

# **31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District Democrats 2018 Platform**

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1 **31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District Democrats 2018 Platform**

2 **I. Preamble**

3

4 As Democrats we respect the rights guaranteed by our Constitution that support:

- 5 • Economic Opportunity;
- 6 • Social and Civil Justice;
- 7 • Personal Freedom;
- 8 • Security;
- 9 • Privacy.

10

11 We are dedicated to achieving peace, prosperity, opportunity and a government based on  
12 responsible optimism. Our platform rests on the principles that there should be:

- 13 • Security for all citizens;
- 14 • Education, jobs and economic opportunity for all;
- 15 • Accessible and affordable healthcare for all Americans;
- 16 • Rebuilding of our reputation in the world as a cooperative and just country;
- 17 • Reversal of the erosion of civil liberties in our country;
- 18 • Recognition that diversity strengthens our nation;
- 19 • Recognition that we are responsible for our ethical, economic, environmental and  
20 educational legacy.

21

22 **II. Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry**

23

24 We are the stewards of the land and water that sustain us. We must preserve family farms,  
25 strengthen rural communities, ensure the availability of high-quality food, and maintain the  
26 viability of land and water.

27

28 **We call for:**

- 29 • Adoption of sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fishery and forestry methods,  
30 including adequate funding of research and extension efforts which include the effects  
31 of climate change;
- 32 • Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and economic  
33 information, including local concerns;
- 34 • Protecting wild salmon and other native marine life;
- 35 • A living wage for agricultural workers, regardless of whether they are citizens,  
36 documented workers or undocumented workers;
- 37 • Strengthening the Washington State Growth Management Act and policies that  
38 preserve agricultural land and natural resources, along with robust rural infrastructure;
- 39 • Reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides, and increased safeguards for workers  
40 who may be exposed to them;
- 41 • Supporting and encouraging vibrant and sustainable small farms, family farms and urban  
42 farms;
- 43 • Programs that support the establishment of permaculture and organic farms;
- 44 • Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;
- 45 • A guest worker program for agriculture, ensuring a reliable labor source while extending  
46 application of minimum wage laws and legal protections to the workforce and  
47 employers with proactive enforcement of violating employers.

48

49 **We oppose** privatization of any and all public water holdings.

50

51 **III. Arts and Culture**

52

53 Easy access and frequent exposure to the arts, and to the elements that comprise all the  
54 world's diverse cultures, are essential for the enrichment, health and well-being of our greater  
55 society.

56

57 **We call for:**

- 58 • Easy access and frequent exposure to public art events, performances, and exhibits for  
59 all communities in Washington;
- 60 • Arts and cultural education to be considered as a core subject in our K-12 public schools;
- 61 • A substantial commitment to public funding for the arts and arts education;
- 62 • Libraries, performing arts centers, and museums to be well-funded, accessible, and  
63 diverse in their offerings.

64

65 **IV. Civil and Human Rights**

66

67 The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are foundations of  
68 freedom, justice and peace. Our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in  
69 the United States Constitution, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the  
70 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the Washington State  
71 Constitution.

72

73 **We call for:**

- 74 • Honoring the rich diversity of society and efforts to reflect that diversity in our Party,  
75 including special consideration to be paid to the rights of currently and historically  
76 marginalized communities, including individuals with disabilities, immigrants, peoples of  
77 color, indigenous people, the very poor, and religious minorities and atheists; those who  
78 face discrimination to be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to  
79 overcome such injustice;
- 80 • The right of all women to be free of government, corporate, or religious interference in  
81 their reproductive decisions, including contraception and abortion, and to have safe,  
82 legal, protected, affordable and accessible health care that enables them to make  
83 informed choices;
- 84 • Policies that will strengthen our country by affirming the value of all individuals, and by  
85 eliminating the systemic conditions that perpetuate inequality, oppression, and lack of  
86 equal access to opportunities;
- 87 • Equal pay for equal work;
- 88 • Strong legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce harassment,  
89 intimidation, domestic or sexual violence, gun violence, and bullying.

