision affecting our health, safety, and environment.
- Restoration and strict enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act to ensure open and honest government.
- A review of all Washington laws on “eminent domain” to ensure that no private property may be taken for private purposes and that all seizures are compensated in a fair and equitable manner.
- Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington State legislature, as specified by the State Constitution.
- Accounting all tax-exemptions as expenditures in the state budget and automatically sunseting non-performing state tax exemptions after five years.
- Maintaining the United States Postal Service as a core function of government and should include basic public banking services.
- A publicly searchable database of all registered lobbyists, lobbying expenditures, lobbying expenditures, and financial and in-kind contributions to candidates and ballot measures.
- Establishment of a state bank to handle and profit from state revenues.
- Equal access to public means of communication for all legally filed candidates in all localities and in all national, state, and local elections.
- Enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions that discuss and make public policy.
- Open Data initiatives to make federal, state, and local government more transparent and accountable to the people of Washington and the people of the United States.
- Requiring paid voter signature gatherers for ballot initiatives to have a placard stating who they work for and who is paying them.
- Counting felons, for census purposes, as residents of their last home address, rather than their place of imprisonment.
- Public utilities for potable water, sewage disposal, drainage management, roads, energy, telecommunications, and internet infrastructure that are publicly owned and operated.
- A new amendment to the Constitution stating that money is not free speech because corporations are not natural persons.
- The Washington Voters’ Rights Act.
- Strengthening Whistleblower laws to provide active protection and restitution for any whistleblowers who lose their livelihoods.
- Fully funding infrastructure needs.

- Existing public art displays and venues to be well maintained and preserved.

**We oppose:**

- Legislation drafted by ALEC, and ALEC's nonprofit status.
- The privatization of the United States Postal Service and outsourcing any of its services.
- Government contracts that are awarded to businesses that establish a corporate presence in another jurisdiction for tax-avoidance purposes.
- Any tax preference for a business that moves jobs out of state or offshore.
- Tax exempt status for all religious organizations.
- Governmental suppression, manipulation, and distortion of scientific research and findings, and psychological operations and disinformation or manipulation campaigns that leave the public uninformed or misinformed.
- Adding projects to bills by "earmarking" funds.
- Executive branch secrecy beyond legitimate security needs or personnel matters.
- Using "signing statements" to effectively invalidate a portion of legislation being signed into law.
- Efforts by the government to deny the citizens their right to peacefully assemble in order to petition for a redress of grievances.
- Any practice that reveals election results while voting is still taking place.
- Citizens United and corporate personhood.
- Gerrymandering.
- The revocation of any citizen's voting rights, except in instances of treason.
- The unique mandated pre-funding of US Postal Service retiree benefits which is impeding our efficient and profitable operation of postal services.
- "Interstate Crosscheck"

**HEALTHCARE**

Healthcare is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall health, while assuring high quality care for everyone. Patients must have the right to access and choice between all lawful medical treatment options, without hindrance by institutions exercising religious doctrine. To protect individuals, as well as communities, Washington State should provide a distributed comprehensive continuum of public Mental Health Care.

**We support:**

- A universal single-payer system to provide the most equitable and effective healthcare, serving both individual and public health needs. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Our state to apply to apply for a waiver under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish a single-payer system for Washington residents until such time as a single-payer system is enacted nationally.
- Sustained Washington State non-Medicaid funding to protect the vulnerable populations not covered by Federal Medicaid.
- Healthcare coverage to be comprehensive - including outpatient and inpatient services; acute and long-term hospice care; home care; palliative care, end-of-life care, and hospice; mental health care and substance-abuse programs; dental, vision, and hearing services; preventive services; family planning with contraception and access to safe abortions; prescription drugs, medical supplies, durable medical equipment and medical technology; rehabilitation; and caregivers.

- Patients having freedom of choice in their health care, including the right to refuse medical care, and to select a personal provider and a “medical home”, a team that provides coordinated care with continuity. Medical decisions should be patient-centered, decided by patient, their families, spouses, and providers.
- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to be empowered to negotiate prices for medical devices and drugs.
- Health insurance programs to cover all forms of reproductive services and methods that are legal in Washington State.
- Transparency in the pricing of healthcare services.
- Access to, and public funding of, reproductive healthcare.
- Spouses being given the same legal status as caregivers.
- The public being educated on sound health principles such as exercise and nutrition.
- Safe injection sites.
- Drug addiction treatment as opposed to incarceration.
- Congress to lift the ban on, and fund, gun-violence research through the CDC and NIH, based on scientific merit, not a political agenda.
- A patient’s right to decision-making and other provisions of the Death With Dignity Act.
- Continued funding for HIV/AIDS related education and care.
- Early intervention and preventive services for mental health care and substance abuse, continuing through medically appropriate crisis care and community reintegration services.
- Full coverage of transgender medical costs, including full transitions.
- Full funding and implementation of the Washington State Board of Health’s rules for health and safety of school environments [WAC 246-366].
- Recognition that gun violence is a public health crisis causing injury and death.
- Expedited approval of new treatments based on solid data from reputable clinical trials that demonstrate both safety and effectiveness by the FDA.
- A policy allowing terminally ill patients to pursue experimental treatments for their illness regardless of their status with the FDA.
- Better funding of the FDA in order for the department to conduct better research and monitoring of our food supply, drugs and medical devices.
- Fully resourcing the FDA so only safe: food, drugs, therapies, and medical devices receive approval from an accountable FDA; performing comprehensive and timely, surveillance and research.
- An expansion of the research on the effects of cannabis on human health.
- The return of medical cannabis dispensaries in order for patients to have easier access in obtaining their medicine.
- The reinstatement of medical cannabis rules that allow caretakers to grow and administer medical cannabis for patients who cannot do this for themselves.
- Restructuring and adequately funding the foster child system to ensure appropriate protection, oversight and self-supporting adulthood.
- Improved oversight of elder care, including a long-term care system that provides in-home elder care alternatives to nursing homes.

*[1] If the first provision of healthcare support is passed, it renders virtually the rest of the provisions unnecessary to state.*

**We oppose:**

- Privatizing or rationing Medicare, or raising the age of Medicare eligibility.

- For-profit medical insurance, and a for-profit healthcare system.
- Over-diagnosis and over-treatment, which lead to poor quality care at increased cost to the system.
- Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs and devices.
- The excessive profits and lobbying efforts of Big Pharma.
- Denial of legal medical treatment or prescription purchase based on the personal religious beliefs of medical and pharmaceutical personnel.
- Conversion therapy.
- Mergers with religious healthcare institutions that result in directives restricting their medical staff from providing the full range of healthcare options.

## **HOUSING JUSTICE**

Housing is a human right. We believe that the housing crisis must be addressed with real world solutions that provide for the needs of people. We realize that the private housing market has failed to adequately provide for those at low to middle income ranges. It is the right and proper role of government to provide permanent stable housing to people experiencing homelessness, to expand the stock of supportive, low income, and affordable housing, and to use all tools available to control the astronomic explosion of the cost of housing.

### **We support:**

- Immediate construction of publicly funded and owned housing in an adequate amount to provide housing for all.
- Providing enough clean, livable, temporary shelter to ensure people experiencing homelessness do not go unsheltered until stably housed in permanent housing.
- Housing first and low-barrier housing strategies that require as few barriers or restrictions as possible, recognizing that being stably housed is the first step to stabilization.
- Ensuring that both private commercial housing and public housing are maintained in a safe, livable condition.
- Protections against discrimination in housing on the basis of race, country of origin, religious or non-religious status, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, source of income, political beliefs, or relationship status.
- Aggressive state and local action funded with progressive revenue sources to secure housing as a human right for all in Washington with or without federal cooperation to these ends.
- Aggressive federal action funded by progressive revenue sources to secure housing as a human right for all nationally.
- Repeal of Washington State's prohibition on rent control.
- Requiring private developers to set aside 25% of units for affordable housing on a permanent basis in up-zoned developments.
- Relaxation of zoning which prevents construction of tiny houses, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units on single lots as well as restrictions on co-housing.
- Halting and reversing the growth of regressive residential property taxes in favor of more progressive forms of revenue collection.
- A Universal Right to Counsel for tenants facing eviction.
- Legislation establishing just cause as the standard for termination of tenancy.

**We oppose:**

- Legislation that dehumanizes and victim blames our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- Any policy of “sweeps” aimed at our unsheltered neighbors.
- Hostile urban architecture that serves no purpose other than to keep people in extreme poverty removed from certain areas.
- Criminalization of people who are experiencing homelessness.
- Anti-nuisance ordinances which force people to choose between their safety and being housed.

**IMMIGRATION**

We are a nation of diverse cultures. Immigrants strengthen the United States of America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a safe, fair, and timely path to legal status or citizenship.