90

91 **V. Corporate Power**

92  
93 Corporations are artificial entities, and not entitled to Constitutional protections as persons. We  
94 oppose the undue influence of corporations on our society, government and political process.  
95

96 **We call for:**

- 97 • Amending the United States Constitution to firmly establish that corporations are not  
98 people and that money is not speech;
- 99 • Separating investment banking from commercial and retail banking and subjecting both  
100 to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability;
- 101 • Full enforcement of antitrust laws – any corporate entity with holdings so extensive that  
102 its failure would cause major disruptions of the national economy must be broken into  
103 smaller entities to ensure healthy, competitive markets and protect consumers;
- 104 • Governments to hold natural resources such as land, water, and timber in trust for  
105 citizens. Corporations must leave the lands, waters, and air in an environmentally  
106 sound, sustainable state;
- 107 • Strengthening and enforcing laws against corporate crime;
- 108 • Multinational companies to pay their fair share of U.S. taxes;
- 109 • Increased oversight of companies vital to our environment, such as those in fossil fuel  
110 extraction.

111  
112 **We oppose:**

- 113 • Attempts to weaken and underfund the powers of the Consumer Financial Protection  
114 Bureau;
- 115 • Foreign ownership and management of our ports, highways, bridges, pipelines, and  
116 other infrastructure assets which are crucial to our national safety and security;
- 117 • Corporations exerting undue influence on our government through access to regulatory  
118 commissions and drafting congressional and state legislation.

119

120 **VI. Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness**

121  
122 Income inequality is the driving issue of our time. We are committed to a sustainable economy  
123 with strong communities based on living-wage jobs, tax fairness, and shared prosperity.  
124

125 **We call for:**

- 126 • An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, with a living wage as  
127 the goal;
- 128 • A progressive tax system at both the federal and state level, including taxing unearned  
129 income at the same rate as earned income;
- 130 • Economic justice on women’s issues such as living wages, pay equity, job discrimination,  
131 child care, and reproductive rights;
- 132 • Economic justice on parental issues such as living wages, job discrimination, child care,  
133 and paid family leave;
- 134 • Economic policies that specifically address and seek to abolish racial and ethnic  
135 disparities in wealth and income, including education, zoning, lending, and tax policies;
- 136 • A Washington State Budget that represents tax exemptions as expenditures to be part  
137 of the biennial appropriations process;
- 138 • Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that do not provide verifiable net  
139 benefits to the state and requiring them to make restitution; subjecting tax exemptions  
140 to renewal every year;
- 141 • Enhancing Social Security so that no recipient lives in poverty;
- 142 • A major increase in funding for assistance and construction of affordable and low-  
143 income housing in Washington State;
- 144 • Legislation that significantly lowers the interest rate on student loans and finds ways to  
145 relieve the financial stress of college students and retroactively for graduate students  
146 burdened with huge student debt;
- 147 • Establishment of a Washington State Investment Trust (i.e. a state bank).

148

149 **We oppose:**

- 150 • Privatization of Social Security or reduction of benefits;
- 151 • Privatization, downsizing, outsourcing, and offshoring of public services;
- 152 • Excessive fees and excessive interest charged to consumers by short-term lending  
153 corporations;
- 154 • The use of credit scores for hiring and insurance rating;
- 155 • Taxing unemployment, worker compensation and Social Security benefits;
- 156 • Forced arbitration clauses in all consumer contracts, warranties, guarantees, etc.

157

158 **VII. Education**

159  
160 “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all  
161 children.” - The Washington State Constitution  
162

163 The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system (pre-K through post-  
164 secondary), designed to educate informed, reasoning, and thoughtful persons who are critical-  
165 thinking lifelong learners prepared to participate in our civic society. We recognize the direct  
166 connection between individual educational attainment and the long-term economic  
167 sustainability of our society.  
168

169 **We call for:**

- 170 • The Washington State Legislature to fulfill its constitutional duty to “make ample  
171 provisions for the education of all children” as reaffirmed by the Washington State  
172 Supreme Court in the McCleary decision;
- 173 • Free access and full funding of public education, including all basic, gifted, vocational,  
174 technical, alternative, special education, English Language Learners, and other  
175 state/federal programs and mandates;
- 176 • Full funding of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assisted Programs;
- 177 • Particular regard for the educational and human services needs of specific populations,  
178 including students who are in foster care, homeless, migrants, or undocumented;
- 179 • School academic and behavioral health counselors, librarians, and nurses sufficient to  
180 serve the needs of every student;
- 181 • The inclusion of music, fine arts, environmental education, foreign language instruction,  
182 civics and physical education;
- 183 • A curriculum that is rigorous, comprehensive, and historically and scientifically accurate  
184 at all levels and that recognizes the cultural perspectives of children from diverse and  
185 indigenous communities;
- 186 • Instructional freedom that is student-centered within the curriculum;
- 187 • Full funding for the repair and maintenance of public schools for the health and safety  
188 of our children;
- 189 • Free education to extend through public college or university and vocational/technical  
190 schools;
- 191 • Public education employees’ rights to organize, engage in collective bargaining, and  
192 strike without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- 193 • Education funding equity regardless of district tax base, with a new funding formula for  
194 public schools and capital projects;
- 195 • School food programs that ensure all students have access to nutritious meals and local  
196 foods that support healthy habits and classroom learning;
- 197 • Full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- 198 • Critical thinking instruction to promote recognition of cognitive biases and logical  
199 fallacies.  
200

201 **We oppose:**

- 202 • Charter schools and the trigger mechanism allowing charter school takeover of the
- 203 public school spaces. All public schools should be subject to full public accountability for
- 204 student progress and fiscal responsibility;
- 205 • Vouchers;
- 206 • Linking military recruitment to educational funding;
- 207 • Organized prayer in public schools;
- 208 • The presence of guns in schools;
- 209 • National standardized performance testing;
- 210 • Basing teacher pay in whole or in part on student test scores;
- 211 • Suppression of unpopular research and research results, and curtailment of academic
- 212 freedom.
- 213

214 **VIII. Energy, Environment, and the Climate Crisis**

215

216 We must unite to prevent the destruction of the environment, our communities, and our  
217 planet. We must proactively address climate change as a crisis. The struggle to protect our  
218 planet’s climate health must be seen as mutually dependent and interwoven with the struggles  
219 for racial and economic justice.

220

221 **We call for:**

- 222 • Immediate aggressive action to minimize climate change, as global climate change is the  
223 foremost threat to survival of Earth as we know it;
- 224 • Research and program funding to develop and implement safe, clean alternative energy  
225 solutions and to encourage resource conservation;
- 226 • Expanded programs and incentives for consumers and businesses to encourage energy  
227 conservation and use of renewable and environmentally responsible energy, use of  
228 energy efficient and renewable sources of power and energy distribution technologies;
- 229 • Protecting our critical environmental areas, including wilderness areas, old growth  
230 forests, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, wetlands, lakes, streams, riparian areas, the  
231 Columbia River, Puget Sound, coastlines, oceans, and other bodies of water through  
232 vigilant monitoring and planned growth management;
- 233 • Promoting the implementation of a price on carbon dioxide;
- 234 • A long term national energy policy with realistic and comprehensive planning, including  
235 legislation that promotes responsible fossil fuel extraction and waste disposal;
- 236 • Acceptance of the framework known as “just transition” to ensure ongoing employment  
237 for workers as the world shifts from fossil fuels to non-carbon based economies.

238

239 **We oppose:**

- 240 • Increased production of fossil fuels and natural minerals through destructive techniques  
241 such as, but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing and mountaintop removal, and offshore  
242 well-drilling for petroleum;
- 243 • Increased use of nuclear power.

244

245 **IX. Government and Political Reform**

246  
247 Government derives its legitimacy from the people, to whom it must be answerable; it serves as  
248 their instrument to achieve ends that the people could not achieve individually. Our  
249 representative democracy requires full participation by an informed citizenry; a voting process  
250 that is fair, transparent, and open to all; and public officials who are accountable to society.

251  
252 **We call for:**

- 253 • Legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of federal elections by establishing  
254 disclosure requirements for all contributions;
- 255 • Public financing of elections to promote a more even playing field where all Americans  
256 can participate, thus empowering the people in the political process;
- 257 • Elimination of all forms of voter suppression;
- 258 • Minimizing the influence of special interests and lobbyists on our political processes by  
259 instituting campaign finance reform;
- 260 • Restrictions on former state and federal elected officials from lobbying for five years  
261 after leaving office;
- 262 • All regulatory agencies to be adequately funded, staffed and fully accountable;
- 263 • Restoration and strict enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and Open  
264 Meetings Act to ensure open and honest government;
- 265 • Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington State  
266 Legislature, as specified in the State Constitution;
- 267 • Enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions that discuss and make public  
268 policy;
- 269 • Public utilities for potable water, sewage disposal, drainage management, roads,  
270 energy, and telecommunications that are, to the maximum extent feasible, publicly  
271 owned and operated.