**We support:**

- The fair treatment of all people, regardless of their country of origin or their immigration status, and the right of all people to have equal treatment under the law, with respect and dignity.
- Education for all children, regardless of their immigration status, to provide them with the knowledge and skills to be productive members of society.
- Healthcare and human services for all people in the country, without regard to immigration status, as withholding these services is discriminatory and inhumane.
- The humane treatment of all detainees, and their access to safe facilities, adequate medical care, nutrition, clothing, and shelter.
- Urgent comprehensive reform of United States immigration policy.
- Increasing family unification, including families of domestic partners and bi-national couples, by granting legal status with the same standards as spouses of citizens.
- Allowing undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers brought to the United States as children, and who have attained the age of maturity, to become US citizens.
- Enforcement of the laws which penalize employers who knowingly employ undocumented immigrants.
- Policies that fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our communities, including programs offering immigrants instruction in English, interpretive and translation services of governmental documents and services, and preparation for citizenship.
- Policies that encourage foreign students to remain in the United States and give them an opportunity to earn permanent residency.
- An end to deportation or detention of family members of natural born US citizens.
- An end to deportation or detention without due process of law.
- Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons fleeing from areas of war, genocide, political oppression, and other human rights abuses, subject to appropriate security concerns.
- Provisions to prevent exploitation, discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care, and



educational opportunities.

- Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions that contribute to undocumented immigration into the United States.
- Ensuring that all immigrants going through the immigration court system have access to representation provided by the federal government.

**We oppose:**

- The use of the word “illegal” to refer to any human being.
- State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.
- Border Patrol checkpoints away from the border, and the engagement of Border Patrol agents in ordinary law enforcement activities, including providing routine translation services.
- The use of prisons or detention centers by Immigration, Customs, and Enforcement (ICE).
- Demands for immediate presentation of documents regarding one’s status in the United States.
- Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border militia groups in the United States.
- Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum seekers.
- Deportation or detention of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers without regard for the needs and rights of their dependents.
- Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the United States.
- Unjust and arbitrary quotas, limits, and other immigration rules that have the primary purpose of preventing new immigration.
- The use of work visas, such as H(1)(b) and H(2)(a) visas, as a substitute for hiring US citizens.
- Policies that exclude or demean immigrants based on religion or country of origin.

**LABOR**

A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair and living wages, and benefits for all workers, with hourly wages indexed to the cost of living. Every worker must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to determine their pay, benefits, and working conditions. Organized labor is essential to the social, economic, and political health of our democracy. The decline of real wages over the past three decades, accompanied by powerful anti-union political attacks, intensifies the need for the protective efforts of a strong union movement.

**We support:**

- A living wage, the wage necessary to afford decent housing, food, utilities, transport, and healthcare, that is automatically adjusted for inflation.
- Workers having a safe and harassment-free work environment that meets state and federal standards.
- Workers’ rights to organize, to join a union, to enjoy due process, and to bargain collectively without any interference, intimidation, threats, replacement, or reprisals from employers or the government.
- Workers having the right to a General Strike.

- Workers having retirement and health benefits that are portable between employers.
- Workers' wages being commensurate with increases in productivity.
- Prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts and/or for government purposes.
- "Best Value Contractor" policies and "Fair Contracting" with "Responsible and Responsive" bidder language in all public work jobs that include contractor responsibilities for prevailing wages, health insurance, retirement and training to include a performance audit.
- Area standards for wages and benefits.
- State approved apprentice utilization, and a percentage local hiring clause where qualified workers are available on government agencies funded, financed, or involved in projects.
- Unemployment insurance that is supported and extended when economic conditions warrant.
- Workers compensation managed and monitored by the state.
- A State Workers Compensation ombudsperson for all injured workers, not just the self insured ones.
- All workers having access to legal counsel in cases of injury.
- Unemployment and retraining benefits for workers laid off or locked out by their employers, including those whose jobs are outsourced, downgraded, or eliminated.
- Protection of overtime pay.
- Prohibition of involuntary overtime.
- The automatic recognition of a union based on signatures of a majority of those represented and "Card Check" as a legitimate method for unionizing.
- A workers' bill of rights that includes rights of assembly, association and free speech, due process, freedom from discrimination; and democracy within unions.
- Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers' pensions.
- Veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities and sexual minorities earning equal compensation for equivalent work.
- Establishment and enforcement of healthy workplace laws, including anti-bullying and anti-harassment laws.
- A rollover accrual system for paid leave for all workers.
- Withholding federal contracts from United States corporations that choose to locate "offshore" for tax shelter purposes.
- Full funding for programs such as childcare, adult daycare, and flextime to care for family members.
- Respecting picket lines by not crossing them.
- Workers negotiating agency fees or "Fair Share" clauses into labor agreements.
- Government and private industry to recover and make available to the workers medical and industrial hygiene records related to all workers so that they are paid just compensation for any injuries or illnesses incurred during their employment or as a result of their employment.
- Prosecution of employers who force workers to work off the clock.
- Full enforcement of current health and safety labor laws and prosecution of those employers that violate those laws.
- Transparent pay, and protection of workers from retaliation for discussing pay.
- The publication of the official unemployment statistics that include persons who are

underemployed or have given up looking for work, or whose benefits have been exhausted.

- Strengthening, fully funding and staffing the National Labor Relations Board and the imposition of meaningful penalties on employers engaged in unfair practices.
- Preference for Washington State residents on public works projects.
- Buying American – the use of U.S. products in manufacturing and in construction.
- Expanded and more effective “whistle blower” protection for all workers at all levels on all public and private jobs with access to courts and protection from retaliation.
- Strengthening solidarity of domestic and foreign workers and their unions both domestically and internationally in a globalized economy.
- Re-examination of Taft-Hartley and other existing anti-union legislation, to strengthen workers’ rights.
- Locked out workers receiving full unemployment benefits.
- Guaranteed funding of public and private pension liabilities.
- Strong regulations maintaining the solvency of workers’ pensions.

**We oppose:**

- So-called “Right-to-work” and other anti-union legislation.
- Exploitation of seasonal, temporary, migrant and contract workers.
- Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to abscond with workers’ pensions.
- Foreign trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), that put the interests of corporations above the rights of workers and environmental protections that overrule the authority of federal, state, and local governments.
- Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation.
- Use of permanent replacement workers during strikes.
- Supplanting or displacing public employees with low-wage, low-benefit contract employees or prison labor.
- The unilateral redefining of workers as independent contractors to reduce labor costs, rendering workers ineligible for benefits and other protections.
- The privatization of workers compensation.
- Firing without just cause.
- Public employee pension reductions by the legislature.
- Balancing the public budget with pension funds.
- Balancing the federal budget by raiding Social Security.
- Release of personal information of publicly funded employees.
- Any attempt to privatize the social security retirement system.
- Any attempt to cut Social Security benefits or raise retirement age.
- Hiring policies that discriminate against unemployed applicants, felons, persons with bad or no credit, and military veterans with a discharge other than honorable.
- All forms of forced arbitration.
- The privatization or outsourcing of public services.
- Job-related reasons for gender disparities in pay, hiring, and promotions.

## **LAW AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A good government provides for the safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness, and respect for each individual.

Our nation has long struggled to acknowledge and address the systemic and structural racism woven throughout its political, economic, and cultural history and fabric of our nation, and that persists in many forms to this day. The U.S. cannot claim the moral high ground among the nations of the world in terms of its treatment of its own people unless substantial systemic and structural changes are made in our legal and criminal justice system.

All people should be equal before the law. Criminal justice and human rights are inseparable. We believe that we as a society have a responsibility for, and a collective self-interest in, identifying, challenging, and eradicating the underlying conditions that give rise to the glaring inequalities around us.

We call for courageous conversations as part of a community-wide discourse to understand and seek to address the continuing manifestations of these conditions in our nation, our state and our local communities.

### **We support:**

- Clearly identifying and addressing through reforms the racism that is embedded in the US criminal justice system.
- Clearly identifying and refuting the racist myths that perpetuate inequities in the US criminal justice system.
- Understanding that racism is perpetuated to maintain class warfare and the power of the ruling class, which is expressly observed when those who can afford to can buy justice.
- Comprehensive criminal justice reform rooted in a national commitment to identify, challenge, and eliminate the underlying conditions that give rise to the disproportionately negative treatment by our criminal justice system of people based on race and class.
- Courageous conversations in our communities and across the nation about the race and class-based inequities of our criminal justice system, and the challenges we face in fostering trust in community-police relations;
- Affirming and valuing the role of law enforcement in protecting human life and serving the community.
- Hiring police that reflect the diversity of the community they serve.
- Equal application of the law regardless of economic status.
- Nonviolent conflict resolution, education, youth programs, health care, social services, rehabilitation, and living wage jobs as avenues to reduce crime and violence.
- Drug treatment and education should be used to reduce drug abuse and associated crime.
- The stringent enforcement of laws regulating the purchase and ownership of firearms, while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.
- Adequate state funding for indigent defendants in criminal cases.
- Timely DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty.
- The criminal justice system is the appropriate venue for prosecution of all violent crimes, including acts of terrorism.
- The separation of church and state.