272  
273 **We oppose:**

- 274 • The privatization, outsourcing, or off-shoring of any governmental public service;
- 275 • Governmental suppression, manipulation and distortion of scientific research and  
276 findings, and psychological operations and disinformation/manipulation campaigns that  
277 leave the public uninformed or misinformed;
- 278 • Adding projects to bills by “earmarking” funds without the knowledge of other  
279 legislators and the public;
- 280 • Executive branch secrecy beyond legitimate security needs or personnel matters;
- 281 • Efforts by the government to deny citizens their right to peacefully assemble in order to  
282 petition for a redress of grievances;
- 283 • Any practice that reveals election results while voting is still taking place;
- 284 • Taxpayer funding for religious institutions or "faith-based" initiatives that do not include  
285 non-discrimination requirements.

286

287 **X. Health Care**

288  
289 Health care is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall health,  
290 while assuring access to high-quality, affordable care for everyone. Patients must have the right  
291 to access and choice between all lawful medical treatment options, without hindrance by  
292 institutions exercising religious doctrine. To protect individuals, as well as communities,  
293 Washington State should provide a distributed comprehensive continuum of public Mental  
294 Health Care.

295  
296 **We call for:**

- 297 • An affordable universal single-payer system to provide the most equitable and effective  
298 health care, serving both individual and public health needs;
- 299 • Health care coverage to be comprehensive – including outpatient and inpatient services;  
300 acute and long-term care; home care, palliative care, end-of-life counseling, and  
301 hospice; mental health care and substance-abuse programs; dental, vision and hearing  
302 services; preventive services; family planning with contraception and access to safe  
303 abortions; prescription drugs, medical supplies, durable medical equipment and medical  
304 technology; and rehabilitation;
- 305 • Patients to have freedom of choice in their health care, including the right to refuse  
306 medical care, and to select a personal provider and a "medical home," a team that  
307 provides coordinated care with continuity. Medical decisions should be patient-  
308 centered, made primarily among patients, their families and providers;
- 309 • Transparency in pricing of health care services;
- 310 • Health insurance programs to cover all forms of reproductive services and methods that  
311 are legal in Washington State, in accord with the principles of reproductive parity;
- 312 • Access to women’s reproductive healthcare, including public funding for Planned  
313 Parenthood;
- 314 • Expanded funding of basic science and clinical research under the NIH, based on  
315 scientific merit, not a political agenda;
- 316 • Early intervention and preventive services for mental health, continuing through  
317 medically appropriate crisis care and community reintegration services;
- 318 • Mental health care reform that improves the accessibility and availability of care for all  
319 and expands public awareness education and advocacy;
- 320 • Recognition that gun violence is a public health crisis causing injury and death, and for  
321 Congress to lift the ban on, and fund, gun-violence research through the CDC and  
322 National Institutes of Health (NIH).

323  
324 **We oppose:**

- 325 • Privatizing or rationing Medicare, or raising the age of Medicare eligibility;
- 326 • Denial of legal medical treatment or prescription purchase based on the personal  
327 religious beliefs of medical and/or pharmaceutical personnel;
- 328 • Mergers with religious health care institutions that result in directives restricting their  
329 medical staff from providing the full range of health care options, including:

- 330 ○ Abortions
- 331 ○ Contraceptive sterilizations;
- 332 ○ In-vitro fertilization;
- 333 ○ Prescribing or dispensing contraceptive and contraceptive devices such as IUDs
- 334 ○ and diaphragms, emergency contraception, and condoms;
- 335 ○ End of life decision-making.
- 336

337 **XI. Human Services**

338

339 As a caring community, we must provide a safety net of social services that meets the basic  
340 needs of people, especially those on the margins of society, so they can attain their full  
341 potential.