- The efforts of well-trained first responders.
- Training for law enforcement and corrections officers that emphasize the sanctity of life and prioritize de-escalation techniques, implicit bias training, and how to serve more appropriately people with mental health issues so that officers are better prepared to address all situations in a safe and humane manner;
- Police forces to be demilitarized and held accountable for abusive practices and the improper use of deadly force.
- Efforts to improve community-police relations by exploring strategies to provide civilian oversight or review of situations where human and civil rights concerns arise regarding police practices;
- Civilian review of police practices by municipal boards empowered to order corrective action to prevent abuses of police power, including racial profiling and violent treatment of suspects.
- Immediate and comprehensive action to end racial profiling and the disproportionately high imprisonment of people of color, and to reduce the U.S.'s overall incarceration rate, which is the highest in the world;
- Incarceration that prioritizes rehabilitation, with a focus on education and occupational training, over punitive measures such as solitary confinement
- Providing all ex-offenders with the opportunity to re-enter and be productive members of society with an assistance plan for transitional food, clothing, housing, and employment for each person released from a state institution.
- Basic human rights for all people confined in various facilities, including those confined in jails or prisons.
- Repeal of the death penalty.
- Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without compromise;
- Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims, and programs to prevent sexual violence;
- Ending the war on drugs; drug addiction is a public health problem not cured by incarceration.
- Data-driven drug education, better funded drug courts, timely treatment and community-based aftercare for offenders who need it.
- The decriminalization nationwide of marijuana sales or possession, and calling on banks authorized to handle proceeds from marijuana sales in states where it has been legalized. The ban on medical marijuana research must be repealed and such research funded by the NIH.
- Convictions for possession of marijuana to be expunged and such prisoners immediately released.
- Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines and jail time commensurate with the damage done to society.
- Ending the privatization of prisons, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and juvenile detention facilities.
- The creation and funding of alternatives to incarceration within the criminal justice system at both the pre-conviction stage and the post-conviction stage.
- Rapid and consistent follow-up from probation services for violations.
- Allowing foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a crime; human rights and open hearing for all immigrants;
- Providing of a skilled interpreter and immigration assistant and community advocacy

representative prior to the signing of a document that affects immigration status.

- All U.S. Territories and protectorates, including the Mariana Islands and Guantanamo Bay, to be subject to U. S. law including labor laws, due process, habeas corpus, and laws against illegal detention.
- Investigation and prosecution of illegal actions of elected officials and corporate officers no matter how high their office.
- Repealing the USAPATRIOT Act.
- Enforcement of the Hate Crime Prevention Act.
- Our nation to invest in children and work actively to abolish poverty in order to eliminate a major cause of crime. We must break the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Ongoing cultural sensitivity training for all public service government agencies.
- Providing adequate funding for indigent defendants in criminal, civil, and family court cases.
- The right to a civil trial by jury.
- Increased government efforts, including data collection, and legislation to address adequate minority representation on juries.
- State and local efforts to train law enforcement to treat sex workers as victims.
- The legalization of cannabis and cannabis-based products.
- Determinate sentencing, with the provision that judges must supply in writing reasons for exceeding limits.
- Sentencing that is commensurate with the damage to society.

**We oppose:**

- Mandatory sentencing and Three Strikes laws.
- Coerced labor for detainees and inmates.
- Exemption from independent investigation or prosecution of any government officer responsible for ordering or participating in any violation of domestic or international law.
- Excessive use of force by police and the militarization of police and demand restraint in their dealing with peaceful assembly and protest.
- “Stand Your Ground” laws that legalize shooting-first.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intervention in our local court system.
- Government spying on persons including the use of drone technology and collection of personal meta-data without a legal warrant, which is a violation of 4th Amendment protections against search and seizure.
- Laws that criminalize free speech and peaceful assembly, regardless of the economic impacts of those protected actions.
- “Warehousing” of prisoners.
- Using prisons to house persons with mental health issues.
- Outsourcing of prisoners to other states.
- Privatization of prisons.
- Civil asset forfeiture.

## **MEDIA REFORM**

An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish. The free flow of information is fundamental to democracy.