342

343 **We call for:**

344

- An integrated, culturally competent, linguistically accessible human services network based on the needs of the individual, rather than the requirements of the service provider;

345

346

347

- Services to assure that homelessness is rare, brief and one-time, and that all people have access to safe affordable housing, including the Housing First policy for individuals with substance abuse issues or mental illness;

348

349

350

- Fully funding services for people with disabilities so they may reach their full potential;

351

- Taxpayer-funded social services that cannot be conditional on faith-based requirements;

352

- Restructuring and adequately funding the foster child system to ensure appropriate protection, oversight, and self-supporting adulthood;

353

354

- Improved oversight of elder care, including a long-term care system that provides in-home elder care alternatives to nursing homes;

355

356

- Adequately supporting programs that rehabilitate and reintegrate people experiencing substance abuse issues or mental illness, in addition to programs based on crisis and emergency response;

357

358

359

- Comprehensively addressing the opioid crisis by adequately funding programs that address prevention and rehabilitation, as well as crisis and emergency response;

360

361

- Social security disability (SSD) reform toward streamlining benefits disbursement;

362

- Congress to provide adequate low-income assistance, including but not limited to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, earned income tax credit, child tax credit, housing and child care – so children of low-income families can perform at grade level.

363

364

365

366 **XII. Immigration**

367  
368 We are a nation of diverse cultures. Immigrants strengthen the United States of America. All  
369 immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status  
370 or citizenship.

371  
372 **We call for:**

- 373 • Urgent comprehensive reform of United States immigration policy;
- 374 • Protecting the integrity of our borders while recognizing the basic human rights of  
375 immigrants and protecting them with transparent due process in all proceedings and a  
376 clear and equitable pathway to documented status and citizenship if desired;
- 377 • Increasing family unification, including families of domestic partners and bi-national  
378 couples, by granting legal status with the same standards as spouses of citizens;
- 379 • Allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children who have  
380 attained the age of majority to apply for U.S. citizenship without first being required to  
381 return to their country of origin;
- 382 • A more comprehensive “Dream Act” for young adults to enter a path of achievement  
383 that can lead to United States citizenship;
- 384 • Providing legal avenues for employers to hire an immigrant workforce, such as a guest  
385 worker program;
- 386 • Policies that fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our  
387 communities, including programs offering immigrants instruction in English,  
388 interpretative and translation services of governmental documents and services, and  
389 preparation for citizenship;
- 390 • An expeditious process to clear the immigration backlog and avoid lengthy detentions  
391 for adults and children;
- 392 • An end to deportation or detention of family members of natural-born U.S. citizens;
- 393 • An end to deportation or detention without due process of law;
- 394 • Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons fleeing from  
395 areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, subject to appropriate security  
396 concerns;
- 397 • Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant  
398 workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care and educational  
399 opportunities;
- 400 • Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social, economic and  
401 environmental conditions that contribute to undocumented immigration into the United  
402 States.

403  
404 **We oppose:**

- 405 • The use of the term “illegal” to refer to any human being;
- 406 • State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws;

- 407 • Border Patrol checkpoints away from the border and the engagement of Border Patrol  
408 agents in ordinary law enforcement activities, including providing routine translation  
409 services;
- 410 • The use of for-profit prisons by Immigration, Customs and Enforcements (ICE) used for  
411 the detention of immigrants;
- 412 • Demands for immediate presentation of documents regarding one's status in the United  
413 States;
- 414 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border militia  
415 groups in the United States;
- 416 • Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum-seekers;
- 417 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the United  
418 States;
- 419 • Unjust and arbitrary quotas, limits, and other immigration rules that have the primary  
420 purpose of preventing new immigration;
- 421 • The use of work visas, such as H(1)(b) and H(2)(a) visas, as a substitute for hiring U.S.  
422 citizens;
- 423 • Policies that exclude or demean immigrants based on religion or country of origin.  
424

425 **XIII. Labor**

426

427 A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair and  
428 living wages, and benefits for all workers, with hourly wages indexed to the cost of living. Every  
429 worker must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to determine their pay,  
430 benefits, and working conditions. Organized labor is essential to the social, economic, and  
431 political health of our democracy.

432

433 **We call for:**

- 434 • Competitive and commensurate wages for all workers, whether they are private sector,  
435 non-profit, or state and local government employees;
- 436 • Area standards for wages and benefits;
- 437 • Workers compensation managed and monitored by the state;
- 438 • Protection of overtime pay;
- 439 • A workers' bill of rights that includes rights of assembly, association and free speech,  
440 due process, freedom from discrimination; and democracy within unions;
- 441 • Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers'  
442 pensions;
- 443 • Fully funding pension liabilities in both the private and public sectors;
- 444 • Veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities and sexual minorities earning  
445 equal compensation for equivalent work;
- 446 • Establishment and enforcement of healthy workplace laws, including anti bullying and  
447 anti-harassment laws;
- 448 • An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, indexed to inflation;
- 449 • Full enforcement of current health and safety labor laws and prosecution of those  
450 employers that violate those laws;
- 451 • Rescinding the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of so that the postal service  
452 may return to fiscal soundness;
- 453 • Expanded and more effective “whistle blower” protection for all workers at all levels on  
454 all public and private jobs with access to courts and protection from retaliation.

455

456 **We oppose:**

- 457 • “Right-to-work” and other anti-union legislation;
- 458 • Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to appropriate workers’ pensions;
- 459 • Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation;
- 460 • Supplanting or displacing public employees with low-wage, low-benefit contract  
461 employees or prison labor;
- 462 • Public employee pension reductions by the legislature;
- 463 • Balancing the public budget with pension funds;
- 464 • Any attempt to cut Social Security benefits or raise retirement age.

465

466 **XIV. Law and the Justice System**

467  
468 The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A good government provides for  
469 the safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness, and respect for each individual.  
470

471 **We call for:**

- 472 • Comprehensive criminal justice reform rooted in a national commitment to identify,  
473 challenge, and eliminate the underlying conditions that give rise to the disproportionately  
474 negative treatment by our criminal justice system of people based on race and class;
- 475 • Training for law enforcement and corrections officers that emphasize the sanctity of life  
476 and prioritize de-escalation techniques, implicit bias training, and how to serve more  
477 appropriately people with mental health issues so that officers are better prepared to  
478 address all situations in a safe and humane manner;
- 479 • Police forces to be demilitarized and held accountable for abusive practices and the  
480 improper use of deadly force;
- 481 • Efforts to improve community-police relations by exploring strategies to provide civilian  
482 oversight or review of situations where human and civil rights concerns arise regarding  
483 police practices;
- 484 • Immediate and comprehensive action to end racial profiling and the disproportionately  
485 high imprisonment of people of color, and to reduce the U.S.'s overall incarceration  
486 rate, which is the highest in the world;
- 487 • Incarceration that prioritizes rehabilitation, with a focus on education and occupational  
488 training, over punitive measures such as solitary confinement;
- 489 • Providing all ex-offenders with the opportunity to re-enter and be productive members  
490 of society, including reinstating their voting rights;
- 491 • Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without  
492 compromise;
- 493 • Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims, and programs  
494 to prevent sexual violence;
- 495 • Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines and jail time  
496 commensurate with the damage done to society;
- 497 • The decriminalization nationwide of marijuana sales or possession, and for convictions  
498 for possession of marijuana to be expunged and such prisoners immediately released;
- 499 • Asset seizures to be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or presumption  
500 of guilt;
- 501 • Ending the privatization of prisons, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and  
502 juvenile detention facilities;
- 503 • Mandatory waiting periods on all gun sales;
- 504 • Comprehensive gun-sale background checks that include criminal, mental health, and  
505 domestic violence checks;
- 506 • A limit on volume buys of firearms by an individual;
- 507 • A total ban on assault weapons and oversized ammunition magazines;

- 508
- Provision of a skilled interpreter and immigration assistant and community advocacy representative prior to the signing of a document that affects immigration status;
- 509
- Providing adequate funding for Public Defender offices;
- 510
- The legalization of cannabis and cannabis-based products for medical use.
- 511
- 512

513 **We oppose:**

- The death penalty;
- 514
- Mandatory sentencing, coerced labor for detainees and inmates, and the use of prison labor on any contract bid in the State of Washington that competes with private enterprise;
- 515
- “Stand Your Ground” laws that legalize shooting-first;
- 516
- The war on drugs, and the unequal enforcement of related policies that result in the disproportionate incarceration of people of color;
- 517
- Government collection of information on persons without their knowledge or permission, such as via drone technology, and collection of personal meta-data without a legal warrant.
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525 **XV. Media Reform**

526  
527 An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish.  
528 The free flow of information is fundamental to democracy.