### **We support:**

- Reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media, especially during election campaigns, and making it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater balance in coverage.
- Demands that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) promote local ownership and diversity of viewpoints and reduce monopolization of media outlets.
- Ample funding for public broadcasting to promote independence and discourage reliance on corporate sponsorships.
- Internet neutrality laws and policies, so that a few media companies will not have undue control over internet search results and internet content.
- Reinstatement of station ownership caps, which were repealed in 1996, to limit the number of television stations and news outlets one media conglomerate may own and operate to avoid corporate domination of our airwaves and the press.
- FCC enforcement of existing statutes that require disclosure of “true identity” of sponsors of political advertising.
- Efforts to bring the U.S. up to world standards by providing affordable, high-quality internet access for all in every region in the country.
- Management of broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which are owned by the public, in a way that serves the public interest.
- Diversity of ownership and programming as the primary principle of broadcast licensing.
- Minority and community ownership of media companies.
- Strengthening community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV.
- Public radio and public television to be accorded adequate, stable funding free of political pressure.
- Reporting from war zones to be free of censorship, except as necessary to avoid revealing tactical information or endangering our troops.
- Prompt adjudication of claims of “national security” and other questionable classifications that delay timely news investigations and suppress investigative journalism, and timely response to Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Journalists to be protected from unwarranted pressure to reveal their sources (shield laws).
- Companies to fairly compensate local governments for their use of the public rights-of-way, and make available all broadband infrastructure to competitors.
- Privacy of personal information including account user names and passwords, and a right to the privacy of your online presence.
- Television Washington (TVW) to be carried statewide by all carriers including internet.
- The enforcement of 47 USC § 315 - Candidates for Public Office. (The Equal Opportunities requirement; censorship prohibition; allowance of station use; news appearances exception; public interest; public issues discussion opportunities to all government controlled bandwidth and full funding and strict enforcement thereof); and extension to all publicly regulated media outlets.
- Exemption of non-commercial broadcasting from any requirement to take paid advertisements.

- The separation of the financial and editorial departments of news media companies.
- Ensuring that rural US citizens have access to modern communications infrastructure.

**We oppose:**

- False and misleading (wrong and inaccurate) information spread by newspapers and radio, television programs, and the internet, under the guise of news.

**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

We pledge support of our troops and honor our veterans who act in the service of our country. The core task of the U.S. military is to provide for the common defense. Our military must be adequate to provide for our nation's defense and should never be open to abuses of power by any branch of government.

**We support:**

- That under the Constitution it is the duty of Congress to declare war, appropriate funds, provide oversight, and act to prevent the misuse of the military.
- That our military service members—active duty, reserve and National Guard—are entitled to serve with a clear mission and adequate resources.
- Female military personnel and all others who rely on Tricare and military medical facilities to have the right to make their own reproductive decisions, with the same rights accorded to civilians.
- The introduction of universal service for all US citizens with allowance for alternatives to military service.
- Military service on our behalf to be performed only by individuals accountable to the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors exempt from those restrictions.
- Allowing all qualified volunteers to serve our nation, regardless of their sex, color, creed, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Military members who declare themselves conscientious objectors to be given due process without fear of reprisal.
- Full prosecution for all sexual assault or harassment based on gender, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation by military personnel, including civilian commanders of the military.
- Removing jurisdiction in cases of sexual assault between members of the US military from the direct chain of command over either the complainant or the accused.
- The proper education of our armed forces that respects the common dignity and civil rights of human beings.
- Troops to be accorded mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time limits on each tour of duty in a combat zone, and strict limits on the total number of combat tours.
- Routine inspections of facilities by the office of Inspector General and procedures to insure facility integrity and safety.
- Providing financial assistance, daycare assistance, and no-cost life insurance supplements for families of all military personnel deployed to hostile or combat areas.
- Ensuring that military personnel retain full enlistment bonuses despite being discharged for combat-related disabilities.
- Enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, through all levels of command, in the treatment of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees regardless of the location of their incarceration.



- Senior civilian and military leaders being held accountable for the orders they give and responsible for the consequences thereof.
- The cessation of using enhanced interrogation techniques.
- Reducing defense spending, including:
  - Elimination of unnecessary, outdated, and redundant military programs and weapons.
  - Reform of the contracting practices of the military to ensure U.S. government control, with contracts to be awarded based on fair and competitive bidding, with preference given to U.S. companies.
  - A thorough and comprehensive review of the necessity and organization of foreign military bases comparable to the review of domestic military bases.
  - While ensuring all reductions in military spending do not come at the expense of The safety of military personnel.
- Providing all veterans with full, timely, no-cost treatment at local military or VA medical facilities, regardless of nature/character of discharge and providing retraining for those who are disabled;
- Keeping the promises made to military personnel regarding their pensions and health care.
- Fully funding VA services, including funding for long-term care and treatment of veterans at military medical facilities.
- A full review by an independent medical and vocational rehabilitation panel of all military partial-disability ratings; all outcomes should be based on medical rather than political and economic criteria.
- Active outreach to provide access to housing and services for homeless vets.
- Providing our troops with an improved transitional assistance program to make coming home easier.
- Equal GI Bill privileges for ALL servicemembers, including National Guard members who have been activated for combat duty.
- Elimination of the Survivor's Benefit Plan (SBP) Social Security offset when a widowed military spouse reaches age 62.
- Environmental and impact cleanup from the development, deployment, and use of nuclear, biological, chemical, or "depleted" uranium (dU) weapon systems, and elimination of future use thereof.
- The Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