529  
530 **We call for:**

- 531 • Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promote community-level,  
532 non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV, local ownership and diversity of  
533 viewpoints, and reduce monopolization of media outlets, including ample funding for  
534 public broadcasting that is free of political pressure;
- 535 • Internet neutrality laws and policies, so that a few media companies will not have undue  
536 control over internet search results and internet content;
- 537 • Reinstatement of station ownership caps, which were repealed in 1996, to limit the  
538 number of television stations and news outlets one media conglomerate may own and  
539 operate;
- 540 • FCC enforcement of existing statutes that require disclosure of “true identity” of  
541 sponsors of political advertising, and reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for  
542 broadcast media during election campaigns and making it applicable to cable networks,  
543 to promote greater balance and transparency in coverage;
- 544 • Efforts to bring the U.S. up to world standards by providing affordable, high quality  
545 internet access for all in every region in the country.

546

547 **XVI. Military and Veterans Affairs**

548

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

553

554 **We call for:**

- 555 • Military service on our behalf to be performed only by individuals accountable to the  
556 public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors exempt  
557 from those restrictions;
- 558 • Full prosecution for all sexual assault or harassment based on gender, religion, ethnicity,  
559 or sexual orientation by military personnel;
- 560 • Removing jurisdiction in cases of sexual assault between members of the US military  
561 from the direct chain of command over either the complainant or the accused;
- 562 • Troops to be accorded mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time limits on  
563 each tour of duty in a combat zone, and strict limits on the total number of combat  
564 tours;
- 565 • Providing financial assistance, daycare assistance, and no-cost life insurance  
566 supplements for families of all military personnel deployed to hostile or combat areas;
- 567 • Enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, through all levels of command, in the  
568 treatment of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees regardless of the  
569 location of their incarceration, and the cessation of using so-called “enhanced  
570 interrogation techniques”;
- 571 • Providing all veterans with full, timely, no-cost treatment at local military or VA medical  
572 facilities, regardless of nature/character of discharge, and providing retraining for those  
573 who are disabled;
- 574 • Fully funding VA services, and increased funding for long-term care and treatment of  
575 veterans at military medical facilities;
- 576 • Active outreach to provide access to housing and services for homeless vets;
- 577 • Providing our troops with an improved transitional assistance program to make coming  
578 home easier.

579

580 **XVII. Transportation**

581

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

584

585 **We call for:**

586

- Significant public input and oversight into major transportation public works;

587

- Expanding and enhancing accessible, safe, affordable and efficient public transportation, including bus, rapid transit and light rail;

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589

- Investments in public infrastructure that broaden individuals’ multimodal transportation choices;

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- 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;

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- 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;

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- Consideration of climate change, health effects, and environmental impacts including water, earth and air pollution in all transportation planning.

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**We oppose** transportation infrastructure privatization.

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603 **XVIII. Tribal Relations and Sovereignty**

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605 We must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all  
606 attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture natural resources, or the general welfare  
607 of tribes. We also recognize the growing Urban American Indian/Alaskan Native populations  
608 and the Federal Trust responsibility expands beyond Tribal Reservation borders.

609

610 **We call for:**

- 611 • Recognizing that all Treaties signed under the authority of the United States should be  
612 the supreme law of the land;
- 613 • Upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders, Agreements, made between Tribal Nations  
614 and the Federal Government, which secured specific rights and privileges to sustain the  
615 future of Tribal Nations;
- 616 • Upholding the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout State government;
- 617 • Elevating the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs to a Cabinet level agency with  
618 appropriate funding in order to properly respect the inherent sovereignty of Tribal  
619 Nations;
- 620 • Establishing and maintaining a meaningful government-to-government relationship with  
621 tribes that includes consulting with tribes prior to proposing or supporting legislation or  
622 policies that impact Tribal Nations;
- 623 • Recognizing the right of Tribal Nations to prosecute non-tribal members committing a  
624 crime on Tribal land;
- 625 • Addressing the achievement gap and disparities in education of Native students;
- 626 • Increased appointment of tribal citizens to state boards and commissions in order to  
627 provide an equitable and fair representation in these policy- and decision-making  
628 entities;
- 629 • Funding cultural, health and mental health service organizations that advance the socio-  
630 economic conditions for on and off reservation tribal communities;
- 631 • Supporting the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own environment and  
632 natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their traditional usual  
633 and accustomed places;
- 634 • Fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate change  
635 and water appropriation.
- 636 • Fully engaging and including tribes in state land management plans;
- 637 • Declaring the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples Day” in Washington  
638 State.