**We oppose:**

- Use of our military resources in unauthorized, unjustified, and/or pre-emptive wars.
- The production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear, biological, chemical, or "depleted" uranium (dU) weapon systems.
- The use of active sonar in inland and U.S. coastal waters.
- U.S. training of foreign military or police forces that suppress human rights in their own countries.
- The use of disinformation to misinform citizens of military operations.
- The use of civilian contractors in place of military personnel.
- Any cut in veterans benefits.
- The use of drones or military weapons against civilian populations.
- National Guard personnel being activated for service outside the US, except for disaster relief.

- The collection of personal student data by the military from US schools in exchange for federal funding.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

We believe that an efficient, well-planned, multimodal transportation system promotes a healthy economy, environment, and community.

### **We support:**

- Significant public input and oversight into major transportation public works.
- Policies and public funding that make travel as safe and efficient as possible for all modes of transportation, motorized and non-motorized.
- Expanding and enhancing accessible, safe, affordable and efficient public transportation, including bus, rapid transit and light rail.
- Investments in public infrastructure that broaden individuals' multimodal transportation choices.
- Encouraging the development of alternative energy for transportation.
- Instituting measures to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels, including increased fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles.
- Land use planning that works toward the goal of decreasing the need to drive.
- An increased use of rail for passenger service and shipment of local agricultural and manufactured products while managing our rail system to prevent its domination by coal and oil shipments.
- Washington's executive agencies and Legislature to adopt policies and laws to minimize public safety dangers to our state caused by transportation of fossil fuels and other hazardous materials.
- Development of a statewide system of charging stations to encourage use of electric vehicles, including but not limited to a tax credit.
- A dual-track high-speed rail system with a dedicated right of way to link major cities.
- An integrated partnership for travel through ridership jurisdictions.
- Maintaining existing public right-of-way for future public use.
- Expansion of the Regional Reduced Fare Permit to all transit agencies throughout the state of Washington to make it easier for travelers to transfer between transit agencies.
- Assistance to other transit agencies to join a common statewide payment card system to make it easier for persons who rely on public transit to transfer between transit agencies.
- Governments to invest in continued local access to needed transportation infrastructure, including rural road and highway maintenance and improvement, ensuring that consideration be given to those cities and counties outside of the I-5 and I-90 corridor.
- Consideration of freight mobility in all proposed transportation infrastructure projects.
- Adequately staffed, maintained and funded publicly-operated ferry systems, as they are a critical part of the overall transportation system.
- Consideration of climate change, health effects, and environmental impacts including water, earth and air pollution in all transportation planning.
- Protecting the rights of workers of transportation network companies to organize.
- A strong US Merchant Marine and support of the Jones Act, and we believe in abolishing the Flag of Convenience System which ship owners use to avoid labor, tax, and environmental laws.

- Electricity as the primary power source of all public modes of transportation, including ferries and buses.
- Improvement in facilities for non-motorized modes of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle paths, curb cuts, and wheelchair ramps.

**We oppose:**

- Transportation infrastructure privatization.

**TRIBAL RELATIONS AND SOVEREIGNTY**

We must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture natural resources, or the general welfare of tribes recognizing this is an important step to more open an meaningful government to government relations as we will continue to educate the general population of inherent tribal sovereignty. We also recognize the growing Urban American Indian/Alaskan Native populations and the Federal Trust responsibility expands beyond Tribal Reservation borders.

**We support:**

- Recognizing that all Treaties signed under the authority of the United States, should be the supreme law of the land.
- Upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders, Agreements, made between Tribal Nations and the Federal Government, which secured specific rights and privileges to sustain the future of Tribal Nations.
- Upholding the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout State government.
- Recognizing the unique history and cultural relationships the lands, waterways, usual and accustomed areas in the state are valued among Tribal Nations.
- Elevating the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to a Cabinet level agency with appropriate funding in order to properly respect the inherent sovereignty of Tribal Nations.
- Establishing and maintaining a meaningful government-to-government relationship with tribes that includes consulting with tribes prior to proposing or supporting legislation or policies that impact Tribal Nations.
- Recognizing the right of Tribal Nations to prosecute non-tribal members committing a crime on Tribal land.
- Recognizing legislation that reaffirms the Congressional intent of the Indian Reorganization Act, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for all federally recognized Tribal Nations.
- Acknowledging the intertribal consortia such as Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI).
- Amending the federal regulations to streamline the recognition process of Tribal Nations, and providing regulations for recognition of a Native Hawaiian Nation.
- Recognizing that Tribal Nations have meaningful contribution to the state's economy programs.
- Addressing the achievement gap and disparities in education of Native students.
- Streamlining state/federal funding and programs that support tribes having the flexibility to develop their economies.
- Working with tribes to remove economic barriers, such as state taxation, to increase capital development funds for Tribal Nations.
- Upholding the vision and goals of Indian Education and Self-Determination in all aspects

of Indian Education at the preschool through higher education and life-long learning.

- Promoting the essential role of Native families and parent committees in the decision-making process of their children's education, health and well-being.
- Continuing the development of Tribal Compact Schools.
- Continuing the implementation of the state mandated "Since Time Immemorial" Tribal Sovereignty curriculum.
- Continuing meaningful consultation with state, local, tribal and federal Indian education programs.
- Funding the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State and its work with four state agencies and the Health Benefit Exchange.
- Authorizing the licensing of mid-level dental professionals, such as dental health aide therapists, to address the lack of access to dental care.
- Supporting the construction of one or more tribal specialty care facilities to address the lack of access to medical specialists and shift health care costs from the state to the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibility.
- Funding the urban Indian health organizations to enable them to address more of the health needs of Native Americans in urban areas who do not have access to tribal health facilities.
- Making a stronger effort to communicate and appoint tribal citizens to state boards and commissions in order to provide an equitable and fair representation in these policy and decision making entities.
- Funding cultural, health and mental health service organizations that advance the socio-economic conditions for on and off reservation tribal communities.
- Eliminating the harmful legacy of "Indian Mascots" in all sports.
- Recognizing the principles in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.
- Supporting the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own environment and natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their traditional usual and accustomed places.
- Fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate change and water appropriation.
- Fully engaging and including tribes in state land management plans.
- Recognizing the Constitution of the Native Hawaiian Nation.
- Recognizing the rights of Tribal members living in non-rural areas.
- Acknowledgement of Urban American Indian and Alaska Natives ("Urban Natives") who are enrolled from Federally Recognized Tribes across the United States.
- Acknowledgement of Urban Natives not enrolled due to the Urban Indian Relocation Act of 1952, children lost to adoption prior to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, Tribal members dis-enrolled and the United States policy to terminate Indian Tribes from mid-1940 thru mid-1960.
- Acknowledgment that the Federal trust responsibility that applies to Tribes do not follow Urban Natives when they leave traditional Tribal lands; whereby, Urban Natives have been systematically disenfranchised from Tribal systems and its resources, and must not remain invisible to local, State and Federal Governments.
- Inclusion as part of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs an Urban Native Liaison to improve community relations with Urban American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Calling Congress to lift the ban on inadequate Urban Indian Health Care funding from the Indian Health Service ("IHS") to fulfill its trust responsibility to Urban Natives, whereby,

IHS funds should never be taken from the Federally Recognized Tribal allotment to fund Urban Indian Health Care.

- Calling Congress to fund UIHP's 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) payment for encounters with Urban Native Clients as part of the trust responsibility. FMAP funding would save on State Medicaid spending that could be reinvested into the Indian Health Service, Tribal 638 Contracts, and UIH (I/T/U) system of care for better health outcomes of Urban Natives care.
- Recognize that Urban Natives in Seattle make up a higher percentage per capita of the homeless population and are seven times more likely to be homeless than any other race in the Seattle area according to a 2016 one-night count.
- Calling for Police Officer training on cross-cultural Urban Native communication to avoid discriminatory policing.
- Calling Congress to fully fund the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) and providing judicial training on the Act's Indian provisions.
- Providing Judicial training on the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and the Washington Indian Child Welfare Act of 2013 to eliminate the loss of the child's Native ties and identity.
- Acknowledging the high percentage of the push out/drop-out rate of Urban Natives students in middle-high school.
- Increased governmental efforts, including data collection, to identify American Indian and Alaska Native students who are multi-racial to address necessary education funding purposes and programs.
- Declaring the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Washington State